



The Carriage Stone

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

September 2015



MISSION MINDED



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, September 20

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Twenty-Five Years and Counting

August 26 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the office of Teaching Elder. If you had told me twenty-nine years ago, when I entered Columbia theological Seminary, that I would not only be ordained, but be the pastor of a congregation I dearly love in New York (!!) I would have laughed. I was going to be a seminary professor, teaching Church History.

God has a plan for each and every one us. What we are meant to do is called “vocation”, from the Latin word *vocare*, to call. Frederick Buechner defines vocation this way:

The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. If you really get a kick out of your work, you've presumably met requirement (a), but if your work is writing TV deodorant commercials, the chances are you've missed requirement (b). On the other hand, if your work is being a doctor in a leper colony, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you're bored and depressed by it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a) but probably aren't helping your patients much either.

*Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. **The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.***

(From Wishful Thinking)

I would never have believed that the place God had for me would not only be ordained ministry, but that I would also get paid to do it! Not everyone is so blessed, I know. Sometimes, in order to follow the calling of God, we have to find some other way to pay the bills. But everyone has a calling, a vocation. It comes with our baptism. It's a passion that the world needs you to share, and God yearns for you to put to use.

The Christian Theologian Howard Thurman said, “Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

I found my passion—preaching, teaching, celebrating the sacraments, offering presence and pastoral care. What ignites your heart? What does the world need doing that you feel called to do? The 14th Dalai Lama said, "The world doesn't need more 'successful people.' The world desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers and lovers of all kinds."

Find that which sets your heart on fire, that which the world desperately needs, and get to it! It is God's way of pointing you toward the work God has for you.

Blessings,

FAITH IN ACTION



“Faith In Action” Mission Sunday at NHPC

September 20

Join us on Sunday, September 20 as we kick-off the Fall mission season at NHPC. The theme of this special worship service is “*Faith In Action.*” We’ll be highlighting our varied ministries in the community, and honoring two of our very special mission partners: Helping Hands of Rockland County, and Stony Point Center. Representatives of those two organizations will join us on that day and we’ll present them with special “*Faith In Action*” awards, which will include a gift of \$4,000 for each organization. These funds represent the mission component of our last Capital Campaign, which are being dedicated for this purpose. We are pleased and excited to honor these two organizations for the work they are doing in our community, and for the inspiration they provide NHPC in our joint mission efforts. They truly represent “*Faith In Action.*” Don’t miss this special worship service!

Summer Coming to an End

Worship moves to 11 AM schedule on Sunday, September 6. Ed Garcia will be resuming his Adult Study group that Sunday as well starting at 9:30 AM. Anyone is invited to come starting any week.

Safe Haven Supplies: A Special Thank You!

The Mission Committee sends a special thank-you to Sylvia Pridgen Esser and her friends from the Rockland County Charity Bridge Association, for their very generous donation of \$150 toward hygiene kits and other Safe Haven supplies. Their gift will go a long way in providing much needed supplies for our guests this upcoming Safe Haven season.

There is always a need for the following items. You can drop them off at any time in the bin labeled “Safe Haven Supplies” in the Colonial Room.

- Toothbrushes
- Tooth Paste
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Wash Clothes
- Shampoo
- Hand Soap
- Tissues
- Combs OR Brushes
- Lip Balm
- Hand Lotion



Questions? Contact Laura Bidon, Mission Chair

Inquirer’s Class

The Inquirer’s class will begin on September 13 after Worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, or simply want to know more about us, please see Ed Garcia. Class consists of four one-hour sessions. No obligation to join after attending; all are welcome to participate.



Peace & Global Witness Offering 2015: Create a World of Peace

What you've known as the Peacemaking Offering has been transformed into the "Peace & Global Witness" Offering. This new Offering will have a greater global reach, more significant impact, and bring peace to people through Christ. The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

How is my Gift Used?

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Unfortunately, some of the most significant issues impacting peace and justice worldwide can be found in our own community, including gun violence, bullying, violence against women and human trafficking.

In recognition of the fact that global issues are also local issues, 25% of this offering will be kept by our congregation for local peacemaking ministries. This year, we'll be asking members of the congregation to vote on where to dedicate the local portion of this offering. **Do you know a local organization that is working to create peace and justice in our community?** Vote for them on the special mission survey that will be available in September, and support their efforts to create a community of peace.

Youth Group

The Youth Group is starting their fall season off with a trip to the Renaissance Faire in Tuxedo, NY on September 13. We'll meet at the Church at 12:15, right after the service and during coffee hour, and then ride together to Sterling Forest and the Faire. Each young person should bring \$24 for ticket to the Faire plus spending money (discount tickets and coupons can be found online and at Walgreens). We should be back to the church by 5 PM.

Young people turning twelve this year and older are invited to come to the Youth Group. When not attending off-site activities like the Faire, we meet weekly in the Colonial Room, every Sunday from 4 PM to 6 PM. Come check us out, and bring a friend!



We are planning a trip to the Botanical Gardens towards the end of September. If you have any questions please see Lori.

The Progressive Dinner will be held on October 17, starting at 6:30. First course of the night starts with hors d'oeuvres. Then we go to our assigned homes for our dinner. After dinner will go to a designed home for dessert. Your cost? Just bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert for 6 to 8 people.

If you are interested in offering your home for this event, please let Carmen Bermudez or any of her committee members know. (Karen Martin, Sylvia Miller, Donna Hoag, Donna Butson and Valarie Garcia)