

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.

# October 2007

*The Newsletter of  
the English Church*

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“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing  
of the nations.” (Revelation 22:2)



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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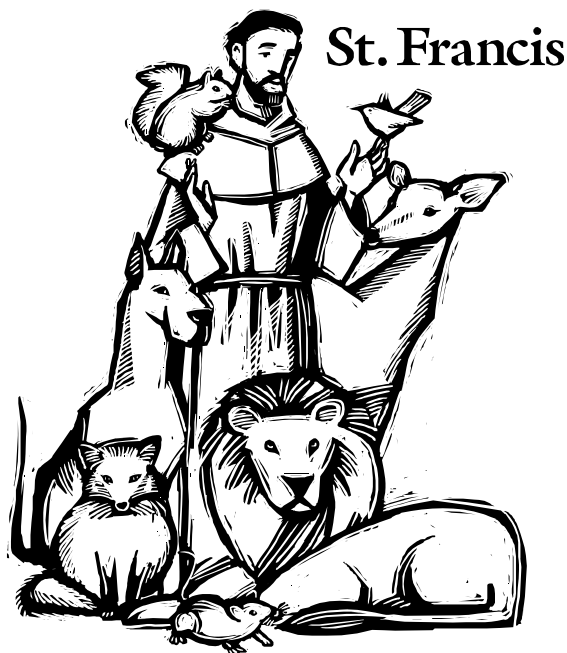
### Next Deadline:

Sunday, October 14

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

## The Blessing of the Animals, or, Everybody Loves St. Francis

It's autumn, and that means back to school, apple cider, and the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Yes, even most Presbyterians know St. Francis, known in many Christian traditions as the Patron Saint of Animals. Francis was born of very wealthy parent in the late twelfth century, in what is now Italy. He embraced a life of voluntary poverty, and eventually founded the Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans. Most Protestants know of St. Francis because of his love for all creatures. Today, with a planet facing grave dangers from climate change, he is also known as the patron of the environment. We can learn from his example of care for all of God's creation, as well as from the song attributed to him.



## FROM THE PASTOR

All Creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thou burning sun with golden beam  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
Alleluia!

For Francis, all of Creation praises the Lord.

Francis' reverence for God's creation, especially animals, is remembered on his feast day (the day he died, or his "heavenly birthday") October 4. For those with pets, we know what joy they bring to our lives. I personally learn a lot about trusting God by observing the way my cats trust me to feed them.

We will commemorate the life of this Saint here at New Hempstead with a special worship service, the Blessing of the Animals, on Saturday, October 6, at 4 PM. Bring your small pets, on leashes or in cages, to church for a brief service of thanksgiving to God for the joy and companionship our pets bring us, followed by a blessing on each animal individually.

Blessings,



## 2007 Peacemaking Offering

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

### Sunday, October 7

*“And the leaves of the tree are for the  
healing of the nations”*  
(Revelation 22:2)

## 2007 Peacemaking Offering

**“And the leaves of the tree are for the  
healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2)**

From Janine M. Kallé  
Chair, Mission and Outreach

This year’s Peacemaking Offering theme is taken from a verse in the book of Revelation. The verse is part of a larger description of John’s vision of the New Jerusalem. One of the images John uses is the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit and leaves that are to be used for the healing of all the nations of the world. It is an image of a world at peace, with enough for everyone to eat and the “medicine” to heal all the wounds and illnesses of humankind.

We live in the hope of that vision of peace and well being expressed so vividly in the tree of life. The Peacemaking Offering is a tool of our efforts to live and work within that hope. You are invited to be a part of the work for peace in our world and to have our congregation receive the Peacemaking Offering as one way to work toward peace.

The Peacemaking Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The 192nd General Assembly (1980) of the former United Presbyterian



Church in the United States of America called for an offering to be received to support peacemaking initiatives and peace education throughout the church when it adopted the recommendations in the report “Peacemaking: The Believers’ Calling.”

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church on World Communion Sunday, October 7, will receive the Peacemaking Offering. It is recommended that each congregation retain 25 percent of the Offering received, 25 percent be used by synods and presbyteries, and 50 percent be used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering. The Mission & Outreach committee of NHPC has designated our portion be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Our goal is \$750 and we ask you to pray and give generously to this Peacemaking effort.

## Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends

Join us on Tuesday, October 16 as we again participate in Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends event. This activity is beneficial to our community and congregation. Last year we raised hundreds of dollars. Boscov’s supplies us with as many \$5 tickets as we need, free of charge – you sell the tickets to family, co-workers, friends and neighbors. Everyone who purchases a ticket will receive a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made only on Friends Helping Friends day in Boscov’s stores – October 16. Our congregation will keep the \$5 from every ticket sold. Those who purchase the tickets will easily recoup the \$5 purchase price through savings realized on Friends Helping Friends day.

Volunteers will be needed to sit at Boscov’s and sell tickets on Tuesday, October 16. Please let us know if you are available. Tickets will be available soon.

## Buildings and Grounds Notes

From Pam Fink

### Colonial Room Renovations

As you've probably noticed, the Colonial Room continues to evolve into a more and more beautiful space. We began the work with Wendy Keryk's phenomenal vision for what the room could become.



Through the efforts of Mark Zacheis, Stephen Adom, Wendy Keryk, Marian Maroney, Jack Landers, Zaida Landers and myself, the old wallpaper is gone, much of the painting is done on the walls and woodwork and the ceiling is primed

and ready for painting. When the painting is finished, we plan to have the carpet removed and the wood floor refinished.

Over the next few weeks, we will be adding some finishing touches to the room. This will include installing bulletin boards for everyone to use when they want to post information. We ask that you please, *please, please* refrain from taping or tacking things to the painted walls or door surfaces and use the bulletin boards instead. We want our great paint job to stay looking lovely for at least another 20 years.

If you have a little spare time on Saturday mornings and would like to help in the remodeling effort, feel free to drop by and we'll put a paintbrush in your hand.



### Sprucing up the Church

A couple of weeks ago we had the RFC painters come and re-paint the front of the church. What a difference it made! They scraped, sanded and painted the front face, doors and shutters. They also painstakingly re-glazed the

windows and re-stained the front stoop. They even painted the steeple, which hasn't been done for a number of years. (I'm just glad that I wasn't



drafted for *that* job). The next time you're headed in or out of the sanctuary, take a minute to look at the front of the building. It's a beautiful thing.



### NHPC Recycles

From Wendy Keryk and the Deacons

Please help us to help our planet. After service, take your bulletin home with you and put it in your newspaper-recycling bin. Or, better yet - enjoy fellowship and a cup of coffee or tea and treats in the Colonial Room, and where you will find three bins for:

Clean Paper	YELLOW
Plastic and glass	GREEN
All other stuff	BROWN



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

At the birth of **Corey James Paloskey** on August 8, **Barbara Hurley** became a great-great-grandmother. All five generations are doing well.

The congregation offers sincere sympathy to **Jocelyne Daniel** and her family on the death of her sister-in-law.

Sincere sympathy is extended to **Lisa Dewey** and family on the death of her father-in-law.

Our sincere sympathy surrounds **Vanessa Greenwald** and her family on the death of her stepmother.

### From The Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

I hope that everyone had a good summer and was able to fit some vacation time away from it all in. Welcome back to the fall and to the Church. Thanks to all of you who were able to keep your pledges up to date over the summer months. To those of you who might have fallen behind, now is a wonderful time to catch yourself up. Pledge Statements will be sent out at the beginning of October, so why not take the time between now and then to get yourself back in balance. If you need to know where you stand, please be sure to ask me. Thank you for your continued support.

*Letters from our Members*



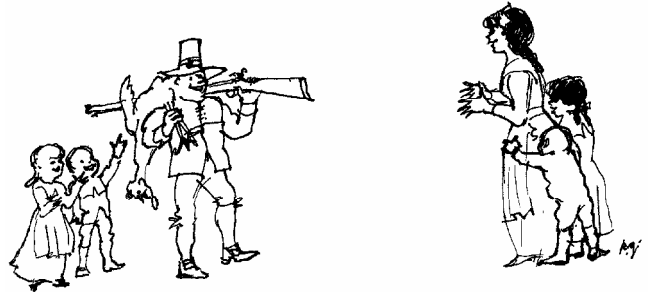
Bill and I hoped to be back in church by now but we can't let any more time go by without thanking you all for your loving and generous help to us.

Your visits, our conversation and laughter were a real joy.

Please come again.

Our Love to you all,

Lois and Bill Mauriello



### Thanksgiving Baskets

At Thanksgiving, the Deacons organize the collection of food for the needy of Rockland County. Each Sunday leading up to Thanksgiving, the congregation brings in certain non-perishable foods to make up the baskets. Monetary donations to pay for perishables such as turkeys, fruits and vegetables are also welcome.

The details were not available at press time, so watch the bulletin through the month of October for the schedule of what foods to bring on what Sunday. You can also prepare by saving paper and plastic shopping bags to use in packing the food.

## Inter-religious academic experiment brings Indonesian Muslims, Christians together

By Bernie Adeney-Risakotta  
PC(USA) mission worker in Indonesia

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia — Mytha has a ready, shy smile and wears conservative Muslim dress. With a background in literary criticism from Melbourne, she wrote her M.A. thesis on religion, culture and modernity in Islamic poetry.

Leo is an Indonesian engineer who left a successful career in computers to study theology in a Presbyterian supported university. He wrote a brilliant M.Th. thesis on the symbolic role of Jews in Islam. He teaches Hebrew to theology students.

Ferry is a Muslim Batak from Sumatra with a critical mind and a sharp pen. Expert in Qur'an studies and fluent in Arab, he studied in Egypt and America.

Yohanes teaches philosophy at a Catholic university. He is a friendly, relaxed philosopher, who asks deep questions. He holds an M.A. in Peace Studies from Notre Dame.

Inayah teaches Islamic studies at a Muslim university. With an M.A. in anthropology from Arizona State, she is a strong and gentle leader who does research on Islamic movements and gender studies.

What do these students have in common? They are among the ten Muslim and five Christian Ph.D. students who are gathering for the inaugural program of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogya).

Our great experiment is finally beginning.

In Yogyakarta, secular, Muslim and Christian universities are co-sponsoring a revolutionary new approach to studying religions. It is not a secular program that studies religions "objectively." Nor is it a mono-religious

approach that studies religions from a particular Muslim or Christian perspective. Nor is it a multi-religious, comparative religious studies program that focuses on the differences and similarities between religions. ICRS-Yogya does not attempt to find the lowest common denominator that unites all religions.

Rather, ICRS-Yogya is inter-religious. Sincere believers of different faiths study religions together. The 30 professors from three universities teach in pairs. A Muslim and a Christian professor teach each doctoral seminar from different academic backgrounds. They share their different perspectives and try to understand each other.

They use social and human sciences to research the impact of religious communities in the world. But they also take divine revelation and the normative teachings of their different religions seriously.

The potential of ICRS-Yogya is staggering.

We are training people who will be among the top educators and religious leaders in a country of 220 million people. More than that, we are linking them into global networks where they can have an international impact for inter-religious reconciliation. Our students will spend at least six months in another country.

However, the challenges are equally staggering.

As our vision expanded into detailed plans for a world-class institution, the challenges grew exponentially. The challenges are spiritual, intellectual, organizational, financial, political and moral. We live in a country of rapid social change and growing religious extremism.

Yet amid sensational reports of violence and disaster, we believe God is doing a great thing in our midst.

For more information, see our website:  
<http://www.icrs.ugm.ac.id/>

