

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.

September 2007

*The Newsletter of
the English Church*



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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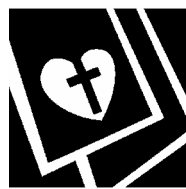
Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to CarriageStone
@nhpchurch.org

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

I'm writing this on the plane back from Dublin, with all sorts of images running through my mind—lots of green; lots of rain; some days of glorious sunshine. I expected that the highlights of our trip would be seeing the sites associated with one of Ireland's patron saints, Saint Patrick. While I did see several of these, they were dwarfed by my experience at Newgrange.

Newgrange is a prehistoric passage tomb, built long before even the Celts arrived in Ireland, about 3500 BCE (Before the Common Era). It is a very large mound with a cave constructed deep inside, in which the cremated remains of folk in the community were interred. It is believed that the builders worshipped a sun god, and this event of Solstice, the sunrise on the shortest day of the year, was the point at which the sun god blessed the earth with fertility and new life, as well as the victory of light over darkness, and life over death.

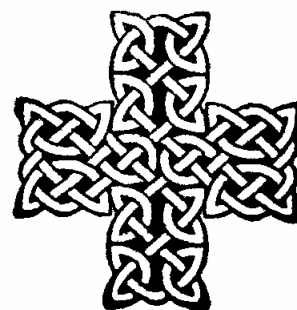
Newgrange is a site that proves the ancients had an impressive knowledge of astronomy: at dawn on the Winter Solstice, a beam of sunlight enters this tomb through a "roof box" in the top of the doorway and slowly illumines the burial chamber. Our guide demonstrated this by turning out the lights and shining his flashlight toward the opening. It was the first time I had ever thought about what it might have been like for Jesus as he was raised from the dead, and it was an incredibly moving experience for me.



FROM THE PASTOR

The desire for a benevolent Deity is as old as humankind itself. As Christians, we claim that this Deity has become one of us in Jesus the Christ. Such a claim must never make us arrogant about our "superior knowledge," as many Victorian visitors to Newgrange no doubt felt: "Well, we're better off than the ancient pagans were, we know Jesus." God's self-revelation in Jesus is, in Paul's words, "treasure in earthen vessels."

While we stand in a long line of humanity who seek a benevolent deity, we have the treasure of the Good News that God has come to us, a good and loving God, in Christ.



The ancients built monuments such as Newgrange to honor their deities. Our God requires our lives as a living monument to God's grace in Jesus Christ. May the Sun of Righteousness continue to rise in our individual lives, and in our life as a congregation.

Blessings,

Adult Education Class

Monday Night Discussion Group

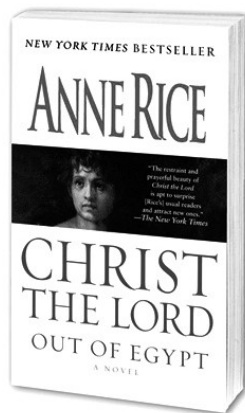
From Lori Knight-Whitehouse

The very successful, always enlightening, sometimes scrappy Monday Night Discussion Group will start again September 17 at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. We will begin the year with a 4 to 6 week (depending on how fast we move) discussion of *The Apostles' Creed*. This ancient faith statement is foundational for Christian Theology. Is it a relic, a tradition we keep in the liturgy for old times' sake only? Does it speak to us today about who God is and what that means for us?

After *The Apostles' Creed*, we will discuss *Christ the Lord*, by Anne Rice. Ms. Rice is the author of the "Interview with the Vampire" series of books.

After many years away from the Church, she rediscovered her Roman Catholic Christian faith and has dedicated her writing to God. *Christ the Lord* is a well-researched, fictional account of Jesus' childhood (about which the Bible is silent). This novel is very readable and exceptionally reverent, and should provide a basis for good conversation. It is widely available in public libraries, and is out in paperback at bookstores as well.

We welcome all who are interested in good, lively, holy conversation to join us on Monday nights. As an added incentive, there are often snacks available!



Sunday School



Hello! We are so excited to get started with this year's Sunday School Program. We are going to have new stories that will help us learn more about God's amazing love for all of us, participate in

mission work, prepare short skits to share with the congregation and lots more!

We are starting registration on Sunday, September 9 at 10:30 AM in the Colonial Room, and continuing throughout September. For more information, please see Ed Garcia or Vanessa Greenwald.

All Children are Welcome! See you soon!

Calling All Teachers

Or Anyone Interested In Participating In The Christian Education Committee!

We are looking for people to help with organization and planning of the Christian Education Program at New Hempstead Church.

This is such an important job and one that cannot be done alone.



We have many great ideas including collaborative projects with community organizations and local parishes. If you are interested in helping out (teaching, planning, etc.) please do not hold back. We need you. Our children need you. For more information, please see Ed Garcia or Vanessa Greenwald.

Great Bible Reef

From Vanessa Greenwald

Great Bible Reef was the theme for this summer's Vacation Bible School and we all had an incredible time! The children, parents, and youth, participated in singing, arts and crafts, hands on science experiments, water games, and they even dabbled in a little acting and story telling.

One of the other highlights to our Great Bible Reef was the Chuuk, Tol Island Mission Project. The goal was to rally children and parents around donating school supplies for the needy children residing on this island. Our youth, both from New Hempstead



VBS MISSION PROJECT

Presbyterian and Germonds church, took control of the mission project and made it into a huge success. These young leaders were diligent, serious, and were able to turn this mission work into a "family project". They got families to do web searches around the life and culture of the people on Tol Island. Children, along with their families, shared their findings with the rest of the group on the following day. The children were also asked to draw self-portraits and to write a blurb about themselves. These were placed in the box with the items donated, and will be shipped out in August. Because of this leadership, we all learned more about Tol Island. To the youth, you all did an amazing job and served as



wonderful role models. We were all very proud of you.

Another highlight was the music! To

this day, I am still singing the Great Bible Reef Theme song! Under the direction of Barbara Zacheis, the band played some "cool tunes"



that helped to introduce the theme for the night, and got everyone energized and ready for fun. To the members of the band, THANK YOU for your talent and abundance of energy!

I want to thank everyone who contributed something to the program (planning, setting up, cleaning up, donating food, etc.). Thank you for showing our children and youth, through your efforts, how "God's people care, God's people, help, God's people trust, and God's people listen. Together we made Great Bible Reef vacation bible school a huge success and provided a lasting positive impact on our community. Thank you!



New Members Class

Pastor Lori will hold a 3-week Inquirer's class for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of new Hempstead Presbyterian Church. It will be held Sundays, September 16, 23 and 30 in the sanctuary at 12:30 PM. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, October 7 (which is also World Communion Sunday.) Please contact Pastor Lori if you have any questions.



Have Breakfast with Us

Meet for Breakfast

Come enjoy breakfast and conversation with us on Saturday morning. The Men's and Women's breakfast groups are starting up for the fall. We meet at 8 AM at the City Line Family Restaurant at 258 South Main Street in New City.

The Men are meeting Saturday, September 29 and the Women on Saturday, October 6.

Both gatherings are open to anyone who is interested.

Welcome Back Sunday

September 9 will be welcome back Sunday. We will have an outdoor (weather permitting) light lunch to welcome back all our members and friends who have been on vacation. This will be a great time to share our adventures and experiences. Remember, we return to our 11 AM service on this day! Small finger foods are welcomed.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Once again this year, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be participating in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. Boscov's supplies us with discount tickets to sell to friends, family members and neighbors for \$5 each. A ticket enables the purchaser to receive a 25% discount on purchases made on Tuesday, October 16.

Last year the program raised over \$100,000 for churches and other organizations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Maryland and Virginia.

Please support the church by buying and using a ticket to Boscov's Friends Helping Friends day.

Is your committee or church group doing anything this year? Tell us about it in the **Carriage Stone**. There's always a deadline coming up soon.



Sunday, September 9

Sunday School registration at 10:30 AM
Return to 11 AM Worship services
Welcome Back Luncheon after Worship

Sunday, September 16

New Member's class starts after Worship

Monday, September 17

Monday evening study group resumes 8PM

Saturday, September 29

Men's Breakfast 8 AM, City Line

Saturday, October 6

Women's Breakfast 8 AM, City Line

Sunday, October 7

World Communion Sunday
New Members join NHPC during Worship

Tuesday, October 16

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day



If you have a milestone to report, send it to Sylvia Miller at gsmiller98@optonline.net. Submissions should be about a paragraph in length.

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**Morgan Blue Deevy and Christopher W. Harris** joined in marriage at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 14. Morgan is the daughter of **Kathleen** and **Richard Deevy** and sister of **Ian Deevy**.

Morgan's very good friend, **Katie Ciruelos**, was not able to attend due to another commitment:

**Victoria Rae Ciruelos** was born July 14; she weighed 10 lbs. 6 oz. and was 22 inches long. Victoria is the daughter of former member **Katie (Breidenbach)** and **Carlos Ciruelos**, and the granddaughter of **Andy** and **Stella Breidenbach**.

**Sandy** and **Ernie Miller's** daughter, **Kristy**, and son-in-law **Michael Collins**, had their twins on July 6. **Anna Mneme Collins** weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz. and **Drew Milonas Collins** weighed 4 lbs. 6 oz. Everyone is doing well.

**Annabella Panaro** spent a week in Costa Rica on a mission trip building a childcare facility. We hope to hear about her adventure.



In Memory of Pat McDowell

On Mother's Day 2007, Pat McDowell lost her battle with cancer. Many of you will recall the happy faced, gray-haired lady who valiantly climbed our stairs to the choir loft to play the organ. Before we were blessed with Kryste Andrews there were many times when Pat graciously answered our pleas for an organist. And for those of us who got to know her, all the sadder are our hearts for the loss of this musically talented genteel lady.

Pat was a long-time member and past President of the Morning Music Club—a Rockland organization founded in 1924 by a group of ladies in Nyack. Over the years, the mission of the Club has grown to serve as a cultural, educational and charitable organization. Since 1950, the Club has held annual scholarship auditions for musically talented Rockland County high school seniors who plan to continue their music studies in college or conservatory. Pat was instrumental in helping many students realize their musical goals.

The Club has received donations in her name for a scholarship fund. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to **Morning Music Club**, with the note **Pat McDowell Memorial Scholarship Fund**. All contributions (which are fully tax deductible) may be sent to me:

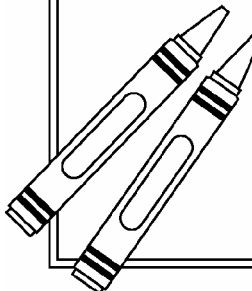
Bernice Rice Gerstein, Treasurer  
Morning Music Club  
4 Baltic Court  
New City, New York 10956-7002

On behalf of all the students who have benefited from this scholarship program, and in fond memory of Pat McDowell, I sincerely thank you.



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

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**SEPTEMBER 2007**



**Just for KIDS**

*Apple of Your Eye*

When something is said to be the "apple of your eye," it means it's precious to you and you would protect it as you would your own eye. With school starting up again, we should remember God's instructions in Proverbs 7:2: "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye" (NIV).

Find and circle the word "apple" 13 times in the puzzle below. It can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even backward.

