



The Carriage Stone

June 2014

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY. *The English Church*



"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: Kristen Rabeler

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

Next Deadline:

Sunday, July 7

(summer issue)

Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Presbytery Triennial Visit

On May 21, the Session welcomed representatives from the Committee on Ministry of Hudson River Presbytery Randall Bostwick and Greg Ransome and General Presbyter Susan Andrews for our triennial visit. This is (as the name implies) a visit every three years in which we get to celebrate all of the wonderful things that are going on in our congregation.

We shared how our sense of love for God and one another has moved us out “into the neighborhood” and how excited we are by the sense of joy and mission that we experience here. As your pastor, I was thrilled to brag about you what a wonderful bunch of folks I get to work with. I shared how much Howard and I enjoy our life here among you.

As a Session, we talked about what we were most passionate about when it comes to our Church. The relationships we share were at the top of most lists. The sense of caring and mutual trust is important to us. Learning that “church” often takes place outside of Sunday worship (working with the Recovery Community serving guests of Helping Hands, for example) is a joyful surprise.

Before the team left, they wrote up the following statement based on what they heard us say.

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is a place where the work of Jesus Christ is being carried out with love, excitement and trust. The Church family holds each other in love, reaches outward into the community and is fed by a sense of caring for all. It is a community of Christians who you can always expect to speak the truth in love.

Afterwards, Susan Andrews sent the church a letter summarizing the evening and thanking us for sharing our—your— stories. Here are some excerpts:

Dear Lori and Members of Session:

What a joy it was to be with you all last week as we shared a Tri-annual Leadership Conversation! Randy, Greg, and I were energized by the joy and commitment you shared with us through your stories and your testimony. There was an honesty,

consistency and respect woven throughout the evening, and a real comfort in being together. As I reflect on the TLC we experienced with you 6 years ago, I can clearly see and feel the growth in spirit, conviction, and outreach in your life as a church community. The shared leadership of a passionate and skilled pastor, and a passionate and skilled congregation has created a witness of Good News in New City!

Thanks to all of you for your energy intelligence, imagination and love. Please let your presbytery partners know how we can further support you in your creative ministry efforts.

Yours in Christ –

Susan Andrews, General Presbyter

It is a joy to be part of a connectional church. We do not work in isolation. It is good to know that our sister Churches in Hudson River Presbytery care and want to know more about our ministry here in the middle of Rockland County. We were so pleased to be able welcome our brothers and sister, and share our stories with them.

God bless you all!

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

Pentecost Offering 2014

INVEST IN THE CHURCH'S GREATEST
RESOURCE: OUR YOUTH
From Laura Bidon

Pentecost is here! This is when we celebrate the birthday of the church universal, and the coming of the Holy Spirit as a source of new life and hope. And what could be more hopeful than helping to develop the future leaders of the church? Through your participation in the Pentecost Offering on **Sunday, June 8**, you are investing in the church's greatest resource: our youth.

One of the programs supported by your gifts to the Pentecost Offering is the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program. This information from the PC(USA) website provides information on this important program:



What is the Young Adult Volunteer Program?

- Want to put your faith in action?
- Want to grow as a leader in Christian service?
- Want to see the world while serving God and those in need?

The YAV Program might be just for you!

The Young Adult Volunteer program is a one-year service opportunity for young adults from 19 to 30 years of age. YAVs live in Christian

community, deepening and developing their faith while serving in communities of need. The YAV program has sites around the United States and around the world, and YAVs serve for one academic year, August–July.

Volunteers are placed in community agencies or local churches, with jobs depending on the needs of partners and the skills of the Young Adult Volunteer. YAVs are exposed to some of the hardest problems in the world—poverty, violence and reconciliation—while living and reflecting with other volunteers on the meaning and motivation of their Christian faith.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering, to support the Young Adult Volunteer Program and other ministries for guiding youth and protecting children. More information is available at

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/specialofferings/pentecost-offering/>

Pentecost Offering--Your Gifts at Work:

- 10% Child Advocacy and Protection
- 25% Young Adult Volunteer Program
- 25% Youth Ministries with Youth Ages 12–18
- 40% Kept by our congregation for local initiatives to help children



Have you visited the church website lately? Pictures from the latest Palm Sunday luncheon went up a few weeks ago. If you have pictures (digital or prints) from church events, send them to Bob Philhower to share them with your church family.

BUDGET REPORT

From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

It was a long, tough winter for all of us – thank goodness that spring has finally arrived. If you're like me, your Orange and Rockland bills were outrageous over the winter and you dreaded just seeing them arrive in your mailbox. The church is no exception and I had the double thrill of dreading seeing church Orange and Rockland bills arrive in the mail as well as my own. And then there were the bills for the snowplowing... Needless to say, the church's expenses are running way ahead of budget this year.

Recently first quarter pledge statements were sent out, and I do encourage you to review them for accuracy (please let me know of any errors and I'll get them fixed). I think the winter was tough on everybody because it seemed like a greater number of folks than usual were running behind on their pledges at the end of the first quarter. No doubt, those big home utility bills had something to do with it. Unfortunately, delayed giving has put the church's revenues behind budget.

The result has been a cash squeeze for the church and we've had to dip into our reserves to get us through. If you find that you are behind in your pledging, please make an effort to catch up in the second quarter.

Tag Sale

From the Fund Raising Committee

Mark your calendars for June 14 for the annual church tag sale. From 9 AM to 2 PM, we'll be open, selling all kinds of treasures. Come out, bring your friends and have some fun with us. And bring your appetite too. We'll be grilling and offering baked goods as well as treasures.

We are in need of helpers and a signup sheet has been posted on the Colonial Room bulletin board. We're looking for help organizing our stuff on Friday evening, June 13 and help in setup, selling, and cleanup on Saturday. If you can only offer a portion of your day, we'll gratefully accept that as well.

Don't forget us as you do your spring cleaning. We're happy to take whatever castoffs you plan to get rid of. If you need help getting your stuff to the church, just let us know and we'll pick it up. We ask that you hold off bringing stuff in until the week before the event, as storage is a little tight.

This is our primary fund raising event this year and we hope that every one of you will be able to participate.



Concert at Germonds Presbyterian Church

Proceeds to Benefit Helping Hands

Tom Wainwright, the organist for Germonds Presbyterian Church, is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service.

To celebrate the occasion, Steward Holmes will be performing an organ concert in the Germonds Church Sanctuary on Sunday, June 8, at 2 PM.

The free will offering will benefit Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless of Rockland County.

Germonds Presbyterian Church
39 Germonds Road
New City, NY



Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok

For the month of July, we have one listing. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at janesbok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.

July 20, 7:30 PM – Jane Sebok, Rockland County Concert Band, Hamlets Clubhouse, Kingsgate Parkway, Nanuet, NY. *Outdoor Concert. All are welcome. Bring lawn chair or blanket and listen to music under the stars.*

In addition, here are some upcoming events in June:

June 8, 4:00 PM – Sue Rentz, Rockland Camerata along with Rockland Conservatory, Clarkstown Reformed Church, West Nyack, NY. “Mass for the Children” by John Rutter.

June 22, 3:00 PM – Jane Craig Sebok, Rockland County Concert Band, Rockland Community Cultural Arts Center, 145 College Rd., Suffern, NY.

Pentecost Offering

for Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

Through the Pentecost Offering, the church expresses a common commitment to provide hope for children at risk, opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in their faith, and short-term mission service options for young adults.

Please give generously.



NHPC’s own **Timothy Bidon** graduated from the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College, with a degree in Journalism, on Sunday, May 18. In the course of his studies, he spent a semester in London where he met his partner, **Justin**, who will be joining him in Brooklyn this summer. Congratulations and best wishes to both Tim and Justin!

Shama Omer is graduating 4th in her class [!] at Spring Valley High School this June. She will be going to the Galloup Guitar School in Michigan.

Kyle Smith is graduating from Clarkstown North high school in June and will be going to SUNY College of Technology at Delhi in September.

Susan Zollenger will graduate from Clarkstown South high school in June (salutatorian) [!!] and will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall. Susan goes to Germonds and has been a NHPC youth group member for the past couple of years.

Craig Chalfin is engaged to be married to **Melanie Hoffer**. Congratulations to them and to **Janine Kallé**.

We have a number of schoolteachers in the congregation who are retiring at the end of this school year. The list includes **Jocelyne Daniel, Donna Hoag, Karen Martin, Pauline Mattis** and **Barbara Zacheis**. Congratulations to them all.

[Thanks to Mark, Laura and Kristin for sending these updates. If anyone has more milestones, please send to CarriageStone@nhpchurch.org and I’ll get them into the next issue.]