



The Carriage Stone

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

September 2014



SEPTEMBER



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

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FROM THE PASTOR

Committees are a Good Thing!

When I was in Seminary, my mentor Dr. Catherine González had a mug with the logo “Dear God, Please, not another committee!” emblazoned across it. I think committees are a good thing. They are how our church organizes our day-to-day life. They keep things running.

I am sitting in my living room in the Manse on a warm mid-August Monday (where did the summer go?) listening to the shushing noises of the power-washers cleaning the exterior. This is happening because the **Building and Grounds committee** (chaired by Barbara Zacheis) arranged it.



I had the joy of leading the Vacation Bible School in opening prayers last week because the **Christian Nurture and Spiritual Growth committee** (Chaired by Pauline Mattis) got us involved with Germonds Presbyterian in sharing the love and joy of Jesus Christ with the children of our congregations, and the neighborhood.

I had fun (even with a broken foot) at the early summer Tag sale because the **Fund-Raising committee** (Chaired by Pam Fink) got us to bring our gently-used stuff, bake goodies to sell, cook burgers and dogs, and share our presence with the community.

You are reading this because Bob Philhower, clerk of Session, newsletter editor and chair of the **Communication and Media committee** keeps the Carriage Stone published 11 times a year.



We have ushers and lay leaders, and flowers to grace the pulpit area because the **Worship, Music and the Arts committee** (chaired by Syenni Lucas) keeps asking for worship leaders (and who can say no to Syenni?) We also host concerts from various musical groups under the guidance of this committee.

We will be electing Elders and Deacons this fall because the **Nominating committee** you all elected will get to work praying and discerning whom God will call to these positions of service.



Plans for our partnership with Helping Hands are already underway because the **Mission committee** (chaired by Laura Bidon) is hard at work putting together a schedule of days for us to offer hospitality to guests with no homes. They are also collecting (along with **Christian Nurture and Spiritual Growth**) items for the Back to School with Dignity program.

In the autumn, the **Stewardship committee** (chaired by David Garcia) will engage us in the process of putting our treasure where our hearts are—in the ministry and mission of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Mark Zacheis, Church treasurer, faithfully keeps the Session and congregation apprised of our financial health.



The staff of the Church continues to make improvements to our performance because the **Personnel committee** (chaired by Karen Martin) asks for you fill out annual review forms.



From the Deacons

We continue to have the best Coffee Hours in Rockland County because our **Deacons** (co-chaired by Mary Ann Witte and Howard Whitehouse) take hospitality seriously. They also undertake the holy work of preparing the elements for Eucharist, as well as visiting the sick, shut-in and sometimes lonesome folks in the congregation. They collect “Change in the jar” for specific outreach programs in the community. They put on a great talent show every year.

If any of this work sounds like it’s a place where you are being called, please contact the chairs of the committees. There is definitely a place for you in the daily life of our church!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

New Sunday School Class to begin Sunday, Sept 7

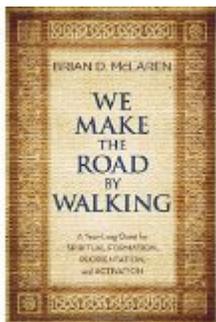
From Pastor Lori

“We make the road by walking.”

I love this phrase—it reminds me that there are no easy answers in life—that part of what makes life meaningful is the journey that we make together.

This phrase is also the title of a new book by Brian McLaren. ([We Make the Road by Walking](#), New York: Jericho, 2014.)

On Sunday, Sept 7, Sunday school for everyone starts up again. This year, in addition to Ed’s Bible Study in the Colonial room, there will be a new class for anyone 16-100+!! We will meet in the Sunday School room on the back side of the first floor of Murchison Hall. And yes, we will have grown-up size chairs to sit in. This class is designed to be a time for questions and discussions about the Christian faith and life—it’s not the teacher pouring information into folks heads. (That’s boring for us all. And messy!)



We will use McLaren’s new book, and go through it a chapter at a time. If you wish to buy your own copy, it’s available at [BarnesandNoble.com](#) and [Amazon.com](#). Each chapter is about five

pages—and it’s not difficult read. I will make copies of each chapter available on a week-by-week basis, so there will be a bit of homework!

We will meet from 9:30 to 10:10 so choir members can get to rehearsal. I’m very excited about this, and I hope you will join me. It’ll be fun!



Square Dance and Chili Cook-off

Get out your dancing shoes and dust off those chili recipes, the square dance and chili cook-off are coming to Germonds. Both events will take place under the tent on Saturday, September 6 with the square dancing beginning at 3 PM and the chili cook-off following at 4 PM.

Does your chili recipe need a little refining? Now is the time to perfect it as the chili recipes will be judged and winners awarded in the following categories: Hottest, People’s Choice, Best in Show and Most Unique. We ask for your assistance by giving your chili a name and by bringing your chili in a crock-pot or slow cooker so it can stay warm while everyone enjoys the square dancing.

Please look for the sign-up sheet at coffee hour and sign up so we know you’ll be attending.

Joining Germonds for the festivities will be Naurausaun Presbyterian Church, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Spring Valley. Any questions can be directed to Barbara Jenkins or Barbara Powers.





Peacemaking Offering 2014

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
— John 14:27

In a world calling out for peace, your participation in the Peacemaking Offering promotes peace and justice efforts around the world. Your donations help fund the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, which actively works at transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace with international peacemakers, educational events and ongoing advocacy. A portion of this offering will be used to support local efforts toward peace in our own community.

We'll be receiving this offering on October 5, World Communion Sunday. Please give generously.

2014 Path of Peace Coming Soon

The 2014 Path of Peace Daily Devotions were authored by Presbyterians who travelled to Israel and Palestine in April/May of 2014 for the Peacemaking Program conference, Mosaic of Peace. Conference participants reflected on scripture readings from The Biblical Witness to Peacemaking and were guided by stories and experiences shared by our Israeli and Palestinian church partners, who live with military occupation as the backdrop of church life. For more information, visit:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/path-of-peace-daily-reflections/>



I will be grateful forever to my church family for surrounding me with your love, prayers and care throughout Walter's illness. If I have failed to express this to any person individually, please accept my heartfelt thanks, and know that each one of you has given me strength to carry on.

Love and blessings,
Lona

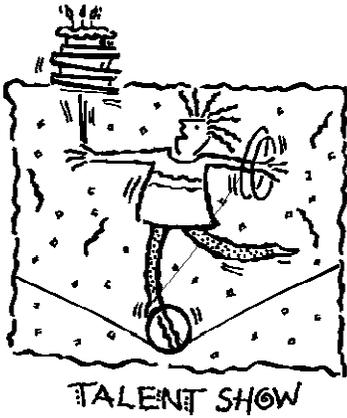
Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for People to People's "Back to School with Dignity" Program. Your donations have helped children in Rockland County who might not otherwise have a successful start to the school year. Thanks again for your generosity!

— Christian Education and Mission Committees

Thank you so much for making your generous donation of \$300 to Venture Foundation to support the Club Venture Program. It's during these difficult economic times that we most need your help. When you contribute your support, you enable us to continue our mission of providing the best possible care and the finest programs to people with developmental disabilities that are entrusted to our care.

— Joseph Condon, Venture Foundation

(The \$300 donation was the local portion of our Pentecost offering)



The Deacons have set a date of November 8 for this year's talent show. So, it is time to start getting your act together.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok

Our talented congregation is still talented, but we don't have a September performance schedule yet. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at jane Sebok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.



Fellowship Breakfast

The fellowship breakfast, usually the last Saturday in each month, will not be held in August as it is Labor Day weekend. We'll meet on Saturday, September 27.



Choir is starting up for the fall. New members are welcome; speak with Kryste Andrews for more information.



Holiday Craft Show

The fundraising committee has announced that the second annual holiday boutique will be Saturday, December 6 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Tables will be available for vendors at \$25 per table/space. If anyone would like to be a vendor, know someone who would be interested or would like to donate to the church craft table they can contact Kristen Rabeler at the church office: (845) 354-2372

or newhempstead@yahoo.com

Pam Fink is the Fund-Raising committee chair if you have other questions.



Youth Group Starting Up

The Youth Group starts up this fall with our annual trip to the

Renaissance Faire on September 7. We'll carpool from the church at 12:30. Each young person should bring enough money to cover admission (\$24, but discount tickets are available [at their website](#)), souvenirs and snacks. Please contact Howard or Mark to let them know of your attention to attend or to answer any questions you have.