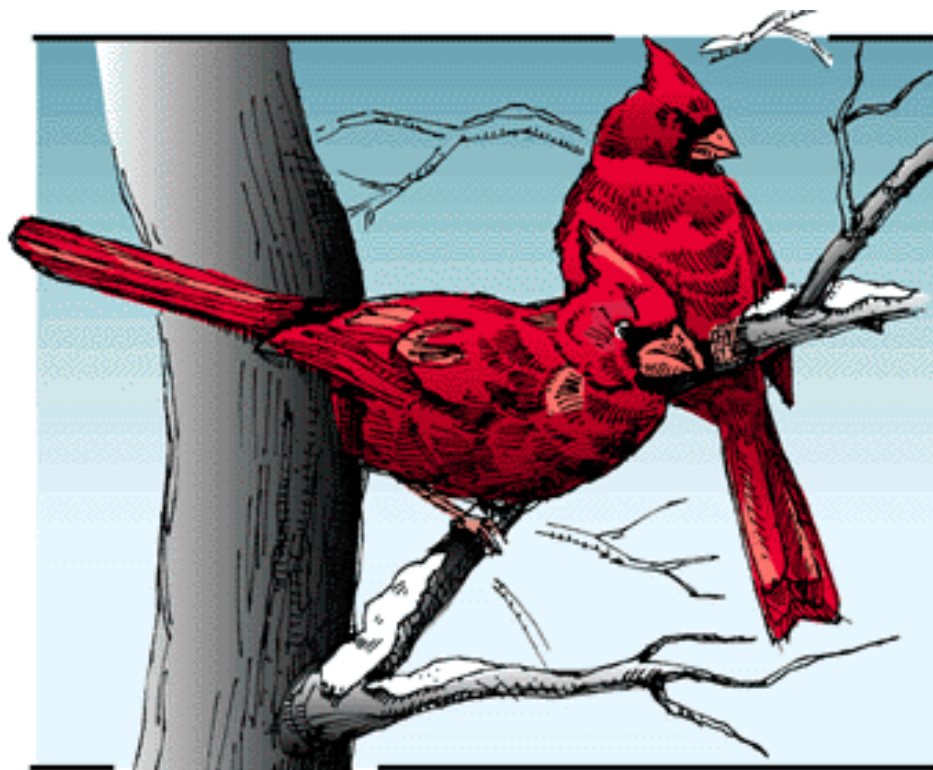


The Carriage Stone

January 2007

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y. *Newsletter of the English Church*



JANUARY

Pastor	
Pastor's Message	2
Mission	
Tax Volunteers Needed	5
Committees	
Annual Meeting.....	3
Per Capita	3
Worship / Music	
Thank You for Leading	4
Christian Education	
Christmas Pageant.....	5
Children's Activity.....	7
Life of the Church	
Breakfast Clubs	3
Martin Luther King Day.....	5
Rockland Symphony.....	5
Lydia Lu Obituary	6
Helen Says "Hello".....	6
Scholarships	6



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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New Year's Greetings

Blessings to you all this new calendar year. I hope you are settling back into a routine (but not a rut!) after the Christmas holidays. Did you make any New Years' resolutions? More to the point, have you broken any of them yet?

I don't make resolutions at the New Year. For me, it's absolutely a set-up for failure. Many days I can't remember where I put my car keys, let alone what good and healthy things I'm supposed to be doing! But the Good News, the Gospel, in fact, is that for Christians, every day is a New Beginning. We get to start over every day.

One spiritual practice that helps us to remember this is the discipline of examining our consciences every evening before we go to bed. It is helpful, as we put ourselves in the presence of God to pray, to ask ourselves, "When did I feel most alive today? When did I feel closest to God?" After prayerfully considering these questions and lifting the conversation up to God, we ask, "When did I feel least alive today? When did I feel farthest away from God?" Considering and answering these questions in the presence of God is a useful way both to give thanks to God for all of God's goodness to us, as well as ask for God's help and healing in repairing those areas of our lives where we know we fall short of God's glory. It also keeps us from wallowing around in guilt that paralyzes us, so we can't change. Saint Francis DeSales, sixteenth-century Catholic Reformer, says this about our tendency to beat ourselves up, spiritually.



For my own part, if I had formed a strong resolution not to yield to the sin of vanity, for example, and yet had seriously fallen into it, I would not reprove my heart after this manner: "Art thou not wretched and abominable, thou that after so many resolutions hast suffered thyself to be thus carried away by vanity? Die with shame; lift up no more thine eyes to heaven, blind, impudent traitor that thou art, a rebel to thy God!" I would correct it reasonably and by the way of compassion: "Alas, my poor heart, behold we are fallen into the pit we had so firmly resolved to avoid! Well, let us rise again and quit it forever. Let us call upon God's mercy, and hope that it will assist us to be more constant for the time to come. Let us enter again into the path of humility. Let us be of good heart; let us from this day be more upon our guard. God will help us, we shall do better."

(From *Introduction to the Devout Life*)

Practicing a gentle, every-day-is-a-new-beginning sort of spirituality has outward benefits, as well. Not only will we be more gentle with ourselves, we will become more loving with others, remember that any and every day can be a new beginning for those whose lives are without the love of God. May Jesus Christ be Praised this day, and every day!

Blessings,



Congregational Meeting

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be held after Worship on Sunday, February 11, in the Sanctuary. The meeting is called to review committee reports, receive the 2007 budget, review the prior year's financial results, approve the minister's compensation and to act on such other issues as may properly come before the body.

Reports from all church committees and boards along with minutes of the 2006 annual meeting will be available for review prior to the meeting date. See your bulletin for details.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Make a new year's resolution to eat breakfast...with New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Each month, there are two Saturday morning breakfast meetings. The men tend to meet the last Saturday of the month at 8 AM in the Rockland Diner. The women meet the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM in the same place.

These are "men's" and "women's" breakfasts by tradition only. Everyone is welcome either Saturday and some people go to both.

For more information, see Carmen or Joe Bermudez or talk to the pastor.



**Meet
for
Breakfast**

Per Capita: What is it? Why Should Our Church Pay it?

From Mark Zacheis

Our church is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and thus has a relationship with every other Presbyterian Church in the denomination, as well as the governing bodies: Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The name Presbyterian is from the Greek "Presbyter," which refers to an Elder or Overseer in the church.

Each church is a member of a Presbytery and sends two representatives—one minister and one Elder—to Presbytery meetings. These representatives have a voice and vote in the business of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are groups of churches, Synods are groups of Presbyteries and the General Assembly is the national group of Synods.

Our Per Capita funds are split into three parts and used by the Hudson River Presbytery, the Synod of the Northeast, and General Assembly to pay their operational costs and the costs of their ongoing programs. Presbytery has expenses similar to our own church—salaries, rent, utilities, office expenses and mission.

Some of the work that our Presbytery does includes nurturing members preparing for ordination as ministers, guiding churches as they go through the mission study and pastor search process, providing advice on financial matters and hearing and deciding disciplinary or remedial cases. The Presbytery sponsors Christian Education workshops and retreats, organizes Youth Ministry conferences and opportunities, advocates for rural and migrant farm workers and offers camps and retreat and conference facilities at Holmes and Stony Point.

Our church will be paying Per Capita this year in the amount of \$20 per active church member, a total of about \$2,000. Please consider including an additional gift of \$20 for each active member of your family in the collection. Use the blue envelope in your box or mark your check "Per Capita."

Thank You for Leading Worship

In 2006, 48 of our New Hempstead family responded, "Hear I am Lord," when called on to assist in our worship services. As a lay leader and or usher, you should be proud that your participation enhanced the quality of our worshiping experience.

Thank you for your service,

Bernice Rice Gerstein, Chair
Committee on Worship, Music and the Arts

P.S. Information presented is based on our best efforts to keep track of all the changes that took place during the year.

Name	Lay Leader	Usher/Greeter
Asamoah, Nora		xxxx
Bermudez, Carmen	x	
Bermudez, Joe	xxx	x
Bidon, Laura	x	xxx
Bidon, Marc	xxx	x
Bidon, Timothy		xx
Charbonneau, Pam	xxx	xx
Crockett, Pat		xxx
Crockett, Percy		x
Daniel, Jocelyne		xx
Dickens, Clarence		xx
Dickens, Joan	xx	xx
Farro, Bill		x
Farro, Denise		x
Farro, Tommy		x
Garcia, Ed	xx	
Gerstein, Bernice Rice	xxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Gerstein, Sid		xxxxxx

Name	Lay Leader	Usher/Greeter
Greenhalgh, Bob		x
Greenhalgh, Catherine	xx	x
Jacobs, Nancy		x
Johnson, Bonnie	xx	xx
Kallé, Janine	xxxx	xx
Keryk, Wendy	xx	xxx
Landers, Jack		xxxx
Landers, Zaida		xx
Lowinger, Teri	x	x
Lucas, Terry	xx	xxxxx
Maroney, Marian	xx	xxx
Maroney, Tim	xxx	xxx
Martin, Karen	x	x
Meckley, Joanna	xx	xx
Musso, Lochie		x
Nangoi, Liring		x
Osei, Army		x
Petrikat, Jocelyn		xxxxxx
Petrikat, Robert		xxxxxx
Philhower, Robert	xx	xx
Pridgen, Sylvia	xxx	xx
Reisman, Matthew	x	
Rentz, Sue	x	
Siregar, Roida		xxx
Tucker, Angela		x
Whitehouse, Howard	x	xx
Witte, Ellen	xx	xxx
Young, Bill	x	xx
Zacheis, Barbara	xx	x
Zacheis, Mark	xx	x



Rockland Symphony Orchestra

On Sunday, February 4, the Rockland Symphony Orchestra will present a Mozart celebration concert at 3 PM at the Cultural Arts Theatre at Rockland Community College in Suffern. The program features young performers from the Rockland Conservatory of Music. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 general admission, \$10 students/seniors. Or see Barbara Hurley for discounted tickets for NHPC.

Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas Pageant was a big success. It was presented during Worship on December 17 and involved many of the children, youth and adults of the congregation. The pageant was directed by Vanessa Greenwald, so be sure to contact her to let her know how much you appreciated it.

Rockland Tax Aide Seeks Volunteers

Low and middle-income taxpayers of all ages are eligible to receive free federal and state income tax preparation assistance including free electronic filing. Local AARP Tax-Aide volunteers provide this service in 15 libraries and other locations in Rockland County.

The Rockland Tax Aide program seeks volunteers in two areas: Tax counselors and Greeters. Tax counselors are volunteers who have an interest in tax preparation and who would like to complete income tax returns for others. They receive training in January and must pass an IRS test. They serve at least four hours per week between February and April.

Greeters help set a friendly tone and handle the sign-in sheet at tax preparation sites, help taxpayers sort through income tax documents and facilitate an orderly flow of taxpayers. No tax expertise is required. Greeters also volunteer at least four hours per week.

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service offered to all middle and low income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60 and older. For more information or to volunteer, please call Bill Lanthrop at 357-3025 or the Rockland County Office for the Aging at 364-2110. Bi-lingual volunteers are especially encouraged to apply.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is January 15 this year.

There is so much frustration in the world because we have relied on gods rather than God. We have genuflected before the god of science only to find that it has given us the atomic bomb...We have worshipped the god of pleasure only to discover that thrills play out and sensations are short-lived. We have bowed before the god of money only to learn that there are such things as love and friendship that money cannot buy and that, in a world of possible depressions, stock market crashes and bad business investments, money is a rather uncertain deity. These transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we must rediscover.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lydia C. Lu Obituary

Lydia Lu of Fort Myers, 79, beloved wife of Jonathan T. Lu, mother of Douglas, Cary (Pamela), and Jennifer, passed away peacefully of lymphoma on December 18. In addition, she was blessed with a grandson Bryce, 2. She is also



survived by two brothers Victor and Jimmy and four sisters Victoria, Dorothy, Helen and Marian as well as many nieces and nephews.

Lydia was born in Peking, now Beijing, China. Attended University of Southern California and graduated from Carleton

College. For many years, she raised her three children before joining the work force and working as executive assistant for CEO of several companies.

Lydia was an active member and elder of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church in New City, New York for 37 years before retiring and moving to Fort Myers. She and Jonathan joined Covenant Presbyterian Church in 1997 and both were admirals of Mariners in 2000–2002. She was also a member of Continental Women's Club and had been active in its bridge group.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers on Saturday, December 23 and internment will be made in Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale, New York in January 2007.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to: Hope Hospice 9470 Health Park Circle, Ft Myers 33908 or the American Cancer Society of Florida.

Helen Says "Hello"

Former NHPC member, Helen Crawford, wrote to say that she enjoys reading what is going on in New Hempstead. She's in Maryville, Tennessee now, but still likes to keep up with goings-on in New York.



Student Loans and Scholarships Offered by the Synod

Interest-Free Loans and scholarships are available to all active members of a Presbyterian Church in the Synod of the Northeast for the upcoming school year from "The Karl, John, Elizabeth Wurffel Memorial Fund" and "The Allie L. Sills Memorial Fund." Individuals who are or will be pursuing higher education goals



and will be attending undergraduate and educational programs at accredited institutions on a full-time basis, within the United States and

Canada are welcome to apply.

All applications for the upcoming school year are reviewed by the committee who will choose three scholarship winners. Those not chosen for the scholarship program will be offered an interest-free loan.

The deadline for applications to be received at the Synod Office is April 1.

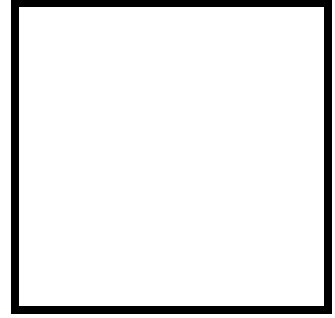
For an application, please contact Cindy Cyr at (315) 446-5990 or (800) 585-5881 or by mail:

The Synod of the Northeast's Student
Loan/Scholarship Program
5811 Heritage Landing Drive
East Syracuse, NY 13057-9360



Newsletter of the English Church

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



**DATED MATERIAL
 JANUARY 2007**

Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

Directions: Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1	pra	u	7	wonder	e
2	yo	fully	8	ma	ur
3	be	ise	9	yo	de
4	a	nd	10	wo	ful
5	fear	m	11	ar	fully
6	a	cause	12	wonder	rks

“I _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5
 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10
 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____”

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer:
 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 your works are wonderful....”