



The Carriage Stone

July 2023

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



New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

Welcome Home



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Living our mission by:

- Tending to people's spiritual needs
- Worshipping inclusively
- Working for justice in our community

Visit us at: www.nhpchurch.org



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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NHPC Goes to Rockland Pride

With the blessing of Session and the sponsorship of our Mission Committee, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church had a table at Rockland Pride in Nyack on June 11. We had some very nice interactions and positive comments from the people in attendance. We met some old friends and hopefully made some new ones.

Since this was the first time we participated, we made a few mistakes. Fortunately, none of them were major mistakes and we have learned for the next time.

It should be noted that many of those in attendance were there to be seen, not to see the people at the various tables. This does not mean that we were not noticed. And it is important that LGBTQ+ identifying people be reminded that God loves the world, not just part of the world.

Were there some wanting to be seen who many Christians and many others in the world would consider odd? I'd be lying if I said I was not



tempted to feel that way about some. But I'm reminded that Jesus was considered odd for healing on the Sabbath, traveling through the area in the company of country bumpkins from Galilee (including – gasp – women), for allowing a woman of sinful reputation (Luke 7) to

wash and anoint his feet, and causing a commotion in the temple by chasing out the cheating money changers. His disciples were considered odd for eating with unwashed hands and speaking in tongues (something some Presbyterians would consider odd if it happened in our churches today).

The other thing to remember is that we see where people are today. God knows their future. One of the blessings I have had being associated with a worldwide missionary ministry is that I have heard dozens of testimonies of people who have come to Christ out of circumstances that we would consider odd and unlikely: prisoners, people with mental illness, street people, drug dealers, people on the verge of suicide, people raised in Satanic families, atheists with genius IQs who loved confounding their Christian parents with their “rational arguments” against a belief in God, and one I can mention by name: serial killer David Berkowitz, formerly known as Son of Sam and now known as Son of Hope.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank those who helped represent NHPC during Rockland Pride: Pam Fink, Mark Zacheis, Laura Metallo-Bidon, Nancy Jacobs, Syenni Lucas and Bob Phillhower. And a special thanks to Pastor Lori, who not only enthusiastically greeted people for a few hours after leading worship service on June 11, she supported our church's participation in the event from the pulpit and in her newsletter column.





Sue Rentz performed 'Grandma's feather bed', while Norbert Merck sang Tom Paxton's folk classic 'Ramblin' Boy.' Craig Chalfin announced he was nervous, but you couldn't tell that as he played a Beatles number and 'Runaround Sue'.

The orchestra gathered once more for a closing set. Joe's belief that if he simply started singing the Beach Boys' 'Barbara Ann' the band would instantly follow in the correct key was proved wrong, as we'd already told him. Gary remembered all the words to 'City of New

Orleans'. I played quite a lot of chords in the right place. We finished off, as is our custom, with a round robin rendition of Dylan's 'You Ain't Goin' Nowhere.'

It was agreed that a good time was had by all.

Musical Picnic Time

From Howard Whitehouse

The Fellowship Committee brought us a musical picnic on Saturday June 10. This was somewhere between an ice cream social and a mini folk festival, with a menu of potluck buffet and acoustic musician.

The musical core consists of the old Stony Point coffee house crew, who meet here at New Hempstead once a month. Gary Mower brought his PA system and set it up on the lawn outside Murchison Hall, where we made an improvised stage, and arranged chairs. Food was laid out inside the hall. It was, as always, excellent.

The collective orchestra, made up of Gary, Ron Drost, John Schin, Brian Quail, Joe Planck, Jane Sebok and myself – joined by songwriter Annie Calder, who drove in from Danbury – played a set of favourites from the fifties and sixties. Older audiences are always willing to join in on 'Teenager in Love.' Each performer played a couple of songs of their own choice – I always ask Gary to play a song where nobody dies, and he always finds one where somebody does. I felt compelled to play the loudest, funniest songs I could to revive spirits.



Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, July 9 to receive a report from the Nominating Committee to address vacancies in the Board of Deacons. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary immediately after Worship and members will vote on new church officers.

All New Hempstead congregants are welcome to attend. Members should plan to attend and vote on the nominees.

Thank you,

Bob Philhower, NHPC Clerk of Session



As is our custom, there will be no August newsletter. The next one is September with a deadline August 20. Have a good summer!



Sunday School Summer Break

Sunday School will be taking a summer hiatus beginning Sunday June 18 through Sunday September 3.

Our last Sunday before break will be Sunday June 11.

*Be Well, Be Safe and Have Fun!
Happy Summer!!*