

The Carriage Stone

October 2010

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



OCTOBER

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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One New Book for the Pilgrim



Julie Kirkpatrick, *The Camino Letters: 26 Tasks on the Way to Finisterre*. Millbrook, Ontario: Pyxis Press, 2010.

I didn't write my usual summer reading column this year, but I have just read a book that I am so enthralled with, I must share a brief review with you. *The Camino Letters* documents the month that author Julie Kirkpatrick spent walking the Camino de Santiago—the pilgrim's walk through the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain to Santiago de Compostello. Legend has it that the remains of the apostle James were buried in the cathedral at Santiago. During the middle ages, pilgrims walked this path as a show of Christian devotion. In 1987, UNESCO declared the route a World Heritage Site.

Many modern-day pilgrims (both Christian and non-) are choosing to walk this route (500 miles in total—though you can do only parts). Kirkpatrick, a lawyer from Millbrook, Ontario, chose to walk a 26-day route with her 17-year-old daughter. Her only plan or preparation for this trek was to ask 26 friends to give her a task—one for each day of her walk. The letters are her responses to those who offered her these tasks.

During her sojourn, she confronts griefs of her life she had avoided feeling to their fullest: the stillbirth of her son, the death of her mother from an autoimmune disease that claimed her brother and now stalks her and her sister. She comes through this month-long pilgrimage with a new insight into what it means to live fully and fearlessly.

I am not certain of Kirkpatrick's religious beliefs, but I am certain that she encountered the loving Power that sustains the universe on her Camino.

I thought today that this is what they mean by the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is energy and it is light and it moves through matter, through us, into everything. Some cultures think that a child is born with a song, deep in its being. Today I decided that perhaps it is that song of our birth that seeks resonance and tries to find God. The Holy Spirit is one name for the larger energy of the universe, and it has a song too. It is about resonance. That's it. I felt it deep in my core. (p. 158)

So often today we hear people say they are "spiritual, but not religions." Kirkpatrick herself might embrace this term, though she never claims it explicitly. Reading *The Camino Letters* gave me insight into the commonality that all spiritual seekers—myself included—share. Perhaps if Christians could listen non-judgmentally to the spiritual experiences of others, we might show them the loving, accepting face of Jesus Christ. We are all of us, Christian and other, pilgrims through this life. *The Camino Letters* offers a memoir of a very thoughtful traveler.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Kirkpatrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".



From the Deacons

During the summer of 2010, the Board of Deacons of NHPC continued to serve our members and friends through care and outreach to those among us and the community. Not only do our Deacons work tirelessly to see to the needs and care of our "Flocks," they also prepare and serve

communion as well as provide for our fellowship hour each Sunday. The Board would like to remind members to contact a Deacon whenever there is a need or crisis where we can be of assistance or help. Members of the Board of Deacons are: Lona Asher, Percy Crockett, Kim Deen, Wendy Keryk, Terry Lucas, Suzanne Panaro, Kristen Rabeler, Roida Siregar, Liring Sullivan and Angela Tucker.

The "Change in the Jar" project continues. Through this simple gesture, the Deacons are able to provide outreach to our friends and neighbors within our community and beyond. Presently we are designating the "Jar" to the Spring Valley Breakfast Program in memory of our own beloved Paul Emch. Paul devoted much love and many hours to this wonderful organization which seeks to feed needy adults and children. We hope that NHPC can honor Paul with a significant contribution in the weeks ahead. Volunteers as well as donations are also needed. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let your wishes be known so that you may receive contact information.

Thanksgiving is only two short months away. New Hempstead has traditionally given generously to the community in the form of food baskets. This year in lieu of baskets, the Deacons will contribute with both food and monetary donation to the Youth Group's food drive to People to People. Donations from members will also be gladly accepted.

A big thank you to all who participated in the "Welcome Back" lunch on September 19. It was wonderful to hear of the various experiences and

travels of our members over the summer. As always, the food was most delicious. Since we have so many wonderful cooks among us, please don't be shy about sharing those talents. The Deacons always welcome help with preparing or providing a fellowship hour after church. Please see a Deacon if you are interested.

The Deacons would like to say thank you to Elizabeth Grace for her generous donation of the new coffee urn, a gift much needed by all of the coffee lovers among us.

The next meeting of the Board of Deacons will not be on October 12. The meeting will be scheduled for the 19th at 7 PM instead of our usual 7:30 PM.

Thank You

The director of the Rockland County Veterans Service Agency wrote to thank the Deacons for their mission work.

I just wanted to extend my thanks for your donation of wool to the Golden Stitchers. They have for many years been making wonderful things for our veterans. Unfortunately, recently it is becoming more and more difficult for them to get yarn. Your support helps them to help our veterans.

Thank you very much for what you've done.

Sincerely, Jerry Donnellan.



Blessing of the Animals

NHPC will have a Blessing of the Animals on October 9 at 4 PM. Your leashed/caged and well-behaved pets are welcome. Invite your neighbors and friends to bring their pets as well.

Sunday School Schedule

October:

- 3 God knows what is in our hearts
I Samuel 16:1-13
- 10 Praising God gives us peace
I Samuel 16:14-23
- 17 Christian friends care for one another
I Samuel 18-20
- 24 God is with us and will help us do great things!
2 Samuel 5:1-2
- 31 God can teach us the difference between right and wrong
I Kings 3

Sunday School Starting

From Elder Pauline Mattis
Chair of Christian Education

Dear Parents:

As we begin a new Sunday school year at Church, let us remember that Foundation is key to success in every child's life. Hearing and learning Bible stories will enable the children to make right choices in "tough times." We therefore invite you and your child to attend Sunday school at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. We will meet in Murchison Hall.

The Mission at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is that God calls the members and friends to shepherd on another by:

- Increasing spiritual development in the Christian Faith
- Expanding the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and
- Working together for the health of our community

To see this vision become a reality, we must engage in intentional mission. Having a strong

Sunday school and other Bible Programs are some of the ways to do intentional Mission. Our Sunday school and Bible



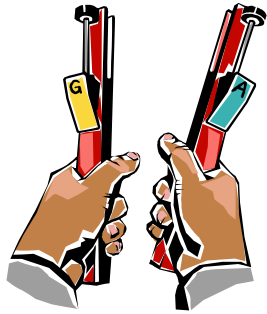
Classes can strengthen the "health of our community" by proclaiming God's words and sharing it with others. We have a curriculum that will teach the children how to pray, have faith, work together and spread the "good news." The Word will be taught through stories, songs, crafts and games. We encourage the children to invite their friends to attend Sunday school with them.

Parents, there are classes for you, as well. Pastor Lori leads a "Faith and Contemporary Concerns" class and Ed Garcia leads an Adult Bible class. We encourage you to participate in these classes while your children are in Sunday school. The Session hopes that you will take advantage of these opportunities both for your children and for yourselves. The classes start at 9:30. We have planned an exciting year and we hope to see you and your children. To this end, may God's work spring forth and flourish.



**Thank You
from Lori**

A very big "Thank You" to all who made the celebration of my 20 years in ordained ministry such fun. The Deacons outdid themselves at the coffee hour—or, as I like to think of it, "lunch"! Percy Crockett went above and beyond the call of coffee hour duty, and even enlisted the help of his sister in baking a cake! I truly appreciate all of your love and kindness. God Bless you—every one!



Handchimes

Chime Choir

The Chime Choir will be rehearsing on October Sundays after worship in the sanctuary. Be sure to let Barbara Zacheis know if you wish to be included in this group at this time.

Young Adult Volunteers

We received a note from Jacob Owens, one of the young adult volunteers we commissioned during worship on August 29.

Pastor Lori,

Thanks again for such a great Sunday. Your congregation and hospitality were very, very appreciated.

1) For any donations, checks can be sent to:

Presbyterian Remittance Processing
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
(with our ECO # E051440 on the check)

Or they can be given online using this link:

<https://gamc.pcusa.org/donate/E051440/>

2) We each have blogs that we will update regularly.

Jacob Owens

<http://jacobowensintucson.blogspot.com/>

Jill Owyang

<http://babblingoasis.blogspot.com/>

Alison Wood <http://www.aliway.net/>

3) Our address will be 605 S 4th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701. Please send us letters, prayer requests, etc. We would love to maintain two way contact.

Have a blessed day,
Jacob Owens.

Jill Owyang's blog has given us a chance to see ourselves through her eyes:

We were greeted so warmly by all of the members who were so joyful. They were a diverse congregation, but all smiling and glad to see us. It was reassuring that this is indeed what God wants me to do for the year. I had been having second thoughts after I was so certain back when I heard about Arizona and thought about national sites as an option. I knew God was calling me to the desert, I just needed to go and do it, it's difficult for me to wait once I determine God is calling me to do something...

Hopefully this carries over into other aspects of my life, including sharing the Gospel to those who I have been called to live among.

We were commissioned by a church that had never met us until that morning. They didn't know us from a random person on the street, but they were there for us because they knew we were a part of their family, their church family, the body of Christ. It was touching.

Tomorrow we'll depart Stony Point and go out to our respective destinations for the year. I am praying. I am thankful for all of the prayers and support we've gotten from those back home, here, and around the world. From people who don't even know us, those who love God and trust that God has called us to be a part of His work down in Arizona. I'm excited.

Local Mission Celebrations

From Hudson River Presbytery

The Presbytery of Hudson River engages in many mission partnerships -- through its people and its churches. At this time of the year, we have unique opportunities to celebrate some of those relationships, learn about the work of our covenant partners and provide support for their ongoing ministries.



October 14 – Join with the Rural and Migrant Ministry in the "Sowing Seeds for Justice" Dinner and Silent Auction. The event will be held at the Riverside Church in Manhattan. This year's featured

speaker is the Rev. Philip Tom, Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Labor. Philip is a Presbyterian minister, who occupies a unique role at the nexus of religious organizations and labor policy, putting groups varying from worker justice leagues to individual houses of worship in touch with one another, and helping them access appropriate government resources.

For more information on the RMM evening -- including tickets and table information, visit www.sowingseedsforjustice.org.



October 28 – Gather with friends at the Holmes Benefit Dinner - "Two by Two at the Bronx Zoo."

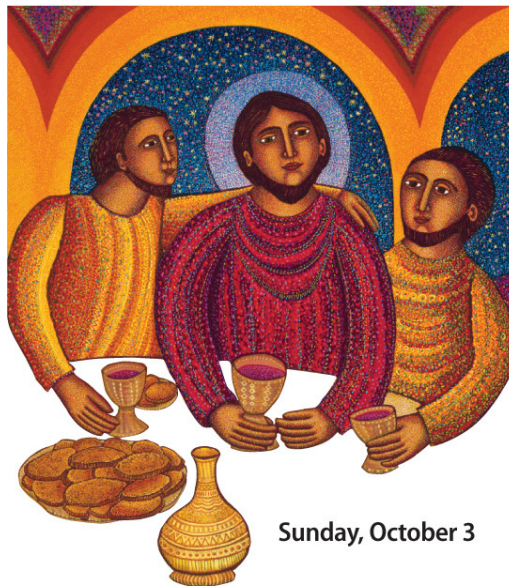
The annual gala event will this year take place in The Schiff Family Great Hall at the Bronx Zoo (New York City's first 'green' renovated landmark building) adjacent to the exciting *Madagascar!* Exhibit.

The Holmes Benefit honors one of our own -- the Rev. Dr. Susan R. Andrews, our General Presbyter. Susan will be honored alongside

Academy Award Winner F. Murray Abraham. This will surely be an evening to remember.

For more information on the Holmes evening -- including tickets and table information, visit www.presbyteriancenter.org/Fall2008Dinner.htm.

2010 PEACEMAKING OFFERING



Sunday, October 3

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Celebrate Christ, Our Peace

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly.

Each congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Presbyteries and synods use 25 percent and the remaining 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.