

The Carriage Stone

April 2009

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



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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What Does it Mean to be a Church Member?

Part One

One of the questions that the Session asks of everyone who seeks to join New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is “What brought you to us?” The answers are varied, but most folks say that they keep coming because we have such a friendly, warm and loving congregation. What a blessing that is!

Church membership however, is more than just enjoying the fellowship, important as that is. When we join a particular congregation (that’s Book-of-Order-speak for local Presbyterian church), there are expectations placed upon us. Presbyterians understand that membership is a form of ministry: we have obligations as Christians and as members of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. The Book of Order puts it this way:

A faithful member accepts Christ’s call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of his Church. Such involvement includes

- a. proclaiming the good news,**
- b. taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church,**
- c. praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church,**
- d. supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,**
- e. participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,**
- f. demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,**
- g. responding to God’s activity in the world through service to others,**
- h. living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political,**



cultural, and social relationships of life,

- i. working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment. (G-5.0102)**

“Expectations” and “obligations” all too often sound like dirty words in our culture. Sometimes, we want a life free of commitments. But life isn’t like that, especially mature Christian life. Because God made us with the ability to respond to God and one another, we as Christians do have “response-abilities” But we do not carry these out alone—God’s Holy Spirit works in and through us to accomplish God’s good purposes. You’ll note that the list above does not have little boxes next to each letter—we don’t check it off every day to make sure we’ve gotten everything in. Rather, it’s a guide, a way of thinking about our lives individually, and our life together as a congregation. And, because we are such a loving and friendly bunch, much of the way in which we carry out these tasks is in the form of fellowship already! (When do we *not* have food and conversation when we gather?)

As we move through the final weeks of Lent, we have the opportunity both as individual members and as a congregation to think and pray about what it means to live in gratitude to God, how we can deepen our discipleship, how we can faithfully respond to God’s call in the world. Next month, I will include another resource to help us think about how we are fulfilling the expectations of our ministry as members of the Body of Christ.

Lenten Blessings,



Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5
11 AM Worship service

Please join us for the Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon in Murchison Hall immediately following worship.

Maundy Thursday, April 9
8 PM Worship Service with Communion

Good Friday, April 10
8 PM Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 12
8 AM Sunrise service in Murchison Hall

Immediately afterwards, enjoy a full breakfast (eggs, sausages, pancakes, etc) prepared by the men of the church.

11 AM Service of the Resurrection in the Sanctuary with Communion.

Fellowship time after worship in the Colonial Room.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

The Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon will be celebrated on April 5 immediately after Sunday Worship. The luncheon will be served buffet style at Murchison Hall. All members and friends are invited to participate. A poster will be available for those who would like to contribute their favorite dish. Dessert and coffee will be provided. If you have any questions or are not sure what to bring, feel free to speak to Percy Crockett.

Easter Breakfast

We will celebrate Easter Sunday on April 12 with a (late!) Sunrise Service at 8 AM immediately followed by a fabulous Pancake Breakfast prepared by the men of the church, which will include eggs, sausages, coffee and juice. These two activities will take place at Murchison Hall. We will round up the usual suspects and welcome new friends to use their culinary talents in the kitchen. Don't miss an inspirational Sunrise Service followed by a fortifying breakfast. Just in time to praise the Lord during the special Easter Service at 11 AM.

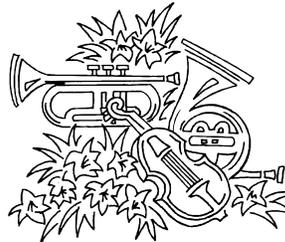


Special Music

From Kryste Andrews, Music Director

This season, the choir happily welcomed three new members: Liring Nangoi and Sienni Lucas joined the soprano section and Mae Lie is singing alto. They are a wonderful addition to our ladies' crystalline sound!

Our Palm Sunday and Easter services are shaping up to be musical extravaganzas again this year with guest singers from Circle in the Square Theater School presenting one of our all-time favorite anthems arranged for 4-part men's chorus: "Ain't No Rock Gonna Shout For Me". It will be a bravura sound from ten young men in addition to our own fine baritones. Don't miss this very special presentation and other memorable songs such as The Palms this Palm Sunday.



EASTER
M U S I C

Our Easter musical offerings include a ladies trio version of the Mozart Holy, Holy, Holy as well as rousing Easter favorites. We raise the roof in celebration at this time of year as so much great music has been written for this sacred season. Hosanna! Hosanna!!

Tag Sale

From Mark Zacheis

Spring is here, at least according to the calendar. With the warm weather approaching, people's thoughts turn to airing out their home and cleaning out their storage areas. This is the perfect time to run a church-wide tag sale. And so we have scheduled one, for May 9.

As you go through your stuff and consider what you might not want any more, consider donating it to the tag sale. We're happy to take donations of clothing, small appliances, electronics, fabrics, tableware, glassware, movies and DVDs, records

and tapes, books, games, and the like.

Donations can be dropped off in the church barn starting April 18 (give us a chance to clean it out

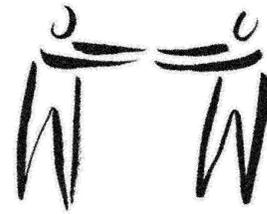
first!). We ask that you label your donations with a price. Price stickers will be available in the office foyer.

We are also looking for people to help man the sale that day. If you would like to help, please speak to Mark or Wendy. We will also be calling people and asking for assistance. Please give generously of your stuff and your time.

Proceeds will go to the church.



The committee on Worship, music and the arts will not be meeting Wednesday, April 29. Contact Barbara Zacheis or watch the bulletin to learn when the next meeting is.



From the Deacons

April is **pass on the gift** month! On Palm Sunday, we at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be sharing in fellowship blessed with an abundance of food at our annual luncheon. This is an event where many of us make a donation to defray the cost of supplies necessary for our large gathering. This year, however, the monies collected from the donation basket will be donated to an international organization known as Heifer International. The mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger, poverty and to care for the earth. By providing gifts of livestock and training in agricultural practices, Heifer gives families in need a source of food and income. The key is "passing on the gift" in which recipients agree to share one or more of the animal's offspring to others in need, so that the gift of food is never-ending. It creates a ripple effect that transforms lives and communities.



Heifer International has helped 10.5 million families in more than 125 countries to become self-reliant through gifts of livestock and environmentally sound practices so that recipients can lift themselves out of poverty. Milk, eggs, wool, meat, draft power and other benefits of animals provide nutrition and money for education, housing, health care and small business enterprises.

Passing on the Gift is about people sharing with others to create a cycle of sustainability. It is our hope, here at New Hempstead, that in this simple way, we will provide hope and a new way of life for struggling families.



Buildings and Grounds News

Those in attendance at the Annual Meeting in February heard Mark Zacheis talk about how our church switched gas suppliers in an effort to reduce its utility bills.

You may not be aware that Orange & Rockland is an energy delivery company. A separate company provides the gas and electric power that O & R delivers through its wires and pipes to our door. O & R also provides the support services when something goes wrong with the system. They are responsible for the delivery part of the business, so if we have a problem, we still call O & R.

The church receives an O & R invoice each month, just like you do at home, and that invoice covers the cost of delivery and the cost of the gas and electric power provided by the other company. O & R provides billing services for the energy provider so that you only get one bill each month.

Several different energy provider companies are available to us to select from. We did some shopping around and decided to switch to Hudson Energy Services as our new energy provider. Our previous provider was charging us over \$1.30 per unit for natural gas. Hudson Energy Services is charging us \$0.866 per unit. The expected savings to the church is substantial.

Hudson Energy Services has a program available to church members for their homes that provides similar reduced rates. Further, for each member who signs up with Hudson, our church will receive an additional discount off its rate.

If you are interested in looking at the program from Hudson Energy Services for your own home, please contact Mark Zacheis for full details.

Christian Education Food Drive

Many thanks for all of the donations to the recent Joint Youth Group Food Drive for Helping Hands. Also, know that our last donation to People to People netted 230 pounds of food.



FEED THE HUNGRY

We have designated the month of April as Pasta Sauce month. We asked, and People to People told us that they frequently run out of this product. We (and they) gladly accept all donations but want us to know that there is a need for pasta sauce in this area.

We thank you for your continued support in making the food drive such a success.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent.

In New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, April 12.



Goodbye Barbara

Beloved long time member Barbara Hurley passed away Monday, March 16. Since joining the church in 1949, she was involved in every aspect of church life (including a stint for *The Carriage Stone*). She was also involved in many community organizations such as the Ramapo Poets and Rockland Symphony. A memorial service is being planned for Sunday, April 26 at 2 PM in the Sanctuary.

Rhubarb

Nancy Jacobs will be dividing her rhubarb plants this spring. If you would like a rhubarb plant, please leave a message on her home answering machine.

Address Update

We have a new address due to 911 regulations.

Sally John and Diane Zachmann
 1762 Berg Hill Road
 Susquehanna, PA 18847-7204

Thank you. Sally

A Matter of Balance

Carmen Bermudez is giving a class for seniors entitled ***A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls*** at our church starting Wednesday May 13 through July 1. The classes are about 2 hours long.

Many seniors experience fear of falling and restrict their activities. ***A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls*** emphasizes practical strategies to reduce this fear and increase activity levels. The classes will go through concerns of falling, exercise, fall prevention, recognizing fall hazards in the home and community. This is just some of the things we will cover. All are welcome.

Registration has to be done by telephone during business hours at:

Rockland County Department of Health
 Office of Public Health Education
 Phone: (845) 364-2501

Please make sure you tell them, you are interested in taking the matter of balance class and what date.

Classes are small so make sure you register ASAP. If you have questions, contact Carmen in church.

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