



The Carriage Stone

October 2011

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

WHATEVER IS *true*,
 WHATEVER IS *honorable*,
 WHATEVER IS *just*,
 WHATEVER IS *pure*...
 IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise,
 THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.



PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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The Gift of Tears

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record? — Psalm 56: 8

It won't surprise you that I've found myself having the occasional weep these days—things that remind me of my Mama in happier days can set me off. And I'm OK with that—it's part of both my grief and my gratitude to God for the (sometimes awkwardly wrapped) gift of my mother. You all have known me long enough to know that I weep at the drop of a hat anyway!

Though to a lesser extent than in years past, our culture often sees tears as a sign of weakness. Biblical faith knows that this is not true. Tears can be a gift from God. And, as the Psalm says, our tears are so precious to God that God has collected them in a bottle.

Did you ever have to memorize a Bible verse in Sunday School? Some smarty-boots would always choose John 11:35: "Jesus wept"—the shortest verse in the Bible. But it is a powerful phrase. Because Jesus was fully human as well as fully divine, he felt the whole range of emotions that we do—including grief.

Often folks will weep at worship. If there was ever an appropriate place for our tears, worship is it. Sometimes there are no words to describe what is going on inside of us, whether we are joyful or hurting. Only tears will do—indeed, scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us before God in inarticulate cries and groans.

If ever there was a place for us to be exactly who we are, it's Church! When folk need to weep, it's perfectly OK to welcome that in our worship. It's also perfectly OK to go to them after worship and give them a hug, tell them you love them, ask if you can help them at all.

We are blessed to have such a loving and welcoming church—I know of at least one member who joined in part because her tears were accepted and valued. One of the most precious gifts we can give one another is our full acceptance of each other—regardless of the occasional moan or snuffle. May we continue to share the depths of our souls with God, and with one another, even—perhaps especially—at worship.



New Bible Study Series

Bible Study— Back by Popular Demand!

From Pastor Lori

OK, maybe not demand, but several of you have asked about returning to the weekly Bible study, so, mark your calendars for Monday, October 3 at 8 PM. We will begin a study of Paul’s letter to the Philippians. It’s a short letter; only four chapters, so you can have a read through the whole thing before we start.

One of the many joys of our Bible studies has been having folks invite their friends from other churches (or no church at all!) It’s been a great way to get to know some other sisters and brothers in the Christian faith. So grab a friend and come along on Oct 3 for Holy Conversation and a snack or two!

Women’s Group

The Women’s group will meet on Friday, October 21 at 7:30 PM at Syenni Lucas’s house.



All are welcome. Contact Syenni or Carmen for more information and directions.

Fellowship Breakfast

The fellowship breakfast meets on the last Saturday of the month at the Cityline Restaurant in New City. Anyone is welcome to join this group; just come on over and pull up a chair!

Art Show

From the Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee would like to plan another art show and auction. The last one, which was held a couple of years ago, let everyone see the incredible artistic talent we have in the congregation. It was great fun and we raised some much-needed money for the church.

Once again, we’re asking for donations of original artwork to auction. If you have any form of art – paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry, sewing, knitting/crocheting – that you would be willing to contribute to benefit the church, please let us know. You can contact Pam Fink, David Garcia or Mark Zacheis.



ART SHOW

Youth Group Food Drive

The Youth Group has made October “Soup & Sandwich” month. Please donate the fixin’s for a soup and sandwich meal. Things to bring in might include canned soup or powdered soup mix, canned tuna, Spam or other canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, mayo, mustard, etc. As always, anything donated is lovingly accepted.

Is your mission, event or activity mentioned in *The Carriage Stone*?

The newsletter is read by people who do not see the bulletin or hear your announcement before Worship: those on vacation, prospective members (through the website), the sick, caregivers, etc.

Make sure everyone knows...put it in *The Carriage Stone*.