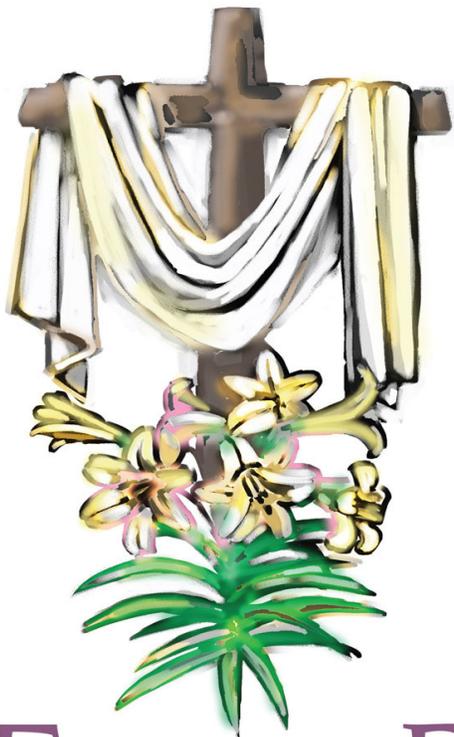


The Carriage Stone

April 2011

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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Spiritual Practices



Once again, the sun begins to shine a bit longer. The snow piles are melting. I even saw some brave crocuses peeking out on a hillside down New Hempstead Road. It's almost spring. And it's Lent (from an old English word meaning "springtime.")

Many folk grew up with the practice of "giving something up for Lent." And this is a wonderful way to experience God's presence more mindfully. You reach for the afternoon candy bar or the evening cocktail, and stop short, remembering that you've given that up for a season. God's claim on your life, God's love for you comes before all other pleasures, because God is the Source of all good gifts. We choose our Lenten disciplines not to get God to love us, or to win heavenly brownie points. We do it for much the same reason that Howard sometimes gives up watching "The Office" on Thursday nights—he knows I like "CSI" so he gives up what he wants to share with me. (No, we do not have TiVo.)

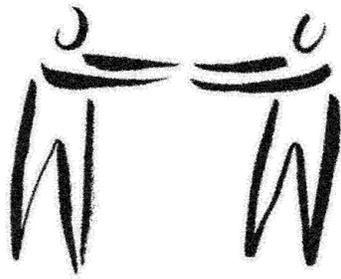
There are many spiritual practices that Christians follow throughout the year. During the Sundays in Lent,* we will be looking at several of these:

- Prayer (learning to listen as well as to speak)
- Fasting (or the practice of saying no)
- Keeping Sabbath (or, why you can play tennis on Sunday)
- Giving alms (the practice of social justice)
- Accountability (why you can't just do whatever you please)

Some of my choices for this list come from Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. In this book, Taylor explores the practice of "everyday holiness," finding God in all the nooks and crannies of our lives. I'm looking forward to some time "off lectionary" as it were, looking at some texts we might not associate with Lent. Join us on Sundays—and bring a friend!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori" with a stylized flourish underneath.

* Lenten Loophole—you can have that Mars Bar on Sundays—we never fast on the Day of the Resurrection!



From the Deacons

The Rockland County Family Shelter provides a safe haven to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This vital community organization also serves Rockland County residents with educational programs in the areas of domestic violence, sexual trauma and crime victim assistance.

The Board of Deacons will be collecting necessary items from the Shelter's "Wish List." Baskets are located in the Colonial Room where donations can be dropped off. It is our hope that NHPC can make a loving and significant contribution to this valuable community organization.

Suggestions for needed items:

- Diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo and lotion
- Paper products: tissues, towels, toilet tissue (single ply)
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry supplies: detergent, bleach, etc.
- Shampoo, conditioner (full-sized) deodorant, body lotion
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste (full-sized)
- Hair brushes and combs

The Deacons will also be designating the "Change in the Jar" collections to the Family Shelter beginning in April.



The Palm Sunday Luncheon has long been a tradition at NHPC. It is a time for our families and friends to come together in love and friendship, sharing a meal and preparing for the Holy Week before Easter. The Deacons will set up and provide beverages in Murchison Hall immediately following the Palm Sunday service. There will be a sign-up in the Colonial Room so bring your favorite dish, family and friends and join us in Christian Fellowship.

Palm Sunday

Luncheon



DISASTER RELIEF

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Easter Breakfast

Join us for our traditional Easter breakfast between the two services Easter Sunday, April 24. Everything is provided; just bring your appetite and a free will offering to defray the costs.

If you would like to help out, contact Howard Whitehouse or another Deacon.



Easter Breakfast

Inquirer's Class Starting

From Ed Garcia

The 2011 inquirers class will start on May 1, at the church right after serves. There will be four classes each lasting one hour or less. We have called it an inquirers class because there is no requirement to join the church at the end of the classes (you will still be loved, welcomed and wanted). Instead of waiting to summarize at the end, let's do it at the very beginning! Here are the best reasons for joining the church. See how many you identify with:

1. Because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.
2. Because I intend to follow Jesus as His disciple.
3. Because the Church is Christ's Body and I want to be part of it.
4. Because as a Christian, I share the values of the people in the church, and I want to live among God's people.
5. Because the church is like a bigger family, and I want to feel a sense of belonging to that extended family.
6. Because the church is my larger family, I will find in it a support system -- people who care about me and who will be there when I'm hurting or in need.
7. Because to follow Jesus as His disciple means that I need to find ways to serve Him, and the church offers me opportunities to do that alongside others who want to serve Him, too.
8. Because Christianity calls for fellowship among Christians, the logical place for that is in the church and its organizations.
9. Because Christians are people who worship together, as well as pray privately.
10. Because the sacraments are important in the life of Christians and the church provides the Sacraments.

11. Because Christians are not intended to "go it alone." We are meant to unite in groups to carry out the work and worship of Jesus Christ.
12. Because I'm just beginning as a Christian, and I know that spiritual growth is a lifelong process that requires opportunities to learn, and draw closer to Jesus Christ, those are provided by the church.

Inquirer's
Class



The Rev. Lori Knight-Whitehouse and Ed Garcia will teach the classes. If you need any further information, please contact Ed Garcia at (845) 735-6013.

Interfaith Clergy Panel Discussion

On Thursday, March 31, at 7:30 PM the New City Interfaith Clergy Group will host a panel discussion on Prayer. Join us to hear from the Protestant (Lutheran), Roman Catholic, and Reform Jewish faith traditions on the subject.

Place:

New City Jewish Center
47 Old Schoolhouse Road
New City, NY 10956-6124
(845) 638-9600
(Behind the American Legion Hall)

**Pump, community
hygiene training:**

\$1,000



**One
great hour
of sharing**

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

Creative Leadership for Congregational Change: It's Survey Time!

From Pastor Lori

As you may recall, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is participating in Hudson River Presbytery's Creative Leadership for Congregational Change program. This program is designed to help congregations and their leaders begin right where they are to move into a new world, one in which many outside our walls are completely indifferent to the very existence of the Church.

As Christians, we know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still relevant. We know that God still loves this world, and all who are in it. But so often, we get so caught up in our own "stuff" that we forget why the Church even exists. We face challenges here, most immediately a very scary budget deficit. This program is designed to help congregations identify the broader issues at work in our specific contexts. Will it magically pull us out of our financial challenge? Not necessarily. Will it help us ask questions of ourselves that enable us to hear the call of God's Holy Spirit? Yes. I believe it will.

The next phase of this program is a congregation-wide survey. This instrument is designed to help us as a congregation get an objective, non-anxiety-ridden view of who we are and where we are as a faith community. The survey is designed to be taken on-line. For those of you who do not have computers, they will be provided in the Colonial Room Sunday, April 3 and Sunday April 10 after worship during fellowship time. The information from these surveys will be interpreted, and a profile of our congregation will be developed from it. This will enable the leadership of the church to move forward with the implementation of the suggested plan for moving forward.

As your pastor, I believe down to my toenails that this church has more potential than it has

problems. I am excited about this program, and I look forward to this survey experience.

*PS—Right now, there is absolutely no charge to the congregation for participating in this program. When it is offered again, the cost will be around \$10,000. What an incredible opportunity!

Things You Don't Usually Hear in Church

From Helen Crawford

These were in our Sunday worship bulletin a couple of weeks ago and I thought you might relate to them (or not).

1. Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went over 25 minutes.
3. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
4. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Jr. High Sunday School class.
5. Forget the denominational minimum salary; let's pay our pastor so she can live as we do.
6. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
7. Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!
8. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
9. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!
10. Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

How to Stay Safe in the World Today

- Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents
- Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home
- Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians
- Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
- Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only 0.001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

For safety's sake, attend church and read your Bible...it could save your life!

One great hour of sharing	For Cambodian men and women trained to clear landmines from farmland and villages:	\$350 Protective vest \$70 Protective visor \$30 Minefield probe
	<i>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace — John 1:16 NRSV</i>	

Easter Flowers



Order form for flowering plants for Easter Sunday, April 24

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate the number and variety of plants you wish:

____ Easter Lilies @ \$15 ____ Daffodils @ \$12 ____ Tulips @ \$12 ____ Hyacinths @ \$12

Total # plants _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I (we) would like the plant(s) to be designated as follows:

____ "To the Glory of the Risen Lord"

____ In memory of _____

____ Other _____

All flowers must be ordered and paid for by **Sunday, April 10**. Please make checks payable to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, clearly mark "Easter Flowers" and include this order form. Mail your order to the church office. (484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956)

You may pick up your plants after the 11 AM Easter Service.