

The Carriage Stone

April 2006

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

Newsletter of the English Church

*For God so loved
the world, that he gave
his only begotten Son.*

John 3:16, KJV



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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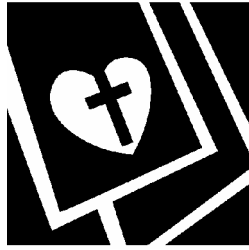
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FROM THE PASTOR

Christianity: An Odd Religion

As I write this, we are fast approaching the holiest day of the Christian year: Easter.

Easter was the first feast-day in the early Church, and it celebrates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We who grew up in the Christian faith take the resurrection for granted. It's part of our faith, and we seldom question it. But there are folk who do question the idea of a bodily resurrection from the grave. I take such questions very seriously, because I believe they point to something often forgotten. Christianity is based on what is, quite frankly, a bizarre notion: the idea that one dead Jew isn't dead anymore.

There are many ways to understand the resurrection, and I am quite happy to let Christians believe what they feel led to about it. But let me share with you why I believe that Jesus was raised, physically, from the grave.

If Jesus was raised from the dead, he was dead in the first place. He didn't just go into a swoon on the cross, and later recover from it. He genuinely suffered all the pain of a barbaric form of execution. And he knew the physical experience of death.

If Jesus was physically raised from the dead, bodies matter. We often think of Christianity as a world-denying, body-denying, physical pleasure denying religion. It's not. Our physical bodies matter to God (though I must admit, in the life to come, I hope there

is no cellulite.) We can be comforted to know that a part of the Godhead is human, and knows what human physicality is like, with both its joys and its pains.

Scripture records that when Jesus was seen by Thomas, the "doubting disciple" was able to put his fingers into the wounds of Christ's Passion. Jesus' resurrected body still bore the marks of his suffering. Our suffering matters to God, and though God heals our wounds, the scars remain to show that "in all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). The wounds we carry now will be transformed into "warrior marks," signs that in Christ we have overcome all that would seek to destroy in us.

As you can tell, I happen to believe this crazy claim that Jesus came popping out of the grave like a Sidewinder missile. But there are many ways to understand Resurrection.

You don't have to agree with my take on it to be a faithful Christian. What matters most is that we as individuals and as a Church community **LIVE** in this resurrected life offered to us by our gracious God through this gift of Easter. We are an Easter People. Thanks be to God.

Easter Blessings,



Holy Week at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday, April 9

Our Holy Week journey begins on Palm Sunday with Worship Service at 11 AM in the Sanctuary, followed by a Covered Dish Luncheon in Murchison Hall.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Worship Service at 8 PM in the Sanctuary. The Lord's Supper will be served by Intinction.

What does it mean?

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin for "command" (*mandatum*). It refers to the command given by Jesus at the Last Supper, this his disciples should love one another.



Maundy Thursday

Good Friday, April 14

Worship Service at 8 PM in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 16

8 AM We will greet the Easter morning with Worship Service in Murchison Hall, followed by a pancake breakfast

11 AM Worship Service of the Resurrection in the Sanctuary, followed by Fellowship time in the Colonial Room and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on the Church grounds.

Palm Sunday Luncheon, April 9

Please join us for our annual Palm Sunday Covered Dish Luncheon in Murchison Hall following the worship service (about 12:30.) Please sign up on the poster in the Colonial Room to bring an entree to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide dessert and beverages. However, you don't have to bring anything. Just bring yourself and invite your family and friends! Please see Joe Bermudez if you have any questions.

Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 16

The men of the church will prepare a full breakfast (eggs, sausages, pancakes, etc) immediately after sunrise service. The service is scheduled for 8 AM and the breakfast about 9:45 AM in Murchison Hall.

BREAKFAST



Easter Fun for Little Ones

As part of our traditional activities for Easter, there will again be an annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Great Lawn (and nearby) for children to enjoy, courtesy of the Youth Group. Be sure to



Egg Hunt for Kids

stay after church on Easter Sunday to have some fun, fellowship and foraging!

One Great Hour of Sharing

From Janine Kallé

What is it and what does it do?

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development. Presbyterians' gifts support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the *Self-Development of People*, *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* and the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.



Pump, community hygiene training:
\$1,000

One great hour of sharing

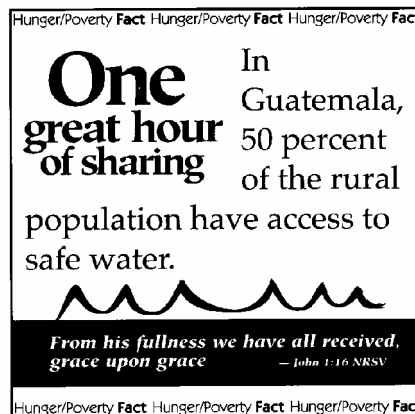
It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

OGHS Facts

Allocation of gifts to the PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing offering. After deducting administrative costs (up to 5%) and the costs of creating and distributing promotional materials (roughly 5%), the remaining undesignated gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

36% Presbyterian Hunger Program

for ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation, and throughout the world, as well as



Hunger/Poverty Fact Hunger/Poverty Fact Hunger/Poverty Fact

One great hour of sharing

In Guatemala, 50 percent of the rural population have access to safe water.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace — John 1:16 NRSV

Hunger/Poverty Fact Hunger/Poverty Fact Hunger/Poverty Fact

ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing.

32% Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for disaster response and ministries with refugees.

32% Self-Development of People for partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves.

This year the OGHS theme is water, God's life-giving gift. It focuses on a cup of thirst-quenching water – a reminder of the image that Jesus uses to illustrate basic acts of compassion and hospitality offered in his name.

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

\$200 can provide a water sanitation system for a family in Central America.

Please remember that cup of cold water often requires digging wells and building purification systems, securing water rights and providing means of distribution. Our gifts to OGHS help make this and more possible. Please respond generously with love and compassion through your offering to be received through Easter Sunday. Thank you.



Welcome New Members!

We welcome our members who joined on Sunday, March 5:

Liring Nangoi, who joins upon re-affirmation of faith.

Soneka Samakai, who joins by letter of transfer from the Woodlawn Heights Presbyterian Church of the Bronx, New York, which closed its doors on July 10, 2005.

Howard J. Whitehouse, who joins by letter of transfer from the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Youth Group News

The Youth Group has several projects in the works this spring. We will be continuing the tradition of running the Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. The Sunday after Easter the Rev. Lori will start the Confirmation Class, in which Youth Group members will participate. The class will meet on Sundays at our regular time of 5 PM, so we will shift to 6 to 8 PM for the duration.

The Youth Group is planning a service project as part of the Confirmation Class. We are scheduling a "Fast for Food" as part of our next

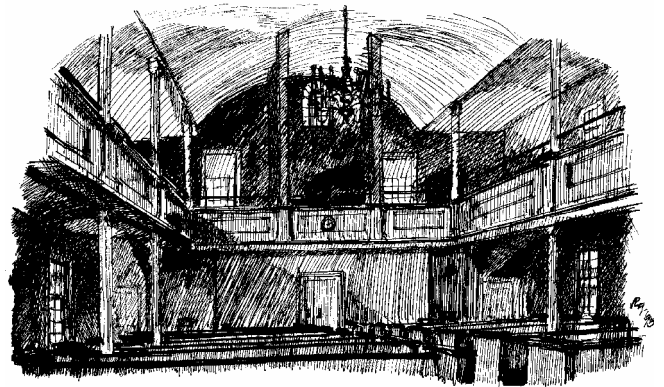
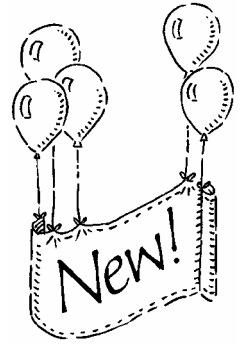
lock-in. At the end of May we will all go without eating for 30 hours as a way to raise money for the People to People food pantry. Stay tuned for more details.



Youth Group

New Church Directory

Shirley has revised the church directory. Copies of the new, up-to-date directory are available in the Colonial room. If any member would like to have a copy sent to their e-mail address, please request it from the church office (office@nhpchurch.org)



Dancing in a Pig Trough

When would a young lady dance in a pig trough? And what does this have to do with Jacob's marrying Laben's daughters? And what would a Jewish patriarch be doing with a pig trough anyway?

You would know the answers to these questions if you were attending the Monday evening Bible study!

We're studying the book of Genesis—about a chapter per week—and have plenty of lively, thought-provoking discussion.

Anyone is welcome to participate any week. We had a couple of new people last Monday; perhaps this is your week to join us.



Vacation Bible School

From Barbara Zacheis

This summer's Vacation Bible School will be hosted by the Germonds Presbyterian Church in New City, and will have a whole new twist! In a joint effort with New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, VBS will be held in the evenings from July 10 through July 13, in the hopes that *families* will be able to enjoy VBS together. We'll



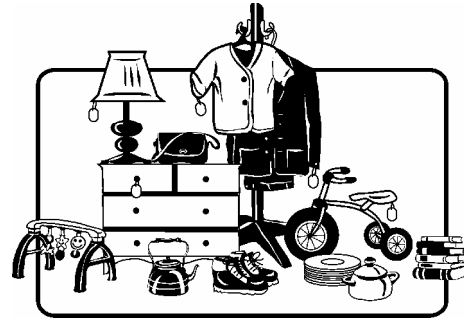
meet at 5:30 for a light supper, followed by activities, classes and music until 7:30ish, followed by some fellowship and dessert. In addition to families interested in participating,

adults are encouraged to take part in the planning and leading of activities. If you'd like to participate at any level, please let Barbara Zacheis know during one of our NHPC coffee hours. Make sure to put VBS on your summer calendar schedule! Sign-up forms will be available in May.

“The Parting”

From Mark Zacheis

The movie short, “The Parting”, which was filmed on location at our church last summer, has finally finished post-production. The producers expect to ship copies of the film in the next month. We are planning a **film premiere** evening of fellowship and viewing of the film after it arrives. We are also trying to find an opening in the director's schedule and see if we can't get him to join us at our showing, and maybe get him to tell us a little about the making of the film. We don't have a date yet, but hope to “roll out the red carpet” in May or June.



Trash & Treasures Sale

Bargains Galore!

From Wendy Keryk

Clean out your attic
Your closets and more,
And donate it all
To Bargains Galore!

Yes donate it all
And your spring cleanings done,
Then come and enjoy
A day of pure fun.

If your closets are empty
And your basement is bare,
You can bake up a cake
Or cookies prepare.

When - Saturday, June 17

Where - Murchison Hall

Why - A Fundraiser is Fun

What - You can start bringing your donations the afternoon of Sunday, June 10 to the Colonial Room

Who - You, that's who — and tell your friends and neighbors too!

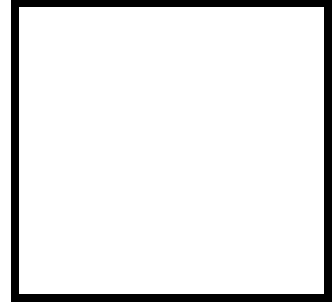
Thanks and Congratulations

A big Thank You to Carmen Bermudez who baked the special cakes for the Mardi Gras coffee hour. Congratulations to those who found a baby Jesus in the cakes.

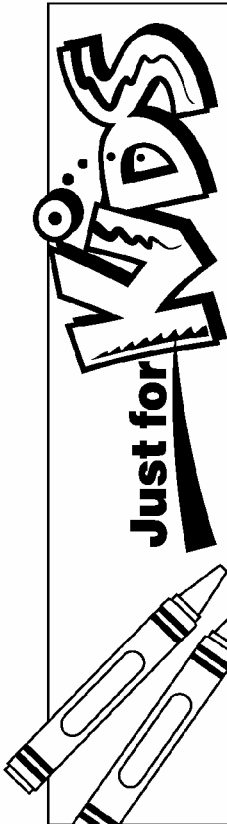


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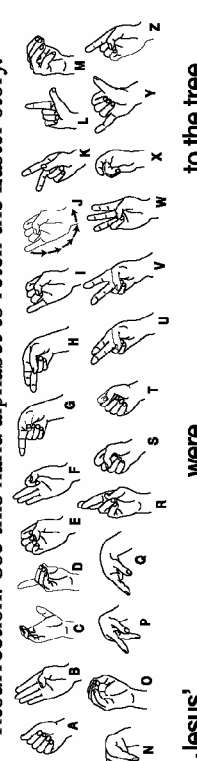
DATED MATERIAL
APRIL 2006



Just for KIDS

"Behold my hands and my feet ..." Luke 24:39 (KJV)

Hands play an important role in the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Use this hand alphabet to retell the Easter story.



Jesus' _____ were _____ to the tree.

Two criminals were also crucified, one on the _____ and the other on the _____ of Jesus.

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, " _____ , _____ into your _____ , I commit my spirit."

The _____ of Jesus' friends _____ Him from the cross to the tomb.

Jesus showed _____ His _____ to prove He was Christ.

Bring your _____ together in _____ and thank God for His Son Jesus.

ANSWER: HANDS, NAILED, RIGHT, HAND, LEFT, FATHER, HANDS, HANDS, CARRIED, THOMAS, HANDS, HANDS, PRAYER.