



# The Carriage Stone

April 2008

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.  
The English Church



## Pastor

Pastor's Message ..... 2-3

## Committee Reports

From the Deacons ..... 3

Capital Campaign ..... 3-4

## Life of the Church

Thanks ..... 3

Church Officers Ordained ..... 3

"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of



**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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## Who Were Those People?

It has come to my attention that many folks were concerned about the visit of the Cooperative Leadership Team from Presbytery last month. Some felt that the Presbytery of Hudson River was sending the Inquisition to New Hempstead. Some even mistook them for a Pulpit Nominating Committee from another Church! Let me say now: I'm not going anywhere! I do apologize for any misunderstanding—my assumption was that folk would remember what used to be called triennial visits—where the Committee on Ministry sends its representatives to churches once every three years to see how the Presbytery can be of more service to the Congregation. But I've found out that that hasn't been happening regularly in Hudson River Presbytery, so folk didn't remember it.

*Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.\**

So, who *were* those people? First of all, the Presbytery is not a “them”; it's an “us.”

Just as those of you who joined New Hempstead Presbyterian Church are members of this congregation, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Presbytery of the Hudson River. In our denomination's polity, government is structured connectionally—the session is the decision-making body for the congregation, and it sends commissioners (in our case, Elder Ed Garcia and me) to Presbytery. The

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\* That's Latin for “Sorry; my bad.”



## FROM THE PASTOR

presbytery makes sends commissioners to Synod and to General Assembly (now held every other year).

The folk from the cooperative Leadership Gathering are elders and ministers of Word and Sacrament who came as members of the Presbyterian family of faith, not to stir up trouble, but to find out what God is doing in the New Hempstead part of God's vineyard. I think I can speak for all, the elders and deacons present from our congregation when I say that this was a joy-filled opportunity to let the Presbytery know just how much we love each other here at NHPC, and what a privilege it is to serve God in this part of the world.

A few Sundays ago, Vanessa Greenwald read the summary of the ideas and opinions of the Elders and Deacons of New Hempstead, taken from that meeting. Following is a copy of that summary:

We feel “finally” that we are here and we are beloved and love one another. We are drawn here and to each other. We are loving and accepting of each other. We understand our differences, which we do not allow to become divisions. We work together in a purpose driven “vortex” through a visible outpouring of “peace” and acceptance. Therefore, we trust one another; we support each other in our works and mission.

Because of the foundation of trust and acceptance, we welcome the diversity of our community knowing that all can be part of our family home. This home is where we raise our children and develop their character so

that they carry this faith with them and spread the “word” in their community.

Our wish is to have members who share their talent through outreach and evangelism in our community. This will make us grow in our community. Hopefully, we can translate our mission to draw a continued diversity to our church and provide a foundation for continued growth.

We are going to keep on keepin’ on!

We are blessed as a community of faith to be a part of the PC, USA. And we look forward to an even greater role in the life and witness of Hudson River Presbytery.



Congratulations and thanks to Vanessa Greenwald who was ordained and installed as an Elder of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 2.

### Thanks

Thanks to Kryste Andrews and the Choir for preparing special music for Palm Sunday Worship. Also, I enjoyed the congregation’s opportunity to sing along with the offertory.

Many thanks to Stony Point Center for the loan of their banners, depicting the Great Ends of the Church, which illustrated our Lenten Worship services.



### BOARD of DEACONS

#### From the Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank all of our friends who participated in the recent fundraiser. Through your help and generosity, we continue to add to the refurbishing of the Colonial Room. A special thank you to Margo Igneri and Frank Ehlermann for their guidance and direction in this project.

Thank you to Shirley Martignetti for donating a beautiful table and to Janine Kallé for giving the wing chair, artwork and a mirror with which to decorate our Colonial room.

We truly appreciate their generosity and good taste!

#### Our Endeavor to “Preserve and Serve” Capital Campaign

##### Preserve

Our church is conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for capital improvements to our property. The list of projects we’d like to take care of includes

1. Church building improvements include the renovation of the Colonial Room, church office, choir robe room and pastor’s study. We also need to remove the asbestos in the basement and replace the carpet in the sanctuary.

2. Murchison Hall improvements include remodeling the bathrooms and the kitchen, replacing the north and south exterior doors, building storage cabinets for our users, ceiling insulation and air conditioning.
3. Manse improvements include remodeling the bathrooms, a new heating system, a new roof, and painting the porch.
4. Property improvements include tree trimming, painting the barn, and a new parking lot at the north end of the property.

### **Serve**

There is a mission component to the campaign. As we are raising funds to remodel and build new at home, we are also raising funds to build outside of our home. Five percent of the funds raised will be dedicated to mission projects. The guidelines set by Session are (1) that they in some way be used to construct something and (2) that our funds have a significant impact on the projects funded. The responsibility for selecting the projects to fund has been given to the Mission Committee and the hope is that they can be spread into local, national and international components. We also hope to find projects that we can give of our time as well as our money.

### **The Campaign Process**

The capital campaign committee was commissioned during the Sunday service on March 9. You are already starting to hear more about the campaign during the Minute for Mission. The brochure for the campaign has been printed and will be mailed to your homes soon, if it hasn't already. Planning for the all-church dinner is already in progress. We are well underway.

We have scheduled the all-church dinner for Saturday, May 3 at 6 PM in Murchison Hall. Save the date and be aware that someone will be calling you and inviting you to attend. It is not a

potluck dinner, you will not be asked to bring a dish or help out in the kitchen. It is an evening to kick back, enjoy some homegrown entertainment and be caught up on the progress of the campaign.

This campaign includes an all-member visitation. Committee members will be calling and asking people to serve as visiting stewards, that is, folks to go to other people's homes, visit with them, and ask them to fill out a pledge card. This will take place on May 4. That morning during the service of Worship, those folks will be commissioned and sent on their way. We encourage you to accept the invitation if called to be a visiting steward. If not called, we encourage you to make plans to be home that afternoon and to welcome the visiting stewards in.

### **Your Gift**

We are asking each family unit to prayerfully consider pledging five percent of your annual income to the church campaign, to be paid over a three-year period. This is above and beyond your regular church pledge. Some will be able to give more and some will not be able to give as much, but we hope that each will give according to his means and to the best of her ability. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$250,000, which means that each of us has to commit to doing our part. No one person can do this on their own, but all of us can do this together. Start thinking about your commitment now, so that when the visiting steward comes to call you will be ready.

I encourage you to ask questions about this capital campaign and to talk it up with your fellow church friends. We want an open dialogue and a full understanding of the goals of the campaign long before May 4 arrives.

Mark Zacheis  
The Capital Campaign

