



# The Carriage Stone

December 2012

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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## Food and Celebration



Thanksgiving is past and Advent is upon us. My thoughts turn to both matters spiritual and matters physical—specifically food! We had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner in the Colonial Room, with wonderful food and fellowship. Food is always a part of festivities and celebrations—think about the wedding feast at Cana, when Jesus turned water into wine.

We gave thirty-four baskets to families in need this Thanksgiving. That's thirty-four families whose lives we have touched because we love Jesus, and want to care for his people in need wherever they may be found. We continue to collect food for People to People, and have (I believe) already surpassed our poundage for last year. I am so proud to be a part of this congregation. You are a dedicated group of Christians who seek to show God's love in so many ways.

I close this month's column with the recipe for the dressing I brought to the Thanksgiving dinner. It is special to me because it was on our holiday table throughout my childhood—and beyond. It is my Mom's recipe, so I have named it in her memory.

### Patsy's Dressing

- 1 8" square pan of cornbread
- 16 rolls or biscuits
- 30 oz. chicken stock
- 1 T sage, or more to taste
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 8 eggs, beaten
- Salt and pepper, to taste

- 1) Process breads to crumbs
- 2) Mix together with remaining ingredients and allow to sit overnight in the refrigerator.
- 3) Bake in a Pyrex baking dish (9×13) at 425°, for 40–45 minutes.
- 4) Serve  
(Serves 16–20)



## LOCAL MISSIONS

### **A Faith-Based Storm Shelter That Just Doesn't Close Its Doors**

As many of you know, our brothers and sisters at the Stony Point Center have been housing over 100 storm victims since Hurricane Sandy hit the area. Most of the victims are young families who were displaced when their trailers in the town of Stony Point were destroyed. The Center is feeding and housing them, and the guests are helping with cleaning and cooking.

As you can imagine, the financial costs to Stony Point Center are rising, and the families have increasing needs. To help meet these costs, a special "Hudson River Presbytery Fund for Storm Victims" has been established. The money will only be used for victims of the storm, and any money left over after this crisis has passed will be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. As part of our mission, our church has sent a contribution to the Center.

Checks should be made payable to Hudson River Presbytery. Please indicate "Fund for Storm Victims" on your check, and mail it to:

Hudson River Presbytery  
655 Scarborough Road  
Scarborough, New York 10510

Follow the link below to learn more about the great work being done at Stony Point Center:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2012/11/16/faith-based-storm-shelter-just-doesnt-close-its-do/>

### **Christmas Joy Offering: "Good News of Great Joy"**

From Laura Metallo-Bidon

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope, but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for us to support causes specifically designed to bring "good news of great joy."



One-half of this offering supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Through this support, these schools offer opportunities for young adults to advance their education and escape the cycle of poverty and prejudice. The other half is received by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, and is used to assist pastors, mission workers, and other church workers in special need. Your gifts enable the Assistance Program to support active and retired church workers who have unexpected needs they cannot meet.

Help us support these faithful students and workers in their hour of great promise and hour of great need. Look for the Christmas Joy Offering envelope, and then please give generously. Thank you for your gift!

### **Peacemaking Offering**

This fall we collected \$738 for the third of the four Presbyterian Church special offerings, the Peacemaking Offering. \$538 was sent to the Presbytery and \$200, the local portion of the collection, was sent to the Wounded Warrior project. Thank you for your support.



# Blue Christmas

If you or someone you know tends to get a bit depressed at Christmastime, you're not alone

Join us Wednesday evening, December 12, 8 PM at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. 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.



Joanna Meckley has moved. Her new address is:

Joanna Meckley  
PO Box 203  
Sarver PA 16055

(724) 353-1708  
mommeck@aol.com

## Thanksgiving Baskets

From Mark Zacheis

We're pleased to report that our congregation put together thirty-four Thanksgiving baskets this year, an increase of nine over last year's twenty-five. As we did last year, they were turned over to the department of social services, who identified appropriate families for them to be delivered to. Thanks to Pam Fink and the fund raising committee for organizing the whole thing, Carmen Bermudez for her contacts at social services, and the youth group (and Percy Crockett) for doing the shopping.



## Youth Food Drive

Youth Group Food Drive — the food drive was put on the back burner during the Thanksgiving Baskets program, but is now back. To date this year we have donated 1048 pounds of food to People-to-People, which is two pounds less than the 1050 pounds that we donated in all of 2011. We would love to beat last year's total and by more than just a couple of pounds. In December, we're suggesting foods that begin with the letter D – Devil's food cake mix, Diced tomatoes (canned), Dirty rice, Dill pickles, Dijon mustard. As always, we'll gratefully accept any contribution — canned soup, canned vegetables and pasta sauce in jars are always popular alternatives. Thank you for your support.

## The Old-Fashioned Variety Show: An Evening to Remember

From Jane Craig Sebok

On Saturday, November 17, the Board of Deacons hosted an Old-Fashioned Variety Show in the sanctuary. At 6 PM, an hour before the actual show, the Deacons served homemade soups and desserts in the Colonial Room to the performers and audience members. By all accounts, everything was delicious and everyone was stuffed by show time.

By 7:00, all the participants had moved into the sanctuary, the performers getting pre-show jitters and the audience ready to be entertained. Mark Zacheis (MC and stage manager) came out to announce the first act and the murmurs of the audience were silenced. Howard Whitehouse stepped out to seemingly perform a routine folk song when he was interrupted by a Bible-thumping, gap-toothed hillbilly played by Jane Craig Sebok. To the delight of the crowd, this hillbilly continued to harangue Howard until he played what she wanted. Then, she danced



raucously to the ensuing tune.

This act was followed by a number of musical numbers, many of them by our children and youth. Josh Manu-Tawiah and Jake Grossman showed us their musical talents, Josh on clarinet and Jake on guitar accompanied by his teacher Barbara Zacheis. Katherine Witte and Mandy Quach sang two beautiful duets and the Youth Group Band led by Howard Whitehouse (including Katherine and Mandy, Tom Smith, and Karl Witte on drums) performed two amazing numbers, one of which featured Tom as lead singer. Then, Tim Bidon took time away from his busy college schedule to sing a Diana Ross tune backed up by Supremes Katherine and Mandy.

The adults of the church also had much to offer to the entertainment. Bob Greenhalgh, the

oldest performer at 97, regaled us with American folk songs, while Carmen Bermudez and Pauline Matthis surprised us with heart-wrenching solos, Carmen with a ballad and Pauline a well-known hymn. Barbara Zacheis impressed us by playing the same song on four musical instruments without missing a beat. There was also dancing of a more elegant version than the classical hillbilly seen earlier. Three of our members, Syenni Lucas, Chun May Lie and Liring Sullivan, performed an Indonesian line dance, showing us the beauty of their culture.



Choir director Kryste Andrews showed us

another side of herself by singing

different lyrics to "My Favorite Things," lyrics with people of a "certain age" in mind, which had us clutching our bellies in laughter. Sue Rentz also took a turn from her usual repertoire by singing a Judy Collins song. In the same vein, two visitors to our church, singer/songwriter Kate Yeager and folk singer Gary Mower, made appearances and had us all clapping and stomping our feet.

The finale of the night was a reprise of the "Eight Kids from Nebraska" from the Capital Fund Show several years back. There were different participants this time around (including Pan Fink, Jeanine Kallé, Mark Zacheis, Barbara Zacheis, Joe Bermudez, Carmen Bermudez, and Lori Knight-Whitehouse), but it was once again headed up by Sue Rentz as the "Chicken Killer". As before, this act had us rolling in the aisles.

I would like to thank the Board of Deacons for organizing this marvelous event, especially Terry Lucas for arranging for the food and Howard Whitehouse for producing the show. The event raised over \$700 for the church and provided entertainment and fellowship for the church body, as well as allowing some of us to exhibit our "inner performers." Kudos and thanks to all involved!

## From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

Pledge statements were mailed out at the end of October. The finance committee thanks you for your generosity over the past nine months and hopes that you will be able to complete your entire pledge by the end of the year. If you have any questions about that statement or need a more current update, please speak with Mark Zacheis.

We also thank you for submitting a pledge card for next year. Having those in hand allows us to prepare the budget for next year. If you haven't turned in a pledge card yet, you can find blank cards in the pews that can be filled out and placed in the collection plate. You can also give it to David Garcia or Mark Zacheis directly.

## Calling Creative People Who Love NHPC!

If you have an artistic eye, a way with words, an organized mind or just plain love your church family, you can help others find a church home. Many people who are looking for a spiritual home use the web, and our website needs to be updated.

No experience is necessary. You can write a description of a church program, help choose a page layout or colors that look good, contribute photos or artwork, or help to share what is special about New Hempstead.

For more information or to contribute some ideas, contact Bob Philhower  
([webmaster@nhpchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@nhpchurch.org)).

Current NHPC website: [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org)

Work-in-progress: [nhpchurch.org/test](http://nhpchurch.org/test)



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 9.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

POINSETTIAS

