



The Carriage Stone

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y.

The English Church

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
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*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

- Luke 1:78-79

I have a mantra I repeat to myself whenever I am feeling anxious or unsure about the future. The 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich wrote it. It goes like this: “All shall be well, all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well.” I have it on a plaque on my wall and wear it around my wrist on a bracelet.

Like the quote from Luke, it points to the greater picture. One in which God is ultimately in control; a future where, ultimately, all things shall be well. The dawn from on high will indeed break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness.

Some may think this is “pie in the sky” optimism, and maybe it is. But it reminds me when I am in situations over which I have no control, to trust God. This is an important reminder in a world that gives us the illusion that we have control over everything.

As we begin the new “program” year at New Hempstead, I hope we can embrace this optimism, trusting God with the life of our community of faith. This does not mean we do nothing. It means that as we embrace our ministries, we trust God in the midst of some of the unknowns. It means that we become intentional about our spiritual lives through regular attendance at worship, participation in adult education, mission activities and fellowship events. It means committing ourselves to the life of the church.

Trusting God involves more than a little bit of foolish optimism. As Christians we join the foolish believers who follow Jesus trusting that by doing so our lives and the world can be transformed. With joy let us bear witness to the Good News. We are all the beloved of God and therefore, All shall be well.

Welcome Back Lunch

From Pam Fink

On September 7, we will be returning to our standard 11 AM worship hour. That means it's time for the annual Welcome Back Potluck Lunch! So, sort through your favorite recipes and make a dish-to-pass that we all can enjoy. The lunch will happen immediately after worship outside the church, weather permitting.

Please use the posted sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room to indicate what you will be bringing, and how many people will come. As always, we also need volunteers to help set up and clean up. Let's eat!

New Look for the Colonial Room

From Pam Fink

The Colonial Room has a new look! Many thanks to Donna Butson for the generous donation of a beautiful sofa and loveseat set. The furniture fits nicely into the space and has provided much needed extra seating. Be sure to stop in and sit a spell!





Visit to the Union Church

From Mark Zacheis

On August 2 a dozen of us travelled to see the Union Church in Pocantico Hills and its beautiful windows. We got to sit in the pews of the church and listen to a history lesson by the docent. This is a non-denominal Protestant church built in 1915 by John D. Rockefeller and others, and sits just a short distance from the Rockefeller estate Kykuit. The original windows were clear glass but over the years the Rockefeller family commissioned stained glass ones to adorn this unassuming country church. The first was the rose window over the altar, done by Henri Matisse and completed two days before his death. It honors Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, an active member of the church and a founder of the Museum of Modern Art. The window on the rear wall, honoring John D Rockefeller Jr. and titled "The Good Samaritan" was done by Marc Chagall. The eight windows on the sides of the sanctuary were also done by Chagall. With the noon-time sun streaming through, the colors were vivid indeed. And then we went for lunch at Horsefeathers in Tarrytown. Many thanks to Nancy and her Committee for making all of the arrangements.



Musical Picnic

From Terry Lucas

The Annual Family Musical Picnic, held on July 19 on the Church grounds, certainly did not disappoint. Thanks to an abundance of delicious picnic style dishes and rousing foot stomping entertainment, a good time was had by all.

Thank you to the many hands on deck who helped to plan, set up, prepare food and clean up. The Fellowship Committee deserves a round of applause for all of their efforts put forth to ensure such a successful event. What would a picnic be without burgers and dogs? A special thanks to our own “Master Griller”, Mark Zacheis for such a great job on the grill.

Many special thanks to Jane Sebok for organizing all of the talented musicians and entertainers, both friends; as well as NHPC members. Our own Pastor Angela Maddalone shared an original composition and Lois Anderson, Barbara Zacheis and Sue Rentz became famously known as “The Three Angels” with their beautiful, blended voices.

The evening was also made special with the visit of dear friends Pastor Lori and Howard Whitehouse.

The Fellowship Committee and the entertainers are looking forward to the next musical picnic in 2026.



An Afternoon of Music and Food

From Jane Craig Sebok

The Fourth Annual Musical Family Picnic was held at New Hempstead Presbyterian on July 19 at Murchison Hall. It was overcast when the musicians arrived, but ever hopeful, they set up outside, while the Fellowship Committee set up food and drinks inside the building. Meanwhile, Mark Zacheis got his barbeque going on the front steps and started cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Luckily, it turned out to be a beautiful day.

There was much laughter and fellowship as everyone enjoyed their meal inside, then headed out for the music. A mixture of folk, country, and pop, original and covers, kept everyone entertained as they finished their desserts. Performers from the church included Pastor Angela Maddalone, with both original songs and covers, the trio of Lois Anderson, Barbara Zacheis, and Sue Rentz, and Barbara Zacheis on horn. The rest of the music was provided by my musician friends and myself, in solo sets, small groups, and "the band." I also acted as MC.

We were happy to have new people attending, both musicians and audience, and hope to have even more next year. We were especially glad to welcome back Lori Knight-Whitehouse and Howard Whitehouse to the event. Everyone had a great time and can't wait to do it again. 2026 here we come!



As Requested, Paula Deen's Breakfast Casserole

From Terry Lucas

- 5 Slices Thick sliced white bread, crust and all, buttered and cubed
- 1 Pound Mild sausage, cooked, crumbled and drained.
- 3 Cups Grated extra sharp Cheddar cheese.
- 4 Eggs
- 2 Cups Milk
- 1 tsp Dry mustard
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Hot sauce

Spray a 1 1/2-quart casserole dish with vegetable oil cooking spray.

Place the bread cubes in dish. Evenly distribute the sausage over the bread cubes. Sprinkle with the cheese over the sausage.

Combine the eggs, milk, mustard, salt and hot sauce and mix well.

Pour the egg mixture over the bread, sausage and cheese.

Cover and refrigerate overnight.

The next morning, allow casserole to sit for 15 minutes.

Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for one hour.

