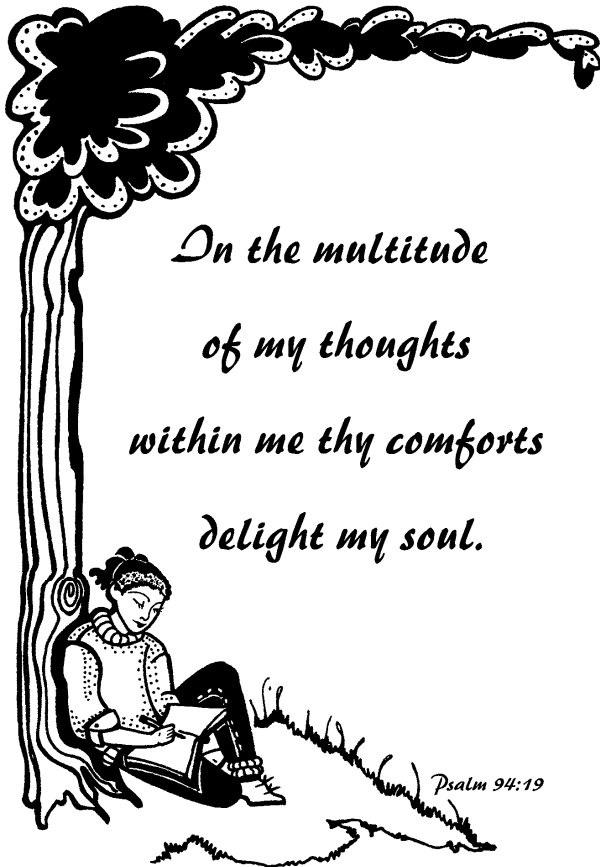


# The Carriage Stone

June 2008

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



*In the multitude  
of my thoughts  
within me thy comforts  
delight my soul.*

*Psalm 94:19*

See the Pastor's Column for some suggested summer reading

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of  
**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**  
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## Some Books for a Summer Read

Summer's almost here, and with it comes (we all hope) some more leisure time. As a pastor, it is my great joy to get to read books that inform my life and work as a preacher and teacher. I'm also always happy to hear from you all as to what books you are reading, and how they are speaking to you about your life, and the life of faith. With that in mind, here are a few of my book suggestions for building a summer reading list.

### **A Whole New Life**

Reynolds Price (Non-fiction)

In 1984, Southern writer Reynolds Price found out he had a cancerous tumor growing inside his spine. Surgery and radiation took care of the cancer, but left him paralyzed. This book is the story of his coming to terms with what his "whole new life" might mean for him and his vocation as a writer, as well as his relationships with those in his life. An inspiring read.

### **Crazy Talk**

Rolf A. Jacobson, editor (Non-fiction)

A wonderfully, reverently irreverent dictionary of many classic theological terms. Sample: "Church: The people whom God has formed—like Adam in the book of Genesis—out of the mud, muck and mire of

human nature." If ever there was a fun dictionary, this is it!

### **Prayers for a Privileged People**

Walter Brueggemann (Non-fiction)

As the title states, this is a book of prayers for people like us: far more privileged than we care to admit. Brueggemann invites us to stop our striving for the American Dream (or stop trying so hard to protect it if we've achieved it) and place ourselves in the presence of God who desires a life for us, and for all people, in which abundance cannot be measured in dollars.



### **The Milagro Beanfield War**

John Nichols (Fiction)

A charming novel about a feisty, chronically under-employed New Mexican who illegally taps into an irrigation canal to water his father's ancient beanfield. The book was first published in 1974, and is perhaps even more important today as water, the lack of it, and questions of who owns it take on new urgency in light of climate change. (If you don't want to commit to 600+ pages, rent

# FROM THE PASTOR

the Robert Redford-directed movie from the late 80's—it's a gentle delight!)

## **The Bean Trees**

Barbara Kingsolver (Fiction)

Uplifting novel about a young woman who leaves behind a dead-end life in rural Kentucky to go West. Along the way, she inherits a badly abused little girl. This is the story of how they build a life together. It is a lovely meditation on what makes a group of people a community.



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## **Thank You!**

Thank you all so much for the wonderful surprise coffee hour you gave Howard and me for our 25th Wedding anniversary. The deacons obviously worked very hard, and it was a delicious meal.

We are so blessed to be able to share our lives with you, our church family. Thank you again for your love and support.

Blessings,

Lori and Howard



## **New Hempstead Presbyterian Church Prayer Committee**

Sylvia L. Pridgen



The Capital Campaign Prayer Group will continue on an on-going basis to seek to know and serve God (Colossians 1:10-12). The prayer partners are praying every evening at 9 PM and after the Sunday Worship Service. If you wish to join or have a specific prayer request, please do so by contacting any of us. The names of the prayer partners are listed in the May *Carriage Stone*. There is also a list with the names and telephone numbers on the bulletin board in the Colonial Room.

## **Flowers!**

From Barbara Zacheis

I hope that you have noticed how beautiful the sanctuary looks with a lovely flower arrangement up front each week. You, too, can sponsor one of those flower arrangements, and then enjoy it for the rest of the week at home! Here's how: Sign up for an available Sunday on the flower calendar in the Colonial Room (opposite the choir robe room) and put \$30 in the collection plate (labeled "flowers"). Honor someone's birthday, an anniversary, a remembrance of a loved-one. Your intention will be printed in the bulletin that week. Then, remember to take your flowers home after the service!



## Report of the Capital Campaign

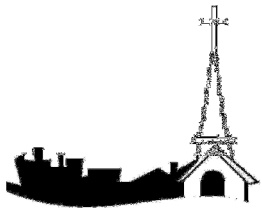
Mark Zacheis

For those of you who missed it, the campaign dinner on May 3 was a wonderful time. Under a canopy of Hawaiian shirts and other delightful decorations, we shared dinner and were treated to Howard and the Pips, Sue killing that chicken, Joe and his coconuts and other very special entertainment.

We also heard our CFCS consultant Tony Booth speak about our campaign. He correctly pointed out over the past 274 years members who preceded us not only worshipped in this place but were good stewards of the property, ensuring that future generations would have a place to worship as well. He noted that the Colonial Room was built and dedicated during the height of the Great Depression, through our predecessors' generous support. This is what this campaign is about – ensuring our property's continued viability into the future.

Our current congregation is no less generous, and after a commissioning service the next morning, our stewards fanned out across the county to visit each family and ask them to make a commitment to the campaign.

I am pleased to report positive response to and strong support of the campaign. The follow-up committee is still working on getting to everyone, so if you have not yet been contacted, be patient and we will reach you. Better yet, you



### Endeavor to Preserve and Serve

can contact us. After we have all of the pledges in, we will report the results. I am even more pleased to report that more than fifty people got involved in the campaign process, giving of their time and working on some portion of it. Folks got to know others that they may have only known from Sunday's Passing of the Peace.

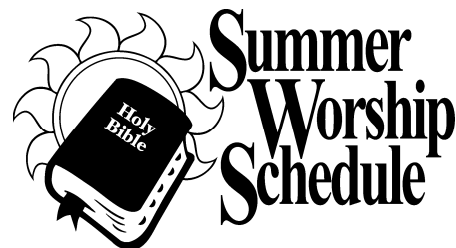


And everybody had a good time at the dinner. As a church community, we need to build on this, through more fun social events in the future.

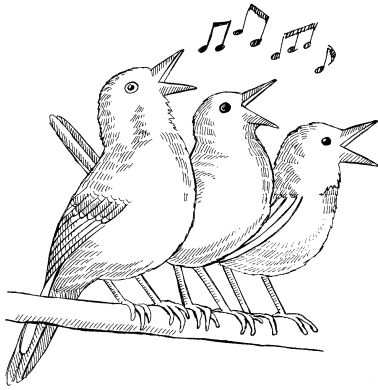
You can start paying your pledge right now. We have offering envelopes on order but they have not yet arrived. As soon as they come in, they'll be in the Narthex.

The first project to be worked on will be the completion of the Colonial Room remodeling, and we hope to begin the final phase in the next few weeks.

Thank again to all of you who provided your time to running the campaign, and thanks to all who have made a commitment to it.



Starting June 15, Worship services will move to their summer time of 10 AM. If you forget, just go directly to coffee hour, scan the bulletin to find out whom to thank for special music and enjoy some fellowship.



## Rockland Opera Performance

Rockland Opera will be presenting "Famous Scenes from Verismo Operas" in the sanctuary of our

church on Sunday, June 22 at 4:30PM featuring Rockland Opera's beloved singers. (Please note the date change). As usual, tickets for the church family will be at a reduced rate.

## Church Picnic

Spring is here, birds are singing, flowers are blooming. The annual church picnic must be just around the corner. Not much is available at press time, but save the date, June 8, just in case. You can expect food, fellowship and fun with an opportunity to share your favorite dishes and to invite your friends and family to join us.



## A Poet Among Us

Barbara Hurley has just published a book of poetry, *No Hurry Now*. It will be available for purchase in the next month. We will be scheduling a poetry reading with Barbara, and perhaps her writing group, the Ramapo Poet's Society, in the near future. We can't wait to read it, Barbara! Congratulations!

## 2008 Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference

### Sowing Mustard Seeds: Working for God's Justice — Confronting Poverty

July 15-19

Chapman University  
Orange, California



Today globalization creates new forms of poverty with more extreme disparities between the rich and the poor. The annual income of the richest 1 percent is equal to that of the poorest 57 percent, and 24,000 people die each day from poverty and malnutrition. The majority of those in poverty are women and children. The number of people living in absolute poverty on less than one dollar per day continues to increase (Accra Confession. World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2004). In 2006, as many as 36.5 million people in the United States lived in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau).

Jesus calls us to be aware of the systems that impoverish people and, through the parable of the mustard seed, teaches us of the power of small acts of peaceful resistance to crack those systems open.

To find out more about the 2008 Peacemaking Conference, visit:

[pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking/conferences/2008.htm)

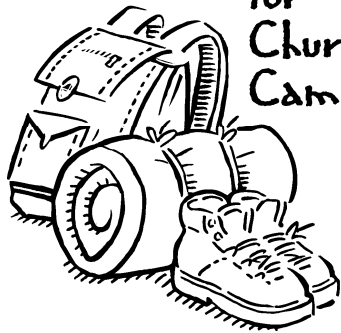


Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.  
-Amos 5:24

## Summer Is Just Around The Corner! Have You Registered For Camp Yet?

With summer fast approaching, camp is just around the corner! Plans are well underway for another great summer at Holmes and we want you to be a part of the fun. The programs this summer have something for everyone—outrageous games, creative worship, fun in the lake, new friends, cookouts, campfires and conversations that will help you discover what God is doing in your life. Many camps fill early so register today!

If you have any questions, please contact the Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center office at [Holmes@HolmesCamp.org](mailto:Holmes@HolmesCamp.org) or (845) 878-6383.



Sign up  
for  
Church  
Camp

## Join us in prayer for survivors of recent disasters

Tornadoes in the United States, a cyclone in Myanmar, and an earthquake in China — all within the past few days and all with deadly and devastating outcomes. Thousands upon thousands of people have lost their lives. Literally millions have been affected directly and are at ongoing risk for diseases and other adversities in the aftermath.

To have one such disaster is overwhelming; to have so many in such a short period of time is beyond comprehension.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding to these disasters in several ways by working with our overseas church partners, as well as presbyteries and congregations here at home, to

offer immediate, on the ground help and prepare for long-term assistance.

Please join us in prayer for the countless people affected by these disasters: those killed or injured and their families, those who await word on the missing, those left homeless, on-site rescue workers, medical personnel, chaplains and pastors, congregations, relief agencies, government officials, and so many more.

Explanations are impossible and words themselves seem so difficult to come by when such heart-wrenching tragedies happen. Yet, it is through the words of the Psalmist that we are reminded of the constant and abiding presence of God:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult ...

“Be still, and know that I am God ....”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

(Ps. 46, selected)

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you.

Cliff Kirkpatrick  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Linda Bryant Valentine  
Executive Director, General Assembly Council



