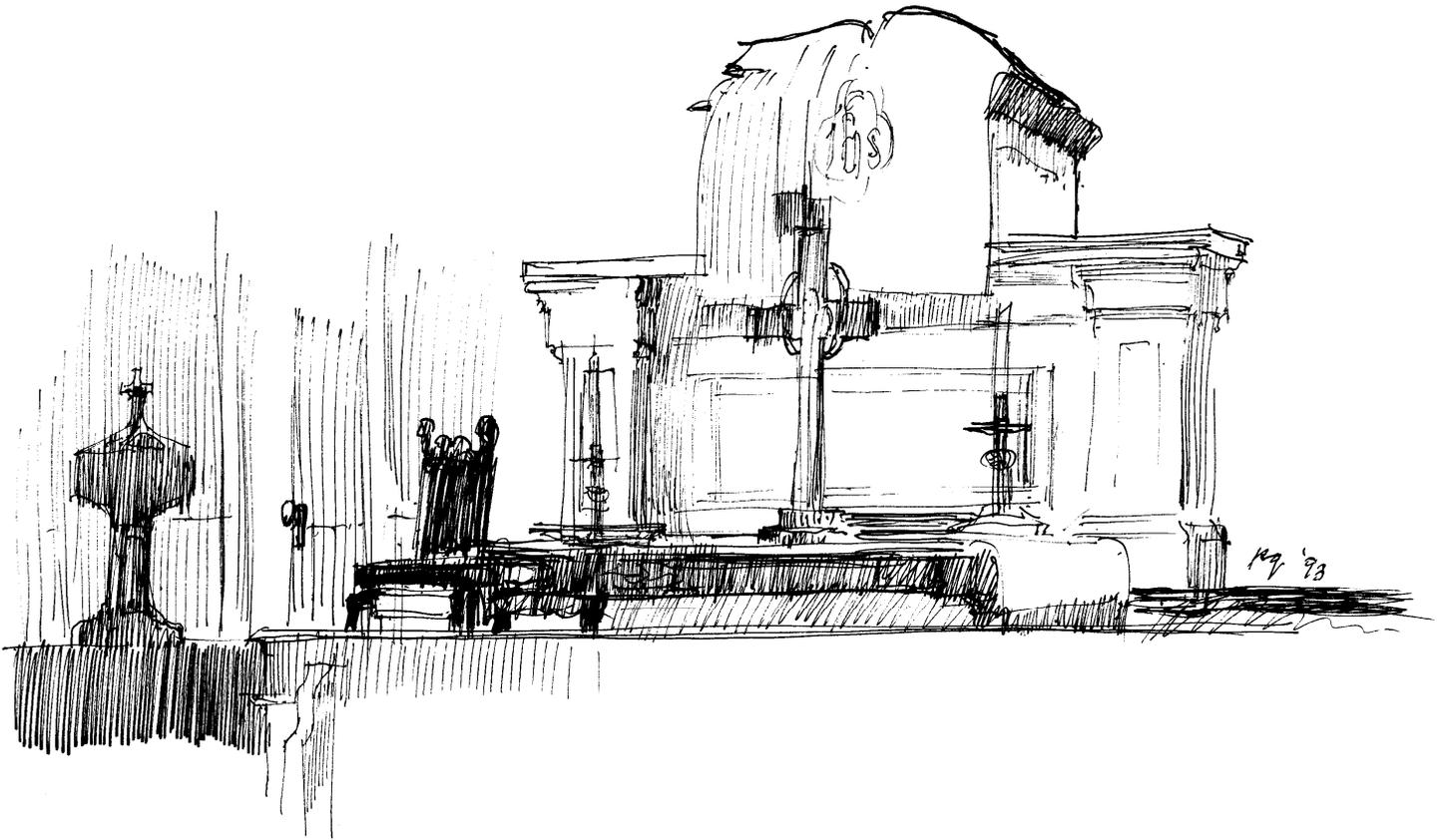


The Carriage Stone

October 2012

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



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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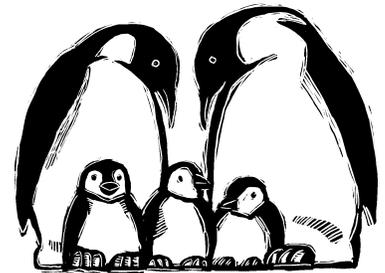
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The Joys of a Koala

Have you met the Koala? I sort of wish I could say it's a small grey critter from Australia that was now a member of our Church family (We'd then have our Australian and we'd only need a penguin to have all seven continents represented here!) But this Koala is a fold-down diaper changing table that was recently installed in one the restrooms in the Colonial Room.

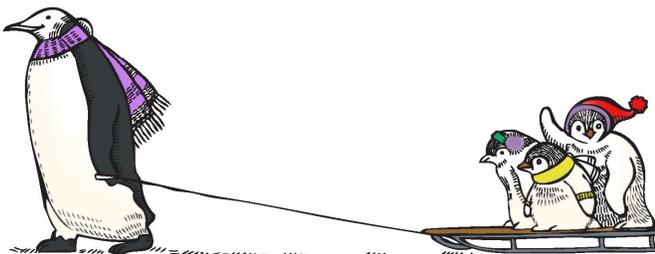
There is great symbolism to this new fixture: We have small people who need their diapers changed. It has been a while since there were so many babies and toddlers in our congregation. What a blessing! What a privilege we have—to help to rear the children of God.

Whenever a child is baptized in the Presbyterian Church, the entire congregation takes Godparent vows: we promise to help the parents rear the children to know the love of God poured out for us in Jesus Christ. This congregation takes this responsibility very seriously. Children are loved and supported (how many boxes of Girl Scout cookies have you bought?) Infants are passed from arms to arms and cuddled mercilessly. Toddlers are encouraged and corralled, if need be.



Our Loved Ones

What else can we do to encourage the youngest members of our church family? Pray for them, and their parents. Offer to babysit, so their parents can have an evening out. Volunteer to help out in Sunday School. In the summer, see if there are any kids in your neighborhood who would like to come to Vacation Bible School—and give them a ride!



[I couldn't find appropriate Koala clip-art. But, Pastor Lori did mention Penguins and there are lots of examples of penguins loving their offspring — Editor]

“A Season of Peace”...

...What is your prayer for peace?

Over the past several weeks, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church has participated in “A Season of Peace” by constructing a “Peace Prayer Board.” Located in the Colonial Room, this



board includes prayers, concerns and pictures of people and places in need of peace, which have been submitted by members of our congregation. Here is a sample of some of your prayer requests:

- ❖ Prayers for current and former military members who have served in war and know firsthand the human costs of the violence of war;
- ❖ Prayers for peace in the Middle East, and hope that all religions of the world can learn to live peacefully together;
- ❖ Prayers that peace, justice and fairness for all students will prevail in the East Ramapo School District;
- ❖ Prayers that no one should have to live in fear of violence in their own home;
- ❖ Prayers that each individual can find peace within themselves;
- ❖ Prayers that every parent will have access to enough food and clean water to nourish their family– without it, families cannot live in peace.

The board will remain on display in the Colonial Room throughout October. Please stop by to see it, and feel free to add your own Prayer for Peace.

Peacemaking Offering

Our “Season of Peace” this year culminated in the receiving of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering on Sunday, October 7. This offering gives us a concrete way to contribute locally, nationally, and internationally to the work of peace. Gifts to the offering are used in a variety of efforts at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

- 25% is retained by our congregation to be used for local peacemaking efforts;
- 25% is used by presbyteries and synods;
- 50% is allocated to General Assembly peacemaking ministries.

It is not too late to contribute. Mark Zacheis usually holds the offering open for a couple of weeks for people to contribute.

Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who reminds us that “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9).



You’ve probably noticed that this month’s newsletter is late (sorry Laura) and quite thin. I’ve just been overwhelmed with family and work obligations. I don’t expect to be back to normal until after we bid *adieu* to our French exchange student in November. (Just in time for Advent and Elaine’s concert craziness.)

Thank you to the many people who have revealed that they actually read the newsletter & have sent words of appreciation. They make my day.

And what do readers like most? Those little tidbits of information about what is going on in your life; so consider sending me an update for next month’s newsletter.



New Hempstead Presbyterian Church



Hosts an

Old Fashioned Variety Show

**Come and Enjoy Some
Food-Fun-Laughter-Local Talent!**

484 New Hempstead Road
New City, NY 10956

Saturday November 17, 2012

6—7 pm Soup & Dessert
7 pm Show Time!

Suggested Donation

\$10 Adults

\$ 5 Students (13-17 years)

Children under 12 free with adult

Bring a friend!

For further information: Contact: Howard Whitehouse (845)356-0729

Or email @ professorbellbuckle@yahoo.com



Emergencies Can Happen At Any Time: Are You and Your Family Prepared? It's as easy as 1-2-3!

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Rockland County Department of Health urges you to take action and get ready! After an emergency, help will be on the scene, but they cannot reach everyone right away. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. Basic services may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer. Here are three steps you can take to help prepare for an emergency:

1. Make a kit

Put together an emergency supply kit with some basic items that every person needs:

- ✓ One gallon of water per person per day for three days and food for your family for three days
- ✓ Battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, first aid kit, and pet food and water
- ✓ NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, or sign up for the NY-ALERT system (call 1-888-697-6972 or visit www.nyalert.gov) to receive emergency weather alerts, and other emergency warnings and information, on your cell phone, email, home phone, etc.).

Also, include the special supplies you rely on for health and safety, such as:

- ✓ At least three day's supply of medicines or medical treatments
- ✓ Important documents, a copy of prescriptions, dosage and treatment information, copies of medical insurance, Medicare and Medicaid cards, and information on equipment or life-saving devices you use, eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen.



2. Make a plan

You may be able to stay in your home, or you may have to leave. Your family may not be together when an emergency strikes. Have a plan ready for what you will do in different situations.



3. Be informed

During an emergency, information will be available on:

- ✓ TV, newspapers and radio (including local stations 1640 AM, 1300 AM and 100.7 FM)
- ✓ County website www.rocklandgov.com, Facebook www.facebook.com/rockhealth, and Twitter www.twitter.com/rockhealth
- ✓ InfoRock (Information Rockland) at 364-2020 (8 am - 5 pm Monday-Friday)
- ✓ NY-ALERT system (call 1-888-697-6972 or visit www.nyalert.gov to sign up to receive warnings and emergency information on your cell phone, email, home phone, etc.).

The Health Department's Division of Public Health Preparedness assists County residents with their preparedness plans, and offers presentations and educational materials. Call 364-2660 or visit <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/emergency-preparedness> for more information.