



The Carriage Stone

May 2010

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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The Already/Not Yet of Easter

Spring is all around us, with new life running rampant everywhere. We see the spring flowers, the new leaves on the trees, and it's easy to think about Easter, and our resurrection faith. But we should remember that resurrection is more than the old life starting up again after winter's dreariness. Resurrection is about a radically new life, not just a shot of energy to the old one. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5: 17

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

As a part of our Baptism, that new life has already begun. But we know we have a long way to go before we reach the "full stature" of maturity in Christ. One of the mysteries of our faith, one of its struggles, is to remember that we are new creatures, and not give a foothold to what Saint Paul called, "the flesh."

"Flesh" as Paul used the word, doesn't mean our bodies. It doesn't mean that this created, material world is somehow bad and the spiritual world is good. Rather, for Paul, "flesh" means anything that is not part of ourselves as God sees us through Jesus' eyes: those desires and behaviors that come between us and God. Already, we are the people God created us to be. But we are still weighed down with old ways of thinking, bad habits and hurtful ways. We do not yet see what we are becoming.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3: 10-14.

God's plan for us is a new life far better than we can see or even imagine. As we celebrate this season of Easter, may we be blessed with the Spirit's power to press on toward the goal.





Howard and I want to thank you so much for your love offering to help defray the expenses of our Peru Pilgrimage with the group from Hudson River Presbytery. You are a very generous and caring congregation, and we love you!

Pastor Lori

Thank you for keeping Charles in your prayers. We always loved NHPC. Thank you.

Thank you sincerely for your thoughtful kindness at a time when it was deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Alice Churchwell

New Church Officers

On March 21, new church officers were installed. The Session class of 2012 is David Garcia, Syenni Lucas and Jane Sebok. The Deacons class of 2012 is Kim Deen, Kristen Rabeler, Soneka Samakai and Roida Siregar.

Special thanks to Donna Butson, Roque (Ed) Garcia, Janine Kallé and Teri Lowinger who have completed their terms of service and are taking some time off. Thank you for your support of God's work at New Hempstead.

Continuing to serve as Elders are Jocelyne Daniel, Vanessa Greenwald, Pauline Mattis, Robert Philhower, Walter Smith and Barbara Zacheis. Continuing to serve as Deacons are Lona Asher, Percy Crockett, Wendy Keryk, Teresa Lucas, Liring Nangoi, Suzanne Panaro and Angela Tucker.

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is coming August 9–12 this year. We will again be running a joint program with Germonds and this year is Germonds' chance to host us. We will be organizing part of the program, so helpers are needed for all aspects. See Pauline Mattis for more information.



Sunday School Events

On Mother's Day, the Sunday school will be holding a bake sale. Proceeds will support relief work in Haiti.

Also, Children's Day will be June 13. The Sunday school class will lead the Worship service.

Walk to Feed the Need

To celebrate its 150th anniversary, Germonds church is organizing a "Walk to Feed the Need" at Kennedy-Dells Park on Sunday, June 6 at 1:30 PM. They are inviting members of the other Presbyterian Churches in the county, including NHPC, to join them in this mission/celebration.

Monies raised will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Meals on Wheels of Rockland County, the Breakfast Program at Spring Valley and the food pantry of People-to-People.

Registration is available through the NHPC mission committee. More information will be announced during Worship. Those who do not wish to walk are encouraged to purchase a T-shirt or to make a donation. Make checks payable to the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

The Clarkstown Interfaith Clergy is sponsoring an interfaith dialogue to discuss why bad things happen to good people from differing faith perspectives. The gathering is 7:30 PM, Thursday April 29 at St. Augustine's Church on 114 South Main Street in New City. Pastor Lori will be providing the Reformed Christian perspective.

Clergy from Protestant, Catholic & Jewish Congregations will address the topic by gleaning from each tradition. It will then be opened for a dialogue of question and answers followed by sharing over coffee/tea & refreshments.

We found that our gathering in October was a great way to become better informed & meet neighbors from various churches & synagogues. We are excited to continue the dialogue.



Searching for a Volunteer Opportunity?

If you are a people-person, and enjoy meeting new people, come and join the excitement at Stony Point Center. We have opportunities for volunteers to staff the front desk, to extend hospitality by meeting and registering groups as they arrive. Flexible hours. A second language and computer skills a plus.

You would be welcome at daily Morning Prayer and the Bible Study on Thursday afternoon.

Check out our website:

www.stonypointcenter.org

to learn more about Stony Point. We are at 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980

Barbara Hurley Scholarship



From Bernice Rice Gerstein, MMC Treasurer

Morning Music Club is pleased to announce that it will award a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Barbara Hurley to a graduating Rockland County high school senior. The student plans to continue his study of music in college. The presentation will take place Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30 PM. at Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church. Thank you for making this possible.

The Sunshine State

Taken from Prevention Magazine
via Bernice Gerstein

Forty percent of our happiness is in our control (50% is genetic, 10% our circumstances). Here are two suggestions for improving happiness:

Doing things, not buying things, gives you the most bang for your buck. Why? For one thing, says University of Colorado at Boulder social psychologist Leaf Van Boven, PhD, it is easier to reinterpret experiences than to retool material purchases. If your new smart phone disappoints, you have to either shell out for a better one or lower your expectations. But if it rains on a hiking trip, you can recast the drenching experience in your memory as a character-building challenge.

Once a person's basic needs are met, having more money does little to boost happiness, studies show. What matters more is how much you give away. In a survey of 632 Americans, University of British Columbia psychologist Elizabeth Dunn, PhD, found that the money people spent on themselves was unrelated to general happiness, but the more money people gave away as gifts and donations, the happier they were.

ATTENDANCE

2/17 (Ash Wednesday)	23
2/21	52
2/28	65
3/7	58
3/14	63
3/21	66
3/28 (Palm Sunday)	95
4/1 (Maundy Thursday)	31
4/2 (Good Friday)	30
4/4 (Easter 8AM)	40
4/4 (Easter 11AM)	112

Presbyterian Response to China Earthquake

Freezing cold weather is making it tough for the earthquake-hit communities in China's mountainous Qinghai Province. The April 14 earthquake killed 1,994 people, injured 12,000, and left hundreds of others missing in one of the poorest regions in western China.

In addition to the sub-zero temperatures, rescue teams and relief efforts are hampered by the region's high altitude — approximately 13,000 feet above sea level. The thin air, at 60 percent oxygen density, has given some rescuers altitude sickness with symptoms of difficulty in

breathing, headache and vomiting. There are also transport difficulties to the remote region.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is supporting the relief efforts of our long-term partner Amity Foundation. Before the earthquake, Amity was well known in the region, working with communities on biogas and solar energy projects for cooking and lighting.

Amity Foundation, coordinating with the Chinese authorities, is continuing to distribute emergency relief, including quilts, food and water to help people survive in some of the worst hit areas.

A team from Amity Foundation arrived Saturday (April 17) at Cuoduo Village, a badly affected area in Longbao Township, Qinghai province. Amity is the first group providing assistance in the village. The Amity team distributed relief aid to approximately 1,500 villagers — some 200 households. This initial shipment included 480 blankets, 850 boxes of instant noodles, and 350 cartons of water from Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

On April 19, more relief materials were distributed in other areas, including Cuosang Village and Cuomei Village. Cuosang Village is the most heavily destroyed area in Longbao Township, where 29 people perished and nearly 800 were injured, of whom 69 people remain in serious condition.

The distribution included 300 quilts and bed sheets, 2,500 kilos of wheat flour and 50 tons of rice. One villager stated, "These rice and flour are so precious to us. It is our first time to receive relief materials like this after the earthquake."

Additional shipments are being sent to the region; these include 2,790 cartons of mineral water; 1,120 cartons of canned meat; 517 cartons of instant noodles; 7 tons of rice; 10.5 tons of wheat flour; 300 bed sheets.