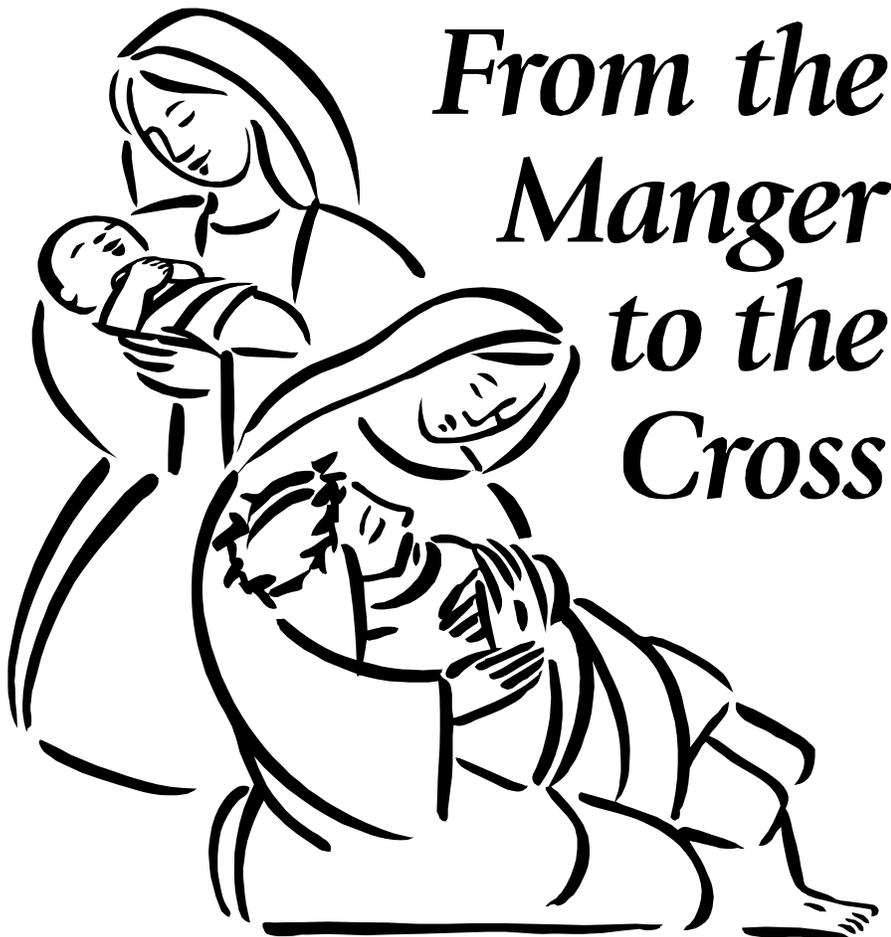


# The Carriage Stone

*February 2009*

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.  
The English Church



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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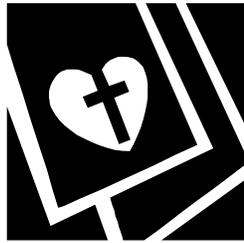
Robert Philhower

**Next Deadline:**

Sunday, February 15

**Submissions:** in my mailbox  
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



# FROM THE PASTOR

## Mission and Church Fires

The theologian Emil Brunner said, “The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning.” In other words, without mission, the church is just a heap of coals that rapidly grows cold, and isn’t of much use to God, or to anyone else.

So, what is mission? In past generations, “mission” was done by “missionaries”— folks with a special calling from God to go out and take Jesus into the world. Many people today see mission not so much as taking Jesus somewhere where he is not, but going with Jesus to where he already is! Psalm 139: 7-12 reminds us that there is nowhere we can go where God is not already waiting for us.

Here at New Hempstead, we have several ministries that can be seen as mission in our community: we host AA meetings; the ‘Peace through Play’ nursery school; Habitat for Humanity offices; and a dog-training group. Our board of Deacons has many projects throughout the year which are of benefit to our neighbors in the community. The Thanksgiving baskets project and the Baby Shower for single mums are just two examples. We show folks in this part of Rockland County that we actively seek the health of the community. In addition, this congregation always gives generously to the

four major offerings of the PC, USA: One Great Hour of Sharing; the Pentecost Offering; the Peacemaking Offering; and the Christmas Joy gift.

There are several opportunities on the horizon for an expansion of our mission— our fanning the flames of that fire from God. The deacons will be placing a coin container in the Colonial Room for all that spare change that collects on dressers, in couch cushions, and in the washing machine if you forget to check the pockets of your blue jeans before you do the wash. This money will be designated for specific causes in the community.

Hudson River Presbytery is hosting a work trip to the Houston, Texas area April 19-24, 2009 (beginning the Sunday after Easter). We will be helping Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in its ongoing efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Ike last September. I will be going, and if you are interested, please get in touch with me. The deadline for registration is February 3. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enact our mission of bearing witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ during the season of Easter.

Blessings,



## LOCAL MISSIONS

### CE/Sunday School/Youth Group Food Drive

From Mark Zacheis

Now that the busyness of the holidays is over and winter has set in, we would like to turn your attention back to the food drive. Unfortunately, the cycle of hunger continues throughout the year and seems to be especially significant during this time of year. 2009 is no exception, and likely is worse than ever, with more people in need of assistance and donations becoming harder to come by.

People to People gratefully accepted our church's gift of 160 pounds of food in October and our second gift of 60 pounds of food in December. The Sunday School and Youth Group want to be able make a regular delivery every month. We encourage everyone to bring one can of vegetables or a box of pasta or a box of granola bars with them every Sunday when they come to church. We'd like you to get in to the habit so that it becomes second nature to grab that can a beans or jar of spaghetti sauce when you leave the house.

Local food banks accept donations of canned vegetables, canned fruit, apple sauce, pasta, pasta sauce, granola bars, Pop Tarts, cake mixes, stuffing mix, powdered potato mix, jarred spices, canned tomato paste, diapers, baby formula, coffee, tea, powered cocoa, bottled water, crackers, peanut butter, jelly, cooking oil; pretty much anything with a shelf life that does not require refrigeration.

We hope to make this project a large part of our church's mission. Please give generously.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday, February 15, 2009 following the worship service. New church officers will also be elected at this meeting.



### Annual Meeting



### Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 25 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. A service with Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be held at 8 PM in the Sanctuary.

### New Church Directory

The church directory is in the process of being updated for distribution at the Annual Meeting. Please call, mail or email Shirley Martignetti ([office@nhpchurch.org](mailto:office@nhpchurch.org)) with any updates, corrections or changes from the 2008 Directory

by February 3 if you wish to have them included in the new 2009 directory.



**CHURCH**  
D I R E C T O R Y

## **Resurrection in the Gulf: Presbytery Team to Work in Hurricane Zone**

Adapted from Presbytery website

As you have read in recent bulletin inserts and Pastor Lori's column, a Mission Team from Hudson River Presbytery is being formed to support our sisters and brothers still suffering in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

The massive storm raged onto the Texas Gulf Coast on September 12, 2008, bringing destruction to Galveston, Houston, Port Arthur, and other communities in the region. Damage estimates in the Houston area alone \$8.9 billion.

Unlike the Katrina aftermath, the damage from this storm slipped off the headlines as the Election took center stage, along with the ongoing economic crisis. On the front pages or not, our sisters and brothers still need help.

On the Sunday after Easter, April 19, 2009 — a Mission Team from Hudson River Presbytery will fly to Houston to begin a week of recovery and rebuilding. We will be housed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in one of the newly built Volunteer Villages. After four full days of work, (the nature of which we will know better as the time comes) we will return to the Northeast on Friday, April 24.

The cost of this trip is \$725 per participant. This includes airfare, housing, food, ground transportation and other needs for the week. Please contact Pastor Lori if you are interested in participating. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, February 3 along with a deposit of \$75. (The final payment will be due on March 5.)

If you are unable to join the team, please consider sponsoring the work trip with your donations. The total budget for a team of 20 is approximately \$14,000.

Please note that, according to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance requirements, all participants must be 18 or older.

## **Opportunities for Study**

If you want to learn more about the Bible—perhaps as a new year's resolution—you can take advantage of the two Bible studies available at



New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Anyone is welcome to join either class (or both classes) at any time. No preparation is necessary; just show up!

The Sunday Adult Bible Study group, taught by Ed Garcia, meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Colonial Room. This group follows a published curriculum that shows how various portions of the Bible relate to each other.

The Monday night lectionary discussion group, led by Pastor Lori, reads a chapter of a book of the Bible (this spring we are reading the Gospel of Mark) and then discusses it. The group meets Monday nights at 8 PM for fellowship, Holy conversation and a snack or two.

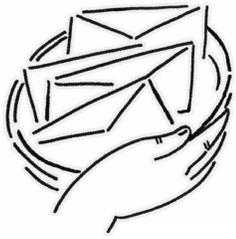
## **The Twenty-First Century Church**

From the Editor

I visited the PC(USA) web site looking for something to fill this space and was very surprised to see that the Presbyterian Church is on Twitter. If that don't beat all....now you can have text-message-like updates from PC(USA) delivered to you.

Here are some internet links to the Church:

Our church:	<a href="http://nhpchurch.org">nhpchurch.org</a>
Presbytery:	<a href="http://hudrivpres.org">hudrivpres.org</a>
Synod:	<a href="http://synodne.org">synodne.org</a>
PC(USA):	<a href="http://pcusa.org">pcusa.org</a>
PC(USA) Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/Presbyterian">twitter.com/Presbyterian</a>



## Per Capita

### Per Capita

From Mark Zacheis,  
Treasurer

The first envelope in your 2009 box of pledge envelopes is the blue one, to be used for the Per

Capita. What exactly is the Per Capita Tax?

Our church is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination; that is we are a part of a larger church, encompassing numerous congregations around the country. We are all part of one larger congregation. A portion of the Per Capita goes to support the Hudson River Presbytery and its mission. The Presbytery is a confederation of Presbyterian churches in the lower Hudson Valley, north of New York City. The Presbytery provides support programs for member congregations and clergy, and has an office and staff. We are also a member of the Synod of the Northeast, which is a group of presbyteries within this part of the country. All of the Synods are grouped into the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Like the presbyteries, the synods and the General Assembly are there to provide support services to the individual churches, and to speak for all of us with one voice on national issues. It is right and appropriate that we support these financially.

This year's tax is \$26.50 per active member. An active member is defined as an individual who has taken the formal step of becoming a member of the church, and who attends at least one church service a year and/or supports the church financially at least once a year.

Our church will be sending a check for the full amount of approximately \$3,300 this year. We are asking that you consider contributing \$26.50 per active member in your own household, as a way to show your support and to help defray the cost. If you are unable to contribute the entire amount but can do a smaller portion, we

gratefully accept that as well. Please use the blue envelope or mark your check Per Capita.

### Worship, Music and the Arts

From Barbara Zacheis,  
Chair of Worship, Music and the Arts

- There is a calendar on the bulletin board in the Colonial Room for sponsoring **flowers** for the Sanctuary during services. Please feel free to sign up for a given Sunday by putting your name in the Sunday box, and your intention to the right of it. Remember to send in your check for \$30 to cover the cost, or you can put it in the offering basket – mark your check memo “flowers.” Please remember to take your flowers at the end of the service!
- We need more volunteers who may be contacted on occasion to arrange the flowers for the sanctuary. Please contact Barbara Zacheis if interested.
- If you are interested in serving as a **lay leader** or **usher** and have not been contacted, please let Barbara Zacheis know, and you will quickly be scheduled!
- The Worship Committee will meet on January 28, at 8 PM. All are welcome to attend!
- Special **THANKS** to those who gave a **Children's Sermon** in 2008: Carmen Bermudez, Pauline Mattis, Joanna Meckley, Terry Lucas, Ed Garcia. We'd love to have more volunteers! See Barbara Zacheis to sign up.
- Many **THANKS** to those who assisted worship services in 2008 by helping lead worship and/or greeted/ushered and are listed on the following page.



**Thanks So Much!**

	Lay Leader	Usher/Greeter		Lay Leader	Usher/Greeter
Adom, Dora	X		Lucas, Terry	XXXXXX	X
Asamoah, Nora		X	Mattis, Norma		X
Asher, Lona	XXX	XXX	Mattis, Pauline	XXXXX	X
Bermudez, Christina		XXX	Meckley, Joanna	XXX	
Bermudez, Joe	XX	X	Metallo-Bidon, Laura		XX
Bermudez, Yvonne		X	Miller, Sylvia		X
Bidon, Marc		X	Morton, Jann		X
Butson, Donna		X	Nangoi, Liring		XX
Crockett, Pat		XX	Panaro, Annabella	X	
Crockett, Percy		XX	Panaro, Suzanne		X
Daniel, Jocelyn	XX	X	Petrikat, Bob		XXX
Deen, Kim		X	Petrikat, Jocelyn		XXXX
Ehlermann, Frank		XX	Philhower, Robert	XXXXXX	
Fink, Pam	X	X	Philhower, Elaine & Naomi		X
Garcia, Ed	X	X	Pridgen, Sylvia L.	XX	X
Gerstein, Bernice Rice		X	Rabeler, Kristen		XXXX
Gerstein, Sid		X	Rentz, Sue	X	
Greenhalgh, Bob		XX	Sebok, Jane Craig	X	
Greenhalgh, Cathy		XX	Siregar, Roida		XXXXXX
Hemsley, Walter		XXX	Smith, Joanne		XXX
Henderson, Sonia		XXX	Smith, Walter		XXX
Igneri, Margo		XX	Tedesco, Theresa		XX
Jacobs, Nancy	X	X	Tucker, Angela		XX
Kallé, Janine	XXX		Villalon, Socorro		X
Keryk, Wendy	XX	X	Wassmann, Barbara	X	
Landers, Jack		XXX	Whitehouse, Howard	X	X
Landers, Zaida		XX	Witte, Ellen		XXXXX
Lie, Chunlin (May)		XX	Young, Bill		XX
Lowinger, Teri		XXXXX	Zacheis, Barbara	XXXXXX	X
Lucas, Miek		X	Zacheis, Mark	XXX	XX

