



The Carriage Stone

April 2005

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY. Newsletter of the English Church

Elders 2005:

Clerk Of Session: Susan L. Rentz

Class of 2005

- Sylvia L. Pridgen (03)
- Laura Bidon (05)
- Joe Bermudez (04)

Class of 2006

- Janine Kallé (04)
- Bernice Rice Gerstein (04)
- Roque (Ed) Garcia (04)

Class of 2007

- Pamela Charbonneau (02)
- Susan L. Rentz (03)
- Barbara Zacheis (05)

Deacons 2005:

Moderator Of Deacons: Carmen Bermudez

Class of 2005

- Carmen Bermudez (03)
- Zaida Landers (01)
- Karen Martin (03)

Class of 2006

- Marc Bidon (04)
- Marian Maroney (04)
- Donna Butson (04)

Class of 2007

- Percy L. Crockett (05)
- Sharon Edelsberg (03)
- Wendy Keryk (05)



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church
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The Problem of Evil and the Suffering of Jesus

Probably the most difficult issue for Christians to resolve in their minds and hearts is the problem of evil: "If God is all good and all powerful, why is there evil in the world?" In the Old Testament, evil is explained as a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, who ate the apple in the Garden of Eden, and provoked a punishment from God which we see as evil. In that story, a serpent plays the role of the evil one, but if God created all things, then God created the serpent. And if God created humankind with the power to choose between good and evil, then God must have created the evil as one of the choices. So is God to blame for the presence of evil?

In the Ten Commandments, we are given a set of rules to guide our behavior, which are supposed to generate a positive response from God. The Ten Commandments are also the basis of our system of law and justice. The assumption is that if you do good things, then good things will happen to you, and if you do bad things, then bad things will happen to you. Evil is seen as a punishment for sin. In the story of Joseph, he is sold into slavery by his brothers, but when he confronts them with the truth, he admits, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good, that the nation might be saved." When the Temple was established, the whole sacrificial system was designed to alleviate the suffering which was to come. In the Wisdom literature, the book of Proverbs tells us what we need to know in order to live a good life, and reap the benefits. But then we read the story of Job, who was a good man, and yet suffered the evils of loss of family, livestock, farm, health and everything. The rest of Wisdom literature tries to explain how good and bad just



happen as part of the sequence of things. The prophets spoke of the suffering of Israel in the Babylonian captivity as something that was potentially redemptive, but the people returned to Israel to rebuild the temple anticipating that God would restore the kingdom.

In the New Testament, Jesus confronted the temple authorities who continued to enforce the purity codes and the sacrificial system. He emphasized justice and compassion as a way of life, and sought to restore those who were kept out of the temple because of their poverty or illness. He faced temptation at the beginning of his ministry and in the Garden of Gethsemane, but overcame those threats to his mission. His death on the cross was probably the greatest miscarriage of justice in history, and Christians down through the ages have tried to understand this ultimate form of inhumanity. Modern day Christians look at the Crusades, the Holocaust and the Atomic Bombs as evidence that evil is still rampant in the world. But we also look upon the suffering of Jesus as an example of what transforming power suffering love has, and the way in which we are called upon to take upon ourselves some of the suffering of the world in order that its power may be overcome, and some good come out of it. May this Easter season help you to find that Easter power which enables you to transform in a redemptive way any evil which you may confront in your life or in the lives of those around you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



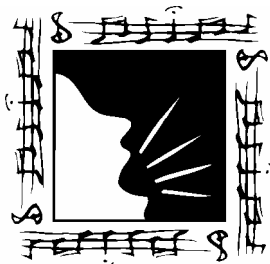
If you would like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church, USA and/or are interested in becoming a member of the New

Hempstead Presbyterian Church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, please speak to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Hughart. You can reach him in the church office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 AM to noon, (845) 354-2372.



“OK, we love church’s history, value the diverse congregation, agree to be guided by the confessions and will give of our time, gifts and talents. Now let’s say the sermons start to run long; what is our recourse?”

Come see and hear why the organ is called, “The King of Instruments”! On Saturday, April 16 at 4 PM, come to St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Tuxedo Park to learn the story of the Exodus and the plagues through music, dance and puppetry. Incorporated into this medley will be a demonstration and educational presentation of the pipe organ by Penny Martin Heidt, who played for us this past summer. The cost is \$5 per person (group rate may be lower). Speak to Barbara Zacheis if you are interested in attending.



Special Music

BSA Troop 11 News

From John Damtoft, Committee Chairman

Activities in the past month:

The Troop Committee was reorganized recently, and dedicated their efforts this year to recruitment – enrollment has slipped in the past 3 years from 16 to 8 boys!

Winter Klondike – the boys earned first Class honors at the district Klondike at Camp Bullowa.

Ramapo Winter Carnival – recruiting opportunity – we operated a table to promote Scouting, pulled in about a dozen names for Cub Scouts and recruited one boy for our troop.

Recruiting effort at Hillcrest School Health fair on Friday, March 18. We developed a few new prospective scouts.

Swimming at RCC – 5 boys met at the pool to work on their Swimming Merit Badge requirements.

Upcoming Activities:

The troop will meet with Cub Scout Pack 50 next Tuesday, to support their Pinewood Derby and Blue & Gold dinner.

YouthFest April 10 @ RCC field house – another recruiting opportunity – we will have a booth to promote Scouting, and provide a woodworking demonstration.

April 16-17 –
Camping

Advancement:

A scout was awarded Eagle Scout rank on Saturday, Feb 26.



Boy Scouts

From the Webmaster

From Denise Farro, NHP Church Webmaster

I hope you have had a chance to check out our new...and improved...website. It not only has a new look but the hope is to keep it current and updated so that it is useful to our members and



those who are looking for a church.

So far, Shirley has done a wonderful job keeping the on-line calendar up to date. Now, if you are not quite sure of the time or date of a

church event you can visit our website (<http://www.nhpchurch.org>) and click on the "Calendar" page from the menu. I used it this past Christmas Eve when I realized that I was not sure what time service was that night.

And are you aware that, thanks to Bob, this newsletter along with an archive of past newsletters, is also now available on line at our website for you to read or print? So, if you ever want to refer back to an article that was in The Carriage Stone, but you just can't find your copy, you can visit www.nhpchurch.org. (Of course, we all take very good care of our copies of The Carriage Stone. This is just a hypothetical, Bob.)

Now, we need your help to expand this site even further.

If you are the head of a committee, please take the time to type out and email me at webmaster@nhpchurch.org a summary of what that committee is involved in. What would you like our members and the rest of the world to know about your committee? Brag a little! Any special projects coming up?

For example, maybe your committee will be collecting food for the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. Why not post a reminder of what

foods everyone should bring each Sunday.

Maybe your committee is collecting supplies for the Sunday school. Why not put a "Wish List" on the website for everyone to see.

If you are not the head of a committee but have an idea or comment, please email me at webmaster@nhpchurch.org. I would appreciate your ideas and input as well.

If you have a personal website, link to the church site from yours. That will show what is important to you and make us easier to find.

With a little thought, care and details from you, we can make this website grow into the useful tool for our church that it should be.

Recognizing Karen Martin

On March 31, Karen Martin received an "Excellence in Education" award from the Parent and Student Advocacy Network. The award recognized her having "achieved the highest standards of educational excellence based on academic and professional leadership," her



"commitment to parental involvement in the educational process," her "community awareness and service" and her "personal and professional standards of high performance."

Palm Sunday Luncheon

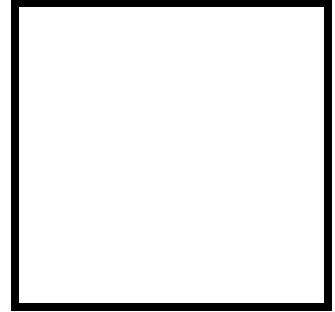
From Carmen and Joe Bermudez

We can't start to tell you how important you were in the success of our luncheon. The Fellowship Committee, members of the congregation, family and friends worked together in the spirit of caring and love. About 100 people attended the luncheon and we collected over \$100 to cover our expenses. Thank you so much for all of your help!



Newsletter of the English Church

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church
 484 New Hempstead Road
 New City NY 10956



DATED MATERIAL APRIL 2005

Make a SPRING TREE

Celebrate the season by creating a one of a kind spring tree.

What you need:

- ✿ Container (such as an empty coffee can)
- ✿ Construction paper or wallpaper scraps
- ✿ Glue
- ✿ Small fallen tree branch
- ✿ Sand
- ✿ Easter grass
- ✿ Poster board
- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Marker
- ✿ Hole punch
- ✿ Ribbon

How to make it:

1. Use the container as a base. Decorate it by gluing construction paper or wallpaper scraps to it.
2. Place the fallen tree branch in the container and pour sand around it.
3. Place Easter grass on top of the sand.
4. Cut out of the poster board shapes that remind you of spring (eggs, rabbits, birds, butterflies, flowers, etc.). Use the marker to add details.
5. Punch a hole in each shape. Use ribbon to tie the shapes to the branches.

Make a Prayer List

Make a list of all the people you want to remember in your prayers.

You will need:

- piece of poster board (approx. 9" x 12")
- markers or crayons
- yarn or ribbon (approx. 10")
- paper-punch

How to make it:

- Punch a hole in the top corners of the cardboard.
- Tie the ribbon or yarn to the holes to make a hanger.
- Write the names of people you care about on the cardboard.
- Decorate with markers or crayons.

Hang your list near your bed, so you can see it when you say your prayers at night.