

# The Carriage Stone

December 2009

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

## Away in a Manger



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

**The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor**

**Office:** (845) 354-2372

**E-mail:** office@nhpchurch.org

**Web:** nhpchurch.org

### Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

### Next Deadline:

Sunday, January 10

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

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



## Making the House Ready for the Lord

The poet Mary Oliver is a lover of nature—of all creatures great and small. In her poem, “Making the House Ready for the Lord,” she laments the fact that, despite her best efforts, her home isn’t as ready as it should be for the coming of the Lord. She comes to the realization that in welcoming all and sundry creatures, God is in fact present.

And still I believe you will  
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know  
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.\*

As we enter the season of Advent, it is fitting that we turn our hearts and minds to making our house ready for the Lord. There are many small but important ways that we can do this. Are you

- Greeting visitors, making an effort to seek them out on the way to coffee hour, inviting them to join us?
- Calling folks you may not have seen recently in church, to tell them that you miss them?
- Using your gifts and passions, those things which bring you joy, for the benefit of others, especially your church family?
- “Practicing the presence of the Lord”: remembering that God is always present, and longing to be acknowledged?
- Looking for Jesus in unexpected places: in the coworker who is having a bad day, the surly teenager who really needs love and self-confidence?

In this season of waiting, let us be conscious of all the places where God in Christ shows up at our door so that we can say, “Come in. Come in.”

Blessings,



# Christmas Worship Schedule



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Sunday, **November 29**, 11 AM  
First Sunday of Advent

Worship service  
Hanging of the greens and lunch afterwards

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Sunday, **December 6**, 11 AM  
Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Service with Communion  
and dedication of the Advent cards

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Wednesday, **December 9**, 7:30 PM

The Rev. Dr. Lori Knight-Whitehouse will lead  
a Blue Christmas worship service

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Sunday, **December 13**, 11 AM  
Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Service  
with children participation

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Sunday, **December 20**, 11 AM  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship service

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Wednesday, **December 24**, 8 PM  
Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship service with Communion

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If you or someone you know tends to get a bit depressed at Christmastime, you're not alone.

Join us Wednesday evening, December 9, at 7:30 PM. We will have a time of music, prayers, candle lighting, scripture reading, and silence, to allow us to come before God with all of those feelings that our society tries to get us to deny during the holidays—frustration, disappointment, anger, and the plain ol' blues.

It's a time to remember that God came into the world as a human child in order that God could share *all* of our feelings intimately, not just the happy ones.

Even (especially!) if Christmas is your favorite time of year, come and spend some "quiet time" with us in the middle of all the hectic business that the season can bring.

Pause in the middle of some of those less spiritual events, like the office Christmas party, and bring your spirit into God's presence as the Church awaits the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.





## From the Deacons

The Deacons would like to thank all of the New Hempstead church family who so generously donated to the Thanksgiving local mission project. As of this date, we are still collecting monies and donations to distribute joy and thankfulness to our community. By the next publication of *The Carriage Stone*, we will have more exact numbers of families who were directly helped by this congregation's generous support.

During the short span between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Deacons of NHPC wish to expand the commitment to local mission by asking the congregation to support our efforts in collecting warm hats, gloves, socks and scarves for male day laborers in our immediate vicinity. These items, as well as gently used and cleaned coats, sweaters, boots etc. will be collected during the Christmas season and will be delivered to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Spring Valley.

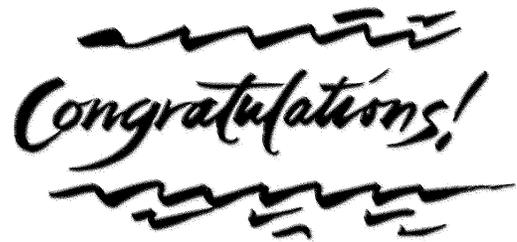
This year, the Deacons have been able to provide for several worthy local missions, thanks to the congregation of this church. Thank you to all who have contributed to the projects and to our goal of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout our community.

## Fellowship Breakfast

Our Men's and Women's Breakfasts have morphed into the new "Fellowship Breakfast", which will be held regularly at 8 AM on the last Saturday of the month at City Line Restaurant on Main Street in New City. **All** are welcome and invited. There will no longer be phone-called reminders, so mark your calendars and join us!



Christmas is coming! We plan to prepare the sanctuary in November, with the annual Hanging of the Greens, after Worship Service on November 29. Please plan to stay a little while after church to help beautify the church for Advent. We will need some evergreen cuttings, so that would be a good time to do some pruning on your evergreen tree at home and bring them in that Sunday. Volunteers for providing soups and sandwiches can contact the Deacons to help fortify the folks who stay by providing a light lunch. The results are always spectacular!



Congratulations to Tim Bidon who will serve as the Youth Advisory Delegate for the Presbytery of the Hudson River to the 219th General Assembly of PC (USA) this summer.

The 2010 General Assembly will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota and will be hosted by the Presbytery of the Twin cities Area with the support of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and the Presbytery of Northern Waters. The theme for this year's assembly is *Rivers of Living Water*, taken from John 7:38.



The church office will be closed December 24 through January 3. Voice mail will be checked but any office work will be deferred until after the New Year so please plan any requests you have with this schedule in mind.

## What's Happening with the Newsletter?

From Bob Philhower, Editor

To save precious church funds, the newsletter will be undergoing changes in 2010. Newsletter budgeting was largely unaffected by the cuts in the 2009 budget; however in the 2010 budget, spending on the newsletter will be reduced.

We will continue to publish *The Carriage Stone*, as the newsletter has an important mission to keep our members and friends informed. However, the session has voted to reduce significantly the number of copies mailed, as postage is the largest expense.

I will mail an electronic copy of the newsletter to everyone who provides an e-mail address to the church. In addition, we will continue publishing the newsletter on the church's website, [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org) where back issues are available.

Copies will still be printed for those who feel that a paper copy would better suit their needs. We may consider printing just the calendar page separately, as many people have mentioned tacking up the calendar page on their refrigerator or bulletin board.

However, we expect that most of those who want a printed copy will pick one up from the church office after Worship.

We will primarily be mailing *The Carriage Stone* to people who cannot regularly attend Worship because they either have difficulty getting out of the house or live out of town. We understand that many members and former members who cannot attend Worship still care deeply about New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. We still care deeply for you and want to continue to include you in our church family.

## The Numbers

Using information Shirley Martignetti has provided, I estimate that the newsletter costs the church approximately \$630 per year. This figure does not include the cost of Shirley's time preparing the mailing. Also not included are the cost of the copier (a fixed rate contract) and the cost of incidental office supplies such as staples and tape.

Of this \$630, \$500 is postage, \$80 is paper costs and \$50 is a subscription to a religious art service. Clearly, the latter can be eliminated.



The postage costs are complex, as we have been using bulk-rate shipping. Bulk rate shipping has a \$180 yearly fee and a minimum of 200 copies at 16¢ each. Since we send exactly 200 copies, there is no way to save money by reducing by just a handful.

## What can I do?

First, you can keep the church, its members and your humble editor in your prayers as we go through this transition.

If you use e-mail and didn't receive this issue through e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [carriagestone@nhpchurch.org](mailto:carriagestone@nhpchurch.org) along with your thoughts and comments.

Otherwise, catch me at coffee hour or drop me a line at the church address.



# GIFT ITEMS & CARDS FOR SALE

Miniature Replica of NHPC /each ..... \$25.00

Recipe Book / each .....\$10.00

Christmas Ornament / each .....\$12.00

Blank Note Cards / 10 pack .....\$10.00  
Can also be used as Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards / 20 pack .....\$25.00  
Very limited quantities

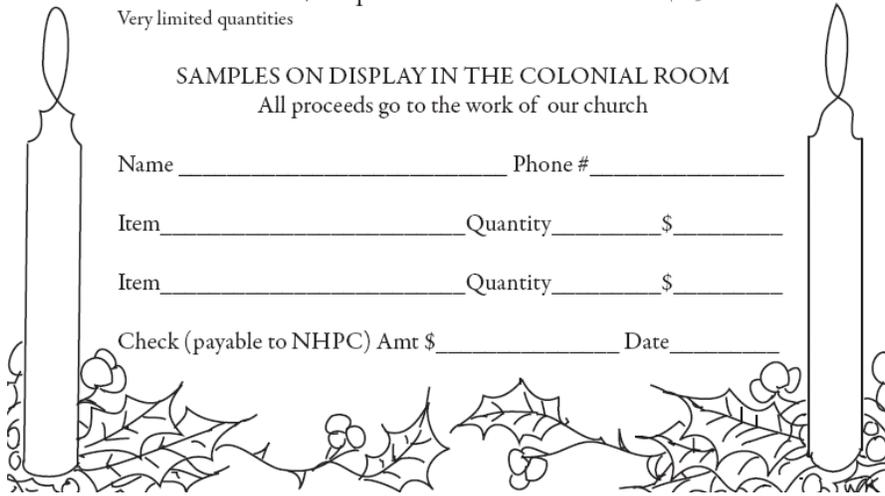
SAMPLES ON DISPLAY IN THE COLONIAL ROOM  
All proceeds go to the work of our church

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check (payable to NHPC) Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



To order poinsettias, please return this form along with a check made payable to the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church (and marked Christmas flowers) to: 484 New Hempstead Road, New City NY 10956 by December 13.

Please purchase \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) poinsettias for me at \$15 each.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) would like the poinsettias to be dedicated as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_ In Celebration of Christ's birth

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



*Newsletter of the English Church*

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church  
 484 New Hempstead Road  
 New City NY 10956



**DATED MATERIAL  
 DECEMBER 2009**

**Yuletide**  
**6 GAMES**

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

**JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z**

**What you need:**

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)

**What you do:**

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.



**PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER**

**What you need:**

- Burcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



**What you do:**

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.

**STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES**

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

**What you do:**

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)

