

The Carriage Stone

May 2011

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y. The English Church

Spring Yard Sale



Saturday, May 21

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Hospitality



“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25: 35). These words of Jesus remind us that hospitality—welcoming the stranger—is one of the hallmarks of the Church. I had a conversation with one of the brothers who meet with the AA groups that we host in Murchison Hall a few weeks ago. He thanked us for allowing the group to meet on our property—and said than many churches and other organizations didn’t want to host a group that welcomed everyone. I was surprised to hear that—I’ve become so used to the way our congregation welcomes all folks who come through our doors.

The ministry of hospitality is something we take very seriously here at New Hempstead. This goes further than just welcoming folks at the Passing of the Peace on Sunday morning. Our sanctuary and bathrooms are handicapped-accessible. Our language for worship is inclusive.



We’ve even welcomed a Guide Dog for the Blind!

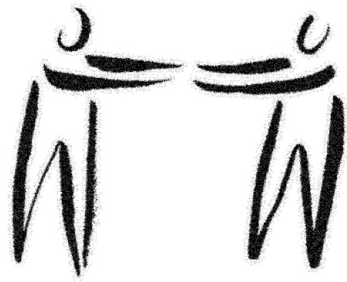
Of course, there is always more we can do to welcome the stranger. On Saturday, May 21, we will be participating on The New York Landmarks Conservancy’s Open House Weekend. We will have folks on hand to lead tours through the Sanctuary and around the grounds to show off our beautiful grounds. (I don’t know of any other church in the area that boasts a real “carriage stone!”) If you would like to volunteer for this duty for an hour or so, please contact Bob Philhower or me.

This is also the day of our Tag Sale. Don’t underestimate the opportunities for hospitality presented by something as “worldly-sounding” as selling off the things we don’t need anymore! As you see folks you don’t know, welcome them to our church, and tell them about our worship services as well as about the groups we host here—AA, the Canine Coaching group, St. George’s Church, the Rockland Habitat for Humanity offices and of course the Enduring Health Alliance* which is in need of publicity.

Last, but certainly not least, when was the last time you invited an unchurched friend to church with you? Offer to pick them up one Sunday, bring them here and introduce them to your friends and to me. New Hempstead Presbyterian is a bit too much of a well-kept secret! Let’s let folks know what a treasure we are.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori".

* Enduring Health Alliance is a program for kids with Diabetes and other chronic illnesses. It helps them learn to manage their health issues.



From the Deacons

Thanks to the congregation of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, the Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program will be receiving one hundred dollars toward their very valuable community service. This is the second time this year that we have been able to assist them.



For the next two months, the “Change in the Jar” contributions will be

designated to the Rockland County Family Shelter. The collection of key items for the Shelter continues until June. Your donations have been generous and abundant.

In the coming weeks, the Deacons will be taking orders for environmentally friendly shopping/tote bags with a logo of NHPC and “established 1734” embroidered on the front. There will be two choices of bags, an ivory cloth stitched in blue and a black insulated bag stitched in white. The bags will sell for \$15 and \$12. The profit from the sale will go to the good of the Church. Edith Thornburg is generously giving her time to embroider the bags. The congregation has already been blessed with some of Edith’s beautiful work that she has so graciously donated in the past. Samples of the bags will be on display so that potential buyers can see the items prior to ordering.



From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

During the stewardship campaign in the fall, we talked about the financial challenges that our church is facing. At the annual meeting, I presented a budget that was very tight for the year. I also reminded the congregation that the three-year capital campaign was ending in May. I asked that our congregants consider continuing to give all or a part of what they were giving to the campaign as part of their regular pledge giving. I sent out a letter with new pledge cards, and the stewardship committee put extra cards into the pew racks. And on one Sunday at the end of March, I asked folks to consider filling out a new pledge card. Thirteen of you did. Two were first-time pledgers and eleven revised their fall giving upward. In total, the thirteen cards came to an additional \$12,000. This is huge and will go a long way toward filling our budget gap. I would like to thank those thirteen folks and also to everyone who gives of their treasure in support of our church.

Open House

We have been invited to participate in the Sacred Sites open house sponsored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy on Saturday, May 21. This is an opportunity for the public to visit our historic building on the crossroads, which so many have driven past. In addition, it is an opportunity for us to speak of our programs and our continuing witness in Rockland County.

Our tag sale will be at the same time, so people may be attracted by one event and stay for the other.



Youth Food Drive

Youth Group Food Drive

From Mark Zacheis

The media says that the economy is rebounding, yet more people are coming to People to People than ever before. The folks visiting People to People include mothers who don't earn enough money at their minimum-wage jobs to feed, house and clothe their school-age children; seniors on fixed incomes forced to choose between buying groceries or medications; and veterans coming home from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan only to find that there are no jobs here for them. In January 2010 People to People provided food packages to 900 Rockland households. In January 2011, that number jumped to 1,400. There is no sign that these numbers will be coming down anytime soon.

In mid-April, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church delivered another load of donated food to People to People. It came to 260 pounds, bringing our 2011 year-to-date total to 435 pounds. We are on track and hope to beat last year's 1080 pounds. May is Peanut Butter and Jelly month, but as always, any donations are gratefully accepted. In a time of great need, thank you for your support.

Situation Report — Liberia

February 2011

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to the displacement and refugee crisis in Liberia in cooperation with our mission partner, Concerned Christian Community (CCC).

Since the beginning of December 2010, political turmoil has caused between 25,000 and 50,000 Cote d'Ivoire refugees, as well as 25,000 Liberians living in Cote d'Ivoire, to enter Liberia.



The number of refugees is creating pressures for Liberian authorities and for host communities. Many villages are hosting as many refugees as residents. In some villages, refugees even outnumber residents. An example is the border village of Loguato, where 5,307 refugees are living with just 1,743 locals.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & One Great Hour of Sharing funds are helping CCC in providing:

- immediate food and non-food item emergency relief assistance to 2,000–3,000 vulnerable families;
- trauma counseling and HIV/AIDS awareness services to more than 500 women and girls;
- emergency mobile medical services to the refugees; and
- limited water and sanitation assistance through the construction of hand pumps and emergency latrines.

Senior Awareness Day

Thursday, May 26 is Senior Awareness Day at the Rockland Community College. There will be free workshops on travel, computers, yoga, finance and much more. The keynote speaker is the author Bruce Frankel, the author of *What Should I Do For the Rest of My Life?*

The event runs from 8 AM to 2:15 PM at the field house at RCC. Registration is free. For more information, call 364-2110.



Senior Awareness Day

Senior Awareness Day is sponsored by the Rockland County Office for the Aging and the SUNY Rockland Community College.

Inquirer's Class Starts May 1

The 2011 inquirers class will start on May 1, at the church right after Worship. 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).

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



Arts Day Camp

From the Rockland Center for the Arts

The Rockland Center for the Arts is holding an open house for their arts day camp on Sunday, May 1, from 1-4 PM. Campers will enjoy visual and performing arts activities, swimming, field games, etc.

For more information, call 358-0877 or visit them on the web: rocklandartcenter.org

Stony Point Online Auction

From Hudson River Presbytery

Utilizing teams of volunteers from churches, presbyteries, schools and elsewhere, Stony Point Center is moving rapidly on its plans to put on a huge barn-raising in 2011 to create an Arts Center on campus!

Plans to put up a simple two-story rectangular building have been donated by the architect, Taylor Potter, who actually surveyed the land to build some of the original buildings on campus back in 1958!

The approximately 4000 sq. ft. building will house the following:

- ceramics studio (complete with wheel and kiln)
- woodworking shop
- large open space—good for painting, fiber arts, weaving and more

Starting on May 1, Stony Point Center will be auctioning off a number of fun and unique items to bid on to help us build our new arts center — and the more items we have the more money we can raise, so we're asking for your help.

Visit the www.stonypointcenter.org website, for more on how you can donate, or shop the exciting items in the Auction!