



# The Carriage Stone

October 2018

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



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

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## Is It All Jesus' Fault?



I begin this column with the Interim General Presbyter Peter Surgernor's statement in the most recent issue of Hudson Happenings ([www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org)):

At Tuesday's Presbytery meeting, while we were reflecting on what it means to stand together with those who have been made poor, Glenn Hendricksen rose to the microphone and shared a poem he had composed on the spot.

### **It's All Jesus' Fault**

by Glenn Hendricksen

If Jesus hadn't valued the poor,  
It would be perfectly OK to take money from the poor  
to give to the rich and large corporations.

If Jesus hadn't healed the helpless sick,  
We would be justified in taking health care away from the poor.

If Jesus hadn't spoken to the Samaritan woman and rescued the adulterous  
woman from certain death,  
It would be fine to control, disparage, and use women's lives.  
It's all Jesus' fault.

Peter Surgernor

Jesus spent so much of his time with the poor, the sick, the outcast, the sinners. It makes me wonder how the church (especially in North America) can do such an effective job of ignoring these people in our society. Maybe it is "all Jesus' fault" for caring for the poor the way he did. Otherwise, we could justify our blindness.

I am always so proud of this congregation when we work on behalf of those who have been made poor. Several folks who volunteer for Helping Hands go that extra distance and take a seat with the guest, spend time in conversation with them. That's how we get to know "the poor" as people, not merely as a demographic. They are people with stories. It's an honor to hear them tell their stories.

I wonder, is there more we can do, not just "for the poor", but is there more we can do to begin the eradication of poverty in the US? At the Presbytery meeting on Sept 18th, the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis was our guest preacher. Together with Rev. William J. Barber II, she coordinates the Poor People's Campaign. She challenged us to re-think Jesus words in Matthew 26: 11 (The poor

you will always have with you”) and read them not as an excuse say poverty is inevitable, but as a challenge to read it in light of the Hebrew Prophets’ (and Jesus’ own concern) to care for the poor, and work to change the systems that keep them poor. I am currently reading Dr. Theoharis’s book, *Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor*. This column will be continued next month. Till then, I leave you with this thought:

Why do we worship a homeless man on Sunday, then ignore one on Monday?

## **Tag Sale Help needed!**

We will be organizing tag sale items on Friday, October 12 from noon to 7 PM in preparation for Saturday, October 13 Tag Sale. Set-up for the Sale is from 7 AM to 9 AM and the Sale is from 9 AM to 2 PM. Please let Barbara know if you can help and when. We especially need people Friday to help price items, and Saturday to help sell. Clean-up help is needed from 2 PM to 4 PM Saturday. A sign-up sheet is in the Colonial Room. Thanks in advance!!

Our photo this month is from a group of New Hempstead women who have lost their spouses and get together for mutual support.

