

The Carriage Stone

Summer 2012

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



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

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A Quirky Kind of Cool

A couple of months ago, Pastor Scott Ramsay, Katie McGarry (The Four-Church Youth Group Leader) and I were talking about how kids want to be cool. Church doesn't often seem "cool" these days. And that's OK. When we are at our best, the People of God are a counter-cultural lot. We try to live God's way—not the way of the prevailing trends and fashions.

One of my colleagues (I can't remember if it was Katie or Scott) suggested that in fact our Youth Group and the joint confirmation class had, in fact, found their way to "a quirky kind of cool." By quirky, we meant that our kids are part of a group that sets them apart from the crowd. We talked about that for a while, with me sharing with them how Katherine Witte had said how sad she was that Confirmation Class was coming to an end. Both Katherine and Kyle Smith (our other Confirmand this year) were deeply moved by trip to the Broad Street Mission in Philadelphia. They and the class saw first-hand how hard it is to have no home to go to, no job and often no family. As Katie said of one house they helped to clean, "No one should have to live that way." I think that sort of growth in outlook is part of what gives our kids their wonderful quirkiness. They are not just thinking of themselves.

Our youth, and the rest of our congregation, value the family that we have here at new Hempstead Presbyterian Church. I am so excited to see all of the activity here through the week—not only Alcoholics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous, but also the Smarty Pants School and Canine Coaching.

We have so much talent in our congregation. Two writers' groups meet in the Colonial Room, one weekly and one every other Saturday. Occasionally we host a piano recital. We have painters, photographers, wonderful cooks, singers and other musicians. (We also have dancers who I am trying to get to perform for us in worship—stay tuned.)

But it's not just our individual skills and gifts that set us apart. In the middle of a nation embroiled in Culture Wars, we welcome EVERYONE. Regardless of skin color, nation of origin, political persuasion, sexual orientation, or religious outlook (or lack thereof), ALL are welcome here. No one gets turned away. And I find that very Christ-like. Jesus never refused anyone, but when given his choice, he seemed not to hang out with the "cool kids"—the power brokers, the movers and shakers.

We indeed are a quirky congregation. And I think that is a wonderful thing. It's what sets us apart from others. Our gifts and skills bear witness to the Giver of All Gifts—our loving God. As the mercury soars this summer, let's be intentional to invite those who have no church home to share our "quirky kind of cool."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" with a flourish underneath.



From the Deacons

In recent weeks, the Deacons have been collecting hygiene kits for the World Church Services, which serves and aids those who are experiencing disasters and hardships throughout the world. Next week, these generous contributions from our congregation will be collected and mailed. The Deacons wish to thank all who have participated. This simple packet that you have provided can make a difference in the health and cleanliness of those in need during a crisis.

Later, during the month of July, the Deacons will begin to prepare for our next local mission project. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Spring Valley has long been established in the community and offers vital resources to many of all age groups. NHPC has been a friend to this group for several years. Prior to the opening of school, we would like to supply the children who are enrolled in the after school program with needed supplies necessary for their schooling. There will be further information on how you can help in the coming weeks.

The Board of Deacons would like to just remind everyone that during these long days of summer not to forget our members who cannot always join us in Worship and fellowship. The warm (hot) weather may be a risk to comfort and/or health. Please try to make a little time to drop them a note, give a call or, better yet, stop by for a visit.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Lilyana Ruth Coyle who received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 1. Lilyana is the daughter of Stephen and Kristen Coyle. Her sponsors were Bhaird Baskic and Carolyn Butson.

And congratulations to Kellie Anne Pomavilla who was Baptized on Sunday, April 29. She is the daughter of Luis Pomavilla and Yvonne Bermudez-Pomavilla. Kellie Anne's sponsors were Joseph and Carmen Bermudez and Ann Konasiewicz.

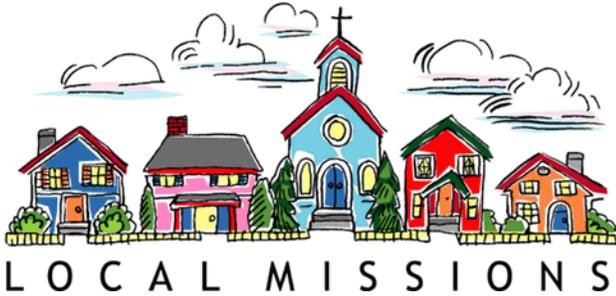
A hearty welcome to our confirmands, Kyle Smith and Katherine Witte who publicly joined the church on June 3. They had been examined by the Session on May 16.

In our Presbytery, the confirmands attend a joint confirmation class with other students from Presbyterian churches around the area. This allows them to hear a variety of speakers from different churches and to experience what it means to be Christian from people with a variety of points of view. The whole confirmation class participated in a service at Central Presbyterian Church in Haverstraw on June 2.

Each confirmand is assigned a mentor. Barbara Zacheis and Walter Hemsley mentored Kyle and Katherine this year.



Welcome
Our New
Members



NHPC Lends a Hand to Helping Hands

From Laura Metallo-Bidon,
Mission Committee Chair

Helping Hands of Rockland County is a community organization that helps homeless men and women by providing overnight shelter in local houses of worship from November to April each year since 2004. They also run an *Outreach Program* that is open year round, providing case management and referrals to essential support services, including housing, employment, medical, legal and social services.

Our congregation has already done much to help the clients of Helping Hands: earlier this year, our Youth Group prepared and served warm dinners and provided toiletries to the overnight guests of Helping Hands, and our Deacons have collected “Change in a Jar” to benefit the organization. But there is much to be done to help some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Mission & Outreach Committee is hoping to open the doors of Murchison Hall for several nights this coming winter to provide a warm dinner and overnight shelter for the clients of Helping Hands. Winter is a difficult time for those without a home, and we--who are so blessed--have much to share.

But in order to make this vision a reality, we will need the help of several committed volunteers from our congregation. We will need volunteers to help prepare a hot meal and to help serve the meal. We will also need at least two adult

overnight chaperones for each night we accept guests.

At this time, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can lend a hand to the clients of Helping Hands, so that our church can help provide a warm meal and safe shelter to our neighbors in need. If you want to know more, please contact Laura Metallo-Bidon, Chair of the Mission & Outreach Committee, at (845) 638-0125. Or, to find out more about the program, visit the Helping Hands website at rocklandhelpinghands.org.



We owe a big Thank You to the Sunday School students, helpers, committee members and especially to Pauline Mattis and Syenni Lucas for leading us in Worship on Sunday, June 10. All ages of children helped lead the Worship service. They led us in

prayer, read from the bible, sang and helped interpret the story about Jacob’s sons and their treatment of their youngest brother Joseph. After the service, the youth group washed cars to raise money for their program activities.

The Sunday School is taking a break until September when classes will resume.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.,
civil-rights leader (1929-1968)

Thanks to Carmen for sending in this picture from the fellowship breakfast.

will work best if you keep that in mind when you compose your photograph.



As you know, I've started putting pictures under on the "fellowship" page of the website:

<http://nhpchurch.org/fellowship.htm>

So please take pictures of fellowship events and send them to me.

I'd like photos of regular events (such as fellowship breakfasts and coffee hours) as well as special events (such as the Easter breakfast, the fall picnic, hanging of the greens, etc.).

In the future, there will be a way to see just the pictures you want instead of just the random assortment displayed for the average viewer.

All website pictures are cropped to a 6:4 snapshot size, like the one above, so your photos