

The Carriage Stone

December 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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Advent Silence



In the silence of our souls
O Lord, we contemplate Thy peace
Free from all the world's desires
free of fear and anxiety

—author unknown

I can hardly believe that it's Advent again—this year has truly flown past. As I ponder this upcoming holy season of waiting, I find myself thinking about silence. The deep silence of a snowfall. The anticipatory silence as the conductor raises her baton just before the first movement of the symphony begins. The holy silence of our sanctuary on evenings when I'm sitting there in God's presence.

I, for one, do not have enough silence in my own life. This isn't always my fault: some days the phone won't stop ringing, or the lawn service arrives at 7:30 AM. Lord knows the sirens from emergency vehicles on New Hempstead Road are a nuisance. And we have three furry children who can be quite chatty (Elmore occasionally sets up a howl at the foot of the stairs around midnight. We think he thinks he's singing us a lullaby. He's not.)

But some of the noise in my life I do have control of: I really don't need the TV on 4-5 hours a day. The radio could be turned off after only 1 hour of news in the morning. And I could actually choose to unplug my phone for 20 minutes a day.

Sometimes, paradoxically, it takes silence for God to speak. God's is not always a voice we hear in our ears. Sometimes God speaks to our hearts. And we need the silence in order to hear God's voice.

This Advent, our worship services will have a bit more space for silence. Not huge, Quaker-like chunks of silence, but –room. Room to breathe. Freedom to be still. Room to listen for God. Space in the “silence of our souls to contemplate God's peace.” Perhaps something like the moment right after Gabriel left Mary, just before she burst into song.

May you know peace and stillness this Advent. May you be blessed by holy silence.

Join Us at Advent Worship

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

Worship service at 11 AM followed by Decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent Season.

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Service with Communion at 11 AM and dedication of the Advent cards.

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Service at 11 AM



Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 PM, “Blue Christmas” service

If you or someone you know tends to get a bit depressed at Christmastime, you’re not alone. We will have a time of music, prayers, candle lighting, scripture reading and silence to allow us to come before God with all of those feelings that our society tries to get us to deny during the holidays—frustration, disappointment, anger and the plain ol’ blues. It’s a time to remember that God came into the world as a human child in order that God could share all of our feelings intimately, not just the happy ones.



Even (especially!) if Christmas is your favorite time of year, come and spend some “quiet time” with us in the middle of all the hectic business that the season can bring. Pause in the middle of some of those less spiritual events, like the office Christmas party and bring your spirit into God’s presence as the Church awaits the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Service at 11 AM

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Candle light Worship service at 8 PM with Communion

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

Worship Service of Morning Prayer at 10 AM (note the earlier time).

Sunday, January 1, First Sunday after Christmas

Worship Service at 11 AM



Art Show and Auction

From Pam Fink

Reminder! On Saturday, December 3, we will have an art show and auction in Murchison Hall. The show will begin at 2:30 pm and the auction will start at about 4 pm, so there will be plenty of time to view the artwork. All forms of art that have been crafted by some of the vastly talented members of our congregation will be on display. Our resident artists have generously donated selected works that we will auction off, and the proceeds will benefit our church and the programs we support. There will be light refreshments served during the event.

To make this a success, there are three things that we need from you: First, if you have any form of art that you want to display – photography, painting, knitting, sculpture, quilting, jewelry, or other crafted things – please contact one of the Fundraising Committee

members (Kim Deen, David Garcia, Mark Zacheis or Pam Fink) to reserve your space. If you wish to donate something for auction, all the better.

The second is a request to all of the bakers in the congregation for baked goods to serve and to sell at the show.

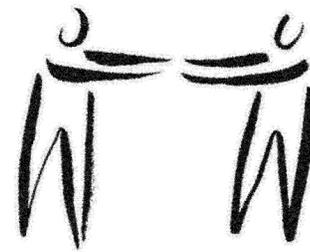
Portable foods like cookies, brownies and cupcakes would be best. Again, please contact the Fundraising Committee if you can help.

The last request is for volunteers to help set up, serve refreshments and clean up after the show. We'll post a sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room for the baked goods and volunteer help.

So come one, come all, and bring your friends, relatives and neighbors out for a fun afternoon of eating and art!



ART SHOW



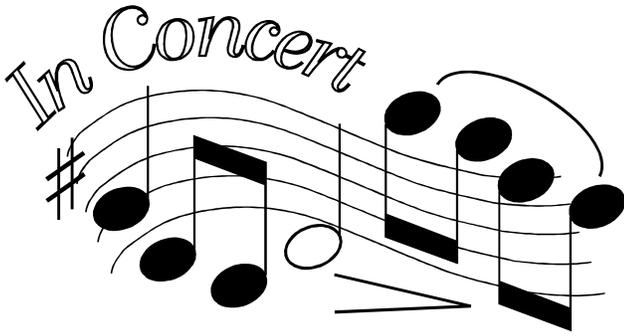
From the Deacons

The Deacons invite the congregation to participate in an exciting new mission projects. The “Pajama Program” provides a new pair of pajamas and a book to children living in family and homeless shelters. Over the course of ten years, this program has provided nearly one million pairs of pajamas and books to needy children in forty-two states. Sizes range from infant to eighteen years of age with an emphasis on older children since not as many pajamas are donated in those sizes. A collection basket is set up in the Colonial Room until the second Sunday in December.

The Board of Deacons would like to thank Robin and Syenni Lucas and Debbie Wallace for so generously helping out with the coffee hour refreshments. If anyone would like to host a coffee hour, or just provide something delicious, it will be greatly appreciated.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will soon be here. It is the mission of the Deacons to nurture and care for those among us who are ill, shut in and in need of comfort. During these busy days ahead, let us not forget to include them in our activities. A simple note, phone call or a visit can bring much cheer. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact Valarie Garcia. Valarie does a wonderful job of getting the word out to the congregation.

Once again, the “Change in the Jar” is designated to People-to-People, which will go toward the Thanksgiving food drive.



Concert at the Church

The Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble will present a Chamber Music Concert on January 22 in the sanctuary of NHPC at 3 PM. A free-will offering will benefit both the Wind Ensemble and the Church. Be sure to put it on your calendar, as it will be a wonderful variety of music and sounds! Questions: see Barbara Zacheis

Blue Christmas Service

Christmas can be a time of joyous preparation and excitement, but for some people Christmas brings painful memories of loved ones lost or troubled times.



Some folks struggle to get through a season that others look forward to. If you or someone you know has a difficult time during this season, please consider joining us for the **Blue Christmas** service. There will be prayers and meditations that may help you to get through this season a little easier this year, as well as some meditative music and a focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season, without the hustle and bustle of traditional seasonal distractions. The service begins at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, December 14. We hope to see you there.

To order poinsettias, please return this form along with a check made payable to the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church (and marked "Christmas flowers") to:
 484 New Hempstead Road, New City NY 10956
 by December 11.
 Please purchase _____ (how many) poinsettias for me at \$15 each.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I (we) would like the poinsettias to be dedicated as follows:

_____ To the Glory of God _____ In Celebration of Christ's birth

_____ In memory of: _____

_____ Other: _____



Sunday School Lesson Schedule



November 20–December 4

Romans 8:31; Samuel 17

With God's help, we can do important things

Wait for the LORD; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:14

December 11

John 15:12; Exodus 1:8-2:10

We can show love to family members



December 18

Psalm 27:14; Esther 1-10

God helps us stand up for what is right

December 25

No Sunday School

"Celebrating the Birth of Jesus"

January 1

Mark 10:13-16

We know Jesus loves us and that we are important to God.

January 8

John 6:1-14; Hebrews 13:16

Jesus taught us to share with others.



Silver or gold

I do not have,

but what I have

I give you. In the name

of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, **WALK.**

January 15

Acts 3:1-16; Matthew 25:40

We can help one another

January 22

Acts 9:36-42; Psalm 37:3

Disciples of Jesus do good to others:

January 29

Acts 9:1-22; Acts 18:9-10

We can ask Jesus for help when we are afraid.

Acts 3:6