



# The Carriage Stone

February 2019

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



NHPC at the Martin Luther King Unity Celebration at Ramapo High School



"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](mailto:office@nhpchurch.org)

**Web:** [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org)

**Look for us on Facebook!**

**Administrative Assistant:** Kristen Rabeler

**Newsletter Editor:**

Robert Phillhower

**Next Deadline:**

Sunday, February 17

**Submissions:** in my mailbox  
or e-mail to

[carriagestone@nhpchurch.org](mailto:carriagestone@nhpchurch.org)

## “Come and See” AND “Go and Do”



This is the text from my sermon on January 20, 2019. I thought it bore repeating!

**Text:** [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

I want to start this morning by reminding you all of what wonderful, committed leadership we have.

Both the Session and the Board of Deacons understand that God has given them gifts for leadership, “the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” They listen to God, and help us move into the future God has for us.

And by the way—your deacons do so much more than coffee hour and communion.

They are here to be of service to you and others, and to keep the pastor informed of congregational needs.

Let’s just declare this “hug an Elder or Deacon” day!

So yesterday, the Session met at Stony Point Center for a retreat. Our subject was the book [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#), by Robert Schnase.

This morning I want to summarize some of the book’s ideas, and our brainstorming around them. First, the five practices of the title are:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-taking Mission
- Extravagant Giving

These five practices offer us opportunities to use the many spiritual gifts God has blessed this congregation with.

We know that God has given each one of us Spiritual gifts—they come with our Baptism. Five years ago, Rev. Margery Rossi came and spoke on the many gifts the Spirit gives, and as a congregation, we discovered that our main gifts are:

- Administration
- Faith
- Humor
- Service Giving
- Hospitality
- Mercy

How can we use these gifts using the practices outlined in the book? The Session will be prayerfully planning and working to do this integration of our gifts and the world’s needs. In other words, stay tuned!

The retreat yesterday was only the beginning of the Session’s study of this book.

But we learned so much.

We were reminded that the Church does not exist for itself only—we exist for the world. We are here to be of service to the world, not to “grow the church”.

We are here to make disciples, not to simply get posteriors in pews to add to the rolls.

Perhaps the biggest lesson we took home is the fact that our reliance on “attracting people” to come to our church is only half the story.

Schnase makes clear that there are two sides to being church: “Come and See”, in which we invite folks to Worship and fellowship with us.

And the other side, which we need to work on, is “go and do”, in which we move out into the neighborhood, enacting the verbs of Jesus:

**“Go...tell...teach...pray...Give...heal...Love...forgive...Baptize.”**

Yes. I know. That is scary. But we can no longer stay in our building and expect folks to show up. Indeed, how can we stay put when Christ himself commands us to go into all the world? That starts in our own neighborhood.

Schnase writes:

“God’s grace compels us to go to places we might never go if left to our own preference and convenience. In a broken world, no church can sit still when drawn into the mission of Christ. A missional focus gives the church an ever-restless quality, pushing us outward into the world and among the people who are so loved by God that he gave His only son.”

Indeed, our own PC, USA [Book of Order](#) says the Church has been and is even now **sent** into the world by Jesus Christ to bear that testimony to others. The Church bears witness in word and work that in Christ, the new creation has begun, and that God who creates life also frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, and is still at work in the world. To be members of the body of Christ is to be **sent out** to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God’s new creation, God’s kingdom drawing the present into itself.

In addition, saints, ***The church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life...***

Yes. We are to move out into the world, even if it kills us.

In the months to come, we are going to be working on both “come and See” as well as “go and do.” I think it’s obvious that “come and see” is much easier than “go and do”, so we will start there. But we WILL ALSO go and do.

In the “come and see” part of outreach, we have plans to investigate the possibility of live-streaming our worship over the internet. This means some new Audio equipment that hopefully will help some of us who are harder of hearing to hear better.

There will be a sermon series (the preacher hasn’t quite decided the subject yet) during Lent. In addition, we will celebrate Eucharist every week during Lent.

And Deacons—you don’t have to do a thing! The Session will take care of it!

There will be a few copies of a large-print bulletin for those who may not see as well.

As for the “going and doing” part, we want to **start** with going to Rockland Community college, and meeting students there. BTW, Jocelyn Daniel has wanted to do this for ages. PLEASE see her after worship if you would like to be involved in “doing the verbs of Jesus”: (and I’ll repeat them)

**“Go...tell...teach...pray...Give...heal...Love...forgive...Baptize.”**

There is much more we discussed yesterday. You will be hearing more in the coming months.

There's a [scene from Annie Hall](#) that kept coming back to me during our discussions.

The Woody Allen character is talking with a friend, and asks him about his girlfriend. The friend says something like "A relationship is like a shark. It has to keep moving or it dies." Then the friend takes a beat and says, "I think we have a dead shark on our hands."

Saints, a congregation is like a shark. We've got to keep moving, or the alternative isn't pleasant.

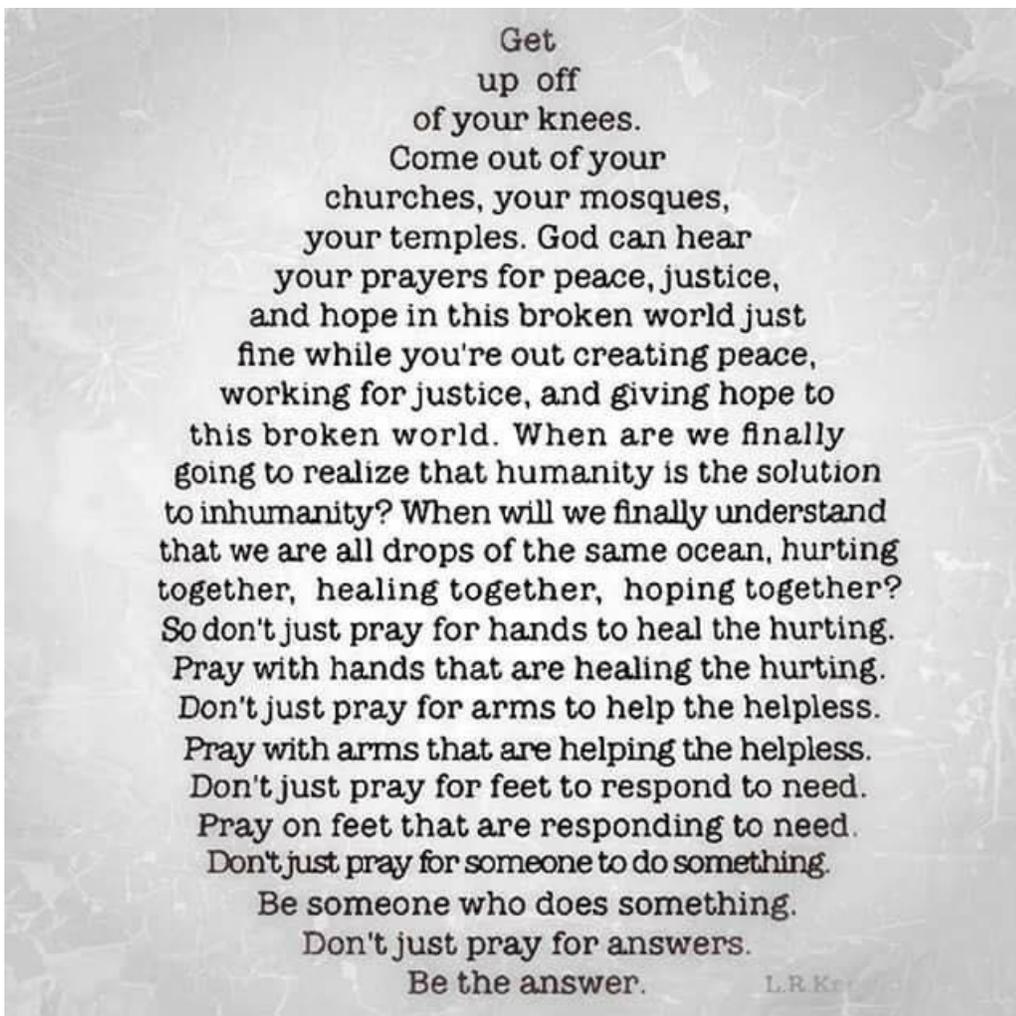
On this day before the Martin Luther King holiday, these words of his are worth hearing again.

Dr. King said,

**"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."**

The gifts God has given us are to be put to use for God's glory. As Paul said to the Corinthians,

<sup>14</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.



I close with a reading that I gave to the session yesterday but never got round to reading with them. We'll all hear it now.

Saints, let's work hard on not just asking folks to "come and See", but also our own "going and doing" for the Love of God. Amen.



## Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, February 3**

The Annual meeting will be on Sunday, February 3 immediately following Worship. Annual reports and the church budget will be presented. All members are

urged to attend and participate.



## LOCAL MISSIONS Helping the Homeless: "The Inn"

From Pam Fink

Since November first, the county-sponsored warming center in Pomona has been providing food and shelter to some of Rockland County's homeless population. The operation of the center, which has been dubbed "The Inn," is now managed by Catholic Charities, but the program is patterned after the Safe Haven program established by Helping Hands. As we have gotten further into the winter months, the number of overnight guests at the Inn has risen to 60-65. When the daytime temperature is below freezing, the warming center is open 24/7.

During the evening hours, the center employs two staff who tend to the needs of the guests, and also has two contracted security guards. The staff members are extremely grateful to be supported by volunteers who come to serve the evening meal and clean up afterward. In mid-December, our little band of volunteers from NHPC took a turn at serving the homeless for three evenings. Many thanks to those who participated with me, including Karen Quach, Patty Coar, Bruce Brown, Lochie Musso, Mark

Zacheis, Laura Bidon, Liring Sullivan, May Lie, Lona Asher, Christina Bermudez, and a newbie volunteer, Nora Asamoah.

Although we didn't prepare the evening meal, we did fix the plates and made sure there was a good supply of things to drink. We also provided juice, fruit, cookies and granola bars to the guests, which are greatly appreciated additions to the menu. At the end of the evening, we received a heartfelt thank you from the guests for our service.

If you didn't have a chance to volunteer at the warming center in December, there is another opportunity right around the corner. On the evenings of February 11-13, we will again be serving the homeless. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up on the list in the Colonial Room. For more details, please speak with me.

## Per Capita

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

The first envelope in your pledge envelope box is blue and it is marked *Per Capita*. Being Presbyterian, NHPC is part of a greater church, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each year we contribute money to the work of the greater church, with some going to the Presbytery of the Hudson River, some to the Synod of the Northeast, and some to the General Assembly. The funds are used to support the operations of all three bodies, from salaries to mission programs to local church support programs. Some of the work of these bodies goes to directly support our church. Other goes into projects that are greater than any individual church.

The *Per Capita* is calculated on a per-member basis. New Hempstead's total contribution comes to over \$3,000 this year, which we will be paying. We are asking each of you to be part of the greater church as well, and contribute the individual per capita amount of \$38.80. Use the blue envelope at the front of your box of envelopes, or mark your check "per capita."

## Utility Costs

From Mark Zacheis

The church has recently entered into an agreement with energy provider Just Energy where we have locked in very reasonable energy rates over the next three years. We still get a monthly bill from Orange and Rockland and they still charge us their delivery charges, but the actual cost of the electricity and natural gas is fixed at a favorable rate.

As part of the church's agreement, our members are entitled to a reduced, 3-year fixed rate as well. We're not saying that it is the best rate to be found anywhere, but it is competitive and it is very easy to sign up and can be done on-line. The link to the Church offer is

<http://www.justenergydeals.com/NHPC>

Click on the link and follow the instructions.

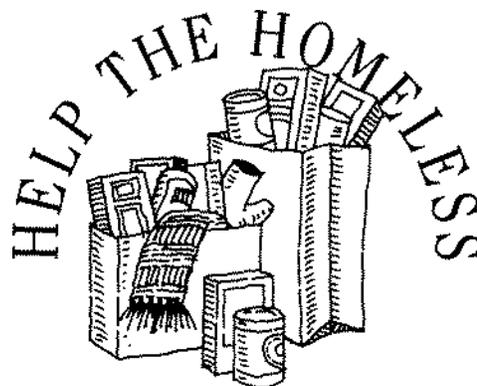
1. Type in your zip code and click SUBMIT
2. Click on the drop down for ENERGY TYPE and select
3. First select ELECTRICITY and view the offers. The longer term is the recommended choice.
4. If you like one of the offers, click SIGN UP
5. Next select NATURAL GAS and view the offers. Again, the longer term is the recommended choice
6. If you like one of the offers click SIGN UP
7. Go back to the top (YOUR BUNDLE) and click SIGN UP
8. Enter the personal data required. You will need your account number off of your O&R bill. O&R account numbers are 5 digits, a dash, and another 5 digits.
9. Follow through to the end.

If you have any questions about the program, speak to Mark.

*[I looked when I tested the link & the gas prices are less than I've been paying...—Bob]*

## Sunday School Readers Needed

Pauline Mattis is looking for a few more people to help read to the children during Sunday School. There are Bible stories to read and an opportunity to help the children draw. Please contact her for more information and to volunteer your time. Remember that during Baptism, we all promise to help raise the children and teach them of God.



## Collecting Gloves, Hats, Socks

Thanks to your generosity during the Christmas season, there were enough warm gloves, hats, scarves, socks, etc. to prepare bags for thirty of our homeless neighbors.

However, when Karen Martin and Marcus went out to distribute them, they found that the need was far greater. We are continuing to collect items for those in need.

Thank you for your support.

## Giving of Time and Talents

Thank you to those who offered of your time and talents during the Stewardship campaign. The lists of people have been written out and will be distributed to the Session members who will contact you about opportunities for helping.

If you did not fill out the card, or have developed an interest, do not hesitate to attend a committee meeting. The meetings are usually after Worship and are announced beforehand. Many hands make light work.