



The Carriage Stone

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

September 2013



Blessed
are the
peacemakers,
for they
shall be called
the children
of God.

Matthew 5:9



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

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor

Office: (845) 354-2372

E-mail: office@nhpchurch.org

Web: nhpchurch.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Administrative Assistant: Varje Snyder

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

Next Deadline:

Sunday, September 22

Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Confessing the Beatitudes

Last year, the Monday Night Bible Study undertook an in-depth study of the Beatitudes. We were invited to write our own confession based on this famous “Blessed Are” passage from the book of Matthew. The following is what the group wrote, and I have put together in confessional form. Remember, as you read that “confessing” has two meanings: to confess, as in a sin or misdeed, and to confess, as in a statement of belief. Both meanings are used here.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We confess God is a God of love, holy, righteous and forgiving. We confess that Jesus his Son came to preach Good news to the hopelessly poor, and to everyone.

We confess that we do not always honor the poor, felling compelled to choose between church maintenance and serving the poor. We believe that God has a continuous connection to the poor, and we covenant to diligently pray, study, and seek ways to serve the poor.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

We confess that God hears the cries of those who weep and mourn, and sends comfort to those who mourn. If we seek to live for God, we must be prepared to do what seems strange in the eyes of the world. We covenant to pay more attention to those who mourn, and to reach out to them in ministry in Jesus’ name.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

We confess that God hears prayers, and the hairs of our head are numbered. We confess that it is God’s justice, not the wicked, who will prevail in the end. Because the meek/humbled are greatly honored by God, we are called to advocate on their behalf. We covenant to recognize the humanity of the humbled, and to use our gifts, talents and possessions on their behalf.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We confess that there are people who need to be fed physically, mentally and spiritually. We confess that we are under conviction: we are insulated from the poor and the hungry, and we are often afraid of them, unable to trust them. We covenant to continue our awareness and involvement with those who are hungry in any way.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

We confess that, like a wine glass that is always full, God never runs out of mercy. God shows forgiveness, even erasing our sins from our memory as God cleanses us. We are acting mercifully when we help others. We confess our sense of helplessness, and covenant to continue to take merciful notice of the homeless and needy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

We confess we need a mirror! We need to see what is blessed about our behavior, and what needs changing. We do not always speak up to injustice. We covenant to live lives of integrity and wholeness, loving God and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We confess that we are often more “peace-wishers” than “peace-makers”. We covenant to recommit ourselves to being peacemakers, praying for the eyes of our hearts to be opened to the needs of the world around us and providing for those in need.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We confess that Christians WILL be misinterpreted! We also confess that we are often, “guilty bystanders.” We need to get the message of justice from our heads to our hands and feet. We covenant to a rhythm of prayer and action as we hear God’s voice. We covenant to uphold and support those who are persecuted. We covenant to be global thinkers, even if this means we may be persecuted for this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



Mark Your Calendar...

Helping Hands Safe Haven at NHPC

From Laura Bidon, Mission Committee Chair

This year, Helping Hands of Rockland County is entering its tenth year of providing safe haven to homeless men and women of our community. And once again this year, New Hempstead Church is proud to partner with Helping Hands by hosting their guests for a hot meal and overnight shelter in Murchison Hall.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming safe haven dates at NHPC:

- December 11, 12 & 13
(Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
- February 14 (Friday)
- March 7 (Friday)

Can you help prepare and serve a hot meal, or be an overnight chaperone on any of those dates? Contact Mission Chairperson Laura Bidon if you have questions, or if you want to get involved in this important and worthy mission.

Breakfast Mission

After our Helping Hands guests leave Murchison Hall, they travel to the Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program at the United Church of Spring Valley for their morning meal. Did you know that NHPC helped found that program back in 1985? I didn't until I saw their spring newsletter. There was even a picture of our Rev. Scott Coulter helping prepare that first meal.

**Peacemaking Offering 2013
Sunday, October 6**

“Peace at all times in all ways”
—2 Thessalonians 3:16

Create Hope. One heart at a time, we can change cultures of violence into communities of peace with this year's Peacemaking Offering. Gifts to the Offering are used in a variety of peacemaking efforts at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

- 25% is retained by our congregation for local peacemaking efforts;
- 25% is used by presbyteries and synods;
- 50% is allocated to Presbyterian Mission Agency's peacemaking ministries.

Last year, your gift enabled NHPC to support the “Wounded Warrior Project” in their efforts to assist wounded military service members and their families. Prior gifts have supported Rockland Family Shelter's mission of ending violence in our homes and in our community.

Please prayerfully consider your Peacemaking gift this year, and...

DON'T STOP PRAYING FOR PEACE!



NHPC Gifts to Heifer International, In Honor of Charles Martin

From Laura Bidon, Mission Committee Chair

Last spring, New Hempstead Church designated our share of the Pentecost Offering to Heifer International, in honor of Charles Martin. Charles was a longtime and much beloved member of our congregation, who served as a deacon, elder and role model to all of our children.

Charles was especially fond of the mission of Heifer International, and we thought it a fitting tribute to carry on his work with a gift to this organization that helps poor and hungry people help themselves by giving them a hand-up, not just a handout.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$500 to benefit children and families around the world with these gifts, selected with love by the children who attended Vacation Bible School at NHPC this summer:



- **Gift of Clean Water**

Many developing communities lack the vital resource we take for granted: clean water. Through this gift, Heifer will help families install Treadle Pumps, practice water conservation and use organic fertilizers to protect drinking water to improve their health. What could be a better gift than improving lives while also improving the environment?

- **Hope Basket**

The Hope Basket, with its chickens and rabbits, offers just that to Heifer's project partners. What can be more hopeful to a struggling farmer than a gift of fast-multiplying livestock? Rabbits are easy to care for and reproduce quickly, allowing their owners to sell the offspring for extra

income once they've fulfilled Heifer's "Passing on the Gift" promise; and chickens lay eggs and provide manure for vegetable gardens.

- **Boost of Nutrition**

The Boost of Nutrition has everything a malnourished child needs to become healthy and happy: fruit and vegetable seeds to provide vitamins and minerals, chickens to provide daily protein from eggs and training in sustainable farming, and nutrition for parents.

Thank you again for your faithful and loving generosity.

From the Deacons

On Sunday, June 11, the summer potluck picnic took place on a beautiful day with just the right amount of sunshine and warm breezes. Thank you to all who participated in the setting up, providing the food and the cleanup. The Deacons would like to give a special thank you to Percy Crockett for his ongoing support and help. Percy never fails to help out; not to mention his cooking expertise. Thank you, Percy.

The Hi-Tor Animal Care facility in Pomona was most grateful to receive all of the donations of food and supplies that was collected by our members. In addition, a check for sixty dollars will be sent to the facility from your donations in the "Change in the Jar."

The Board of Deacons will once again be hosting the variety show in October. A final date has yet to be decided, but it is not too early to start thinking of what you can do to help make this evening a memorable one. We are looking for acts, as well as soups and desserts.

The Deacons want to wish everyone a peaceful and relaxing summer. Please keep our members and friends who cannot join us on a regular basis in thought and prayer. A short note, a phone call or a visit is always welcomed.



Here is the much-requested recipe for Blueberry Buckle that Sylvia Miller served at coffee hour. Enjoy.

Blueberry Buckle

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- salt (optional)
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1 1/2 cup blueberries

Topping

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter/margarine, softened

Mix sugar, shortening, eggs and milk until well blended. Stir in flour, baking powder, salt, nutmeg and cloves. Fold in blueberries.

Spread batter in a greased 9 inch square or round pan. Combine remaining ingredients and mix until crumbly. Sprinkle crumbs over batter. Bake in a preheated moderate oven (375° F) for 45 to 50 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched.

Can be served warm, cut into squares.

Chili and Dancing

Germonds Church has invited our congregation to join them for their chili cook-off and dance on Saturday, September 7.

The Chili cook-off starts at 5:30 PM. Everyone is invited to bring a batch of homemade chili and create a name for it. The chili will be judged according to various categories. After judging, everyone can feast on the entries!

The Square dance will start at 7 PM under the tent. No experience is necessary, just come out and have fun!

Youth Group Starting Up

On Sunday, September 1, the youth group will be going to the Renaissance Faire; we'll meet at the church and leave at noon. Contact Mark Zacheis for more information.

End of Summer Worship Time Sunday School Resumes

Sunday School will be starting up again on September 8. See Pauline Mattis for details.

Adult Bible Study with Ed Garcia will also be starting on September 8 and will meet at Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Colonial Room. Anyone is invited to participate.

Choir Rehearsals Start

Choir will resume on Thursday, September 12 at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. New choir members are always welcome.



Special thanks to Sylvia Miller for giving me the opportunity to use another of the clip art drawings from Bob Greenhalgh's tenure.