

# The Carriage Stone

March 2013

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



# Lent

## Pastor

Pastor's Message .....	2
Credo Workshop .....	5

## Mission

Helping Hands Needs You .	3
Thank You.....	3
One Great Hour of Sharing.	4
Self-Development of People	5

## Committees

From the Deacons.....	3
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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of  
**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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Sunday, March 24

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or e-mail to

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## What will you take up for Lent?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am his—  
How can I keep from singing?

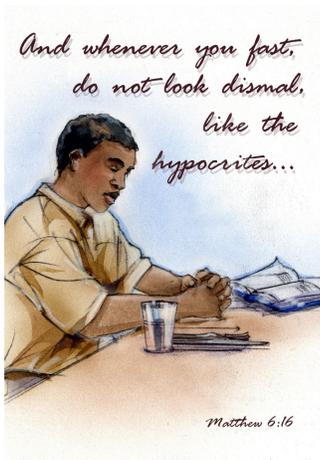
It's traditional to "give up" something for Lent. It's a sign of repentance, a way of bearing the cross, which is our Christian honor and duty. But what if we "take up" something for Lent? What if we acknowledge the blessings of God, and dedicate ourselves to using them for God's glory?

**Take up abundance.** God has given us so much. The old-fashioned tradition of counting blessings is an excellent discipline.

**Take up compassion.** Notice the suffering around you. How can you alleviate it?

**Take up justice.** Choose an issue that you are passionate about. Write your congressional representatives. Sign petitions. Educate yourself, and others.

**Take up kindness.** Don't fight for that parking space. Smile at children and old folks. Hold the door for someone. Pray for the driver who cuts you off (even if that prayer is "God bless her and keep her—far away from me").



Lent is not a time for long faces. ("And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward." Matthew 6: 16) It is a time for prayerful, joyful reflection of what God in Jesus Christ has done for us. Jesus descended into the realm of evil and broke the back of its power to set us free from the prison of death. This Lent, try taking up something to glorify God, even as Jesus took up the cross to free us from sin.





## LOCAL MISSIONS

### Volunteers Needed

By Laura Bidon

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be joining in partnership with *Helping Hands of Rockland County* this season. On March 19, 20 and 21, we'll be providing dinner and overnight shelter to Safe Haven guests in Murchison Hall. We'll need volunteers from our congregation to prepare and serve dinner. We'll also need overnight chaperones on those dates. You can help for one, two or all three evenings—every hand is a helping hand! Contact Laura Bidon if you're interested in volunteering and look for the



### Refuge for the Homeless

volunteer sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room.

### Thank You from "Wounded Warrior Project"

Last year's Peacemaking Offering went, in part, to support the Wounded Warrior Project. The Mission Committee received this note of thanks, and wanted to share it with you:

Dear Caring Friends,

Your generosity to Wounded Warrior Project—expressed through your recent gift of \$200—speaks volumes about your concern for the servicemen and women who stand on the frontiers of freedom in our world today. They placed their lives

on the line, and as a result a generation of servicemen and women has returned home wounded in body and spirit.

Please know your continued support means so much. I can't even begin to express my gratitude for your partnership in the great cause of Wounded Warrior Project. You have my deepest appreciation.

Thank you again for your continued support.

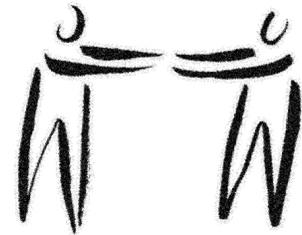
Bringing hope to heroes,

Steven Nardizzi

Executive Director

Wounded Warrior Project

The Board of Deacons of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church would like to welcome our newest Deacon, Sylvia



From the Deacons

Miller. Sylvia has long been a member of NHPC. We look forward to working with Sylvia and sharing her positive attitude and good nature.

The Change in the Jar, which is located in the Colonial Room, has been designated to our adopted family from Stony Point. As you can only imagine, this family has many needs, both small and large. We hope that any contribution can be of great service to this family, not only as a physical gift, but one of love as well.

It is hard to believe that the Lenten season is already here; therefore, we at NHPC are already preparing for the Holy Week of Easter. The annual Pot Luck luncheon will once again be held in Murchison Hall on Palm Sunday, March 24. The Deacons will set up and provide beverages. All are invited to bring a favorite dish and join in on the fellowship and fun.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

**One Great Hour of Sharing 2013**

Just a few short months ago, many of us were feeling the impact of Hurricane Sandy. Some of us had no electricity for days, even weeks. Downed trees blocked the roads; even a short trip to the grocery store became an adventure. We waited in lines at the gas station, wondering if our lives would ever return to normal. Most of us were blessed, and life has returned to normal.

But imagine being told you can't ever go back to your home. Imagine the feelings of helplessness, loss, even anger. So many in our region, even right here in Rockland County, have had to deal with that reality. As we learned of their plight, many of us asked, "What can I do to help?"

Through your past donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, you are already helping your neighbors. A portion of your offering goes to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which helps families and communities in times of crisis just like these. In fact, PDA has been very active in Hurricane Sandy relief.

They were on hand to help the Stony Point Center coordinate their efforts to shelter victims of the storm, and help families transition back to their community. Our friends and neighbors who took refuge at Stony Point Center benefitted from the efforts of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. And PDA continues to support Hurricane Sandy survivors along the east coast, not only with needs from the immediate

**153**

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Volunteer teams organized  
by PDA in 2011.

aftermath of the storm, but also looking ahead to the long road to recovery.

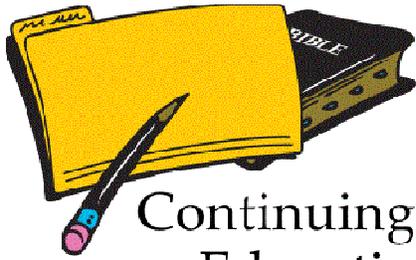
Disaster Assistance is just one way

your donations help. Portions also support Presbyterian Hunger Programs and programs for Self-Development of People. As you consider your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering this year, isn't it good to know that you are already helping our friends and neighbors in need--right here in our county, across the country and around the world?



Photo showing a tree that crashed through the bedroom of a home in the Ba Mar Trailer Park in Stony Point, during Hurricane Sandy. Many of the homes there were heavily damaged by the storm.

(Photo by Ricky Flores/  
*The Journal News*)



## Continuing Education

### **Pastor to Attend Credo Conference**

I have been invited to attend a Presbyterian CREDO Conference March 4–12 at the Beaver Hollow Conference Center in Upstate New York. This is an invitation-only conference sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the PC, USA. It is a time of intentional prayer and study around four issues that directly affect a pastor's ministry: spiritual, vocational, health and financial.

The Board of Pensions says,

We believe that responding to God's call is a lifelong process of discernment, practice and transformation. The CREDO conference offers an opportunity to engage in a process of assessing one's gifts and needs, and prayerfully considering the future of one's ministry. It is most often a week of renewal and reinvigoration for participants.

For the last month or so, I have been prayerfully preparing (filling our lots of forms and surveys!) for this conference. I believe that God is calling me to this time away with colleagues in order to refresh me for an even deeper ministry life with the wonderful congregation of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. I am grateful to the Session for allowing me to use my Continuing Education time and funds to engage this program.

On Sunday, March 11, you will have the privilege of having Ruling Elder Pauline Mattis preach. I will be back at work on Wednesday, March 13. I covet your prayers during this time.



PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE ON THE  
**Self-Development  
of People**

### **The Self-Development of People**

The Self-Development of People is one of the three major programs that benefits from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering of the Presbyterian Church USA. Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. They are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting and enabling. We participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Here is a description of two of their mission programs.

Damayan Migrant Workers Association is a grassroots organization based in New York comprised of and led by Filipino im/migrant women domestic workers. Its mission is to promote the rights and welfare of Filipino low wage workers and to challenge the forced migration of Filipinos in search of jobs overseas. It runs programs, Know Your Rights trainings, and helps workers with cases on labor, health, gender and immigration. It also takes a holistic approach to address the various needs and problems of domestic workers in New York.

Green Spirit Lawn Care is a community project that is involved in earth friendly grounds maintenance year-round. It provides employment for the group members, who are mostly ex-offenders. The National Self-Development of People Committee and the Presbytery of Chicago SDOP committee have funded this project. A recent project is a roof top garden that we did for a local food pantry. We planted kale and wheat. These plants will prepare the soil for spring when we will plant vegetables in early March. The black roof plastic and homemade soil can make this possible.