



# The Carriage Stone

Summer 2008

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



## Blood Drive

Blood Drive

Sunday, Aug 3, 12-3 PM

in the Colonial Room.

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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Sunday, August 10

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or e-mail to

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## On Prayer

The following quote was recently used in the newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, in Savannah Ga., where I grew up. It really got me thinking.

We believe prayer is something we should do, even something we want to do, but it seems like a chasm stands between us and actually praying. We experience the agony of prayerlessness. We are not quite sure what holds us back. Of course, we are busy with work and family obligations, but that is only a smoke screen. Our busyness seldom keeps us from eating or sleeping or making love. No, there is something deeper, more profound keeping us in check.... But for now, there is one “something” that needs our immediate attention. It is the notion—almost universal among us high achievers—that we have to get everything “just right” in order to pray.

This quote, from Richard Foster, *Prayer*, reminds us that not only do we not have to get everything “just right” before we pray, we will never (this side of God’s reign) have everything right to begin with! God isn’t concerned with how we look, or even what mood we are in before we come to God in prayer. God just wants us—who we are at the moment. I once heard a story about an interviewer who had two separate meetings with God. At the end of the first interview, she asked if there was anything God would like to say to God’s people. God said, “Tell my people I love them.”



## FROM THE PASTOR

A few months later, the reporter went back for a second interview with God. Before leaving, she again asked if there was anything God would have her tell God’s people. God’s answer? “Tell my people I miss them.”

Could it be that God misses us when we don’t spend time with God? Henri Nouwen said, “What is prayer but simply being with Jesus, wasting time with him?” In Christ, God longs to be our companion through this journey of life. The goal of prayer is not to get God to do our bidding, the goal is to “waste some time” with God that we may become more like Jesus, who prayed for God’s will to be done.

Often, prayer does have some results. Fanny Crosby, the blind hymn writer, once welcomed a young composer into her home. The woman was playing a tune on the organ, and turned to see Crosby kneeling in prayer. She played her tune a second, then a third time. At that point, Crosby rose from her knees and began dictating verses to go with the music. The result was the hymn, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.”

May we all make time in our days to place ourselves in the presence of God in prayer. Perhaps God misses us when we’re away.

Summer blessings to you all,





# Peacemaking Offering

## The 2008 Peacemaking Offering

Break the Bread of New Creation

Then they told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

(Luke 24:35-36)

"Break the bread of new creation Where the world is still in pain."

(from "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" by Brian Wren. Copyright © 1986 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

The first time the risen Christ broke bread, according to the Gospel of Luke, was in Emmaus with two of his followers. Brokenhearted, the



two did not recognize him as they walked together from Jerusalem to Emmaus and talked about their master's death on a cross three days earlier. Here, in the words of the hymn "Christ Is Risen! Shout

Hosanna!" was a place "where the world is still in pain." The two followers did not know him until he blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to them. He then disappeared, but the joy and peace he gave them did not. Though it was late, they retraced their steps the seven miles to Jerusalem, where they found the disciples and shared their good news of seeing him alive. As they tried to make sense of the latest developments, Christ appeared to them and offered his blessing: "Peace be with you."

Christ continues to reveal himself and offer us his peace whenever and wherever bread is broken and eaten in his name. Just as he offered bread and peace to those broken by the forces of hatred and destruction, we, Christ's people, are to carry the reality of peace to the places and people in pain.

Please keep in mind that 50% of this offering is given to the entire Presbyterian Denomination for distribution, 25% is given to the Hudson River Presbytery for their designated Peace mission and 25% remains for NHPC to allocate. The mission committee will be meeting to determine where our portion will be used.

In accordance with the action of the 217th General Assembly, congregations are being asked to consider directing a portion or all of their 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering as a faithful Christian response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Sunday, October 5, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be receiving and dedicating the Peacemaking Offering. We ask that you pray about this and join the congregation in giving generously toward Peace on this day.

Prayerfully,

Janine M. Kallé,  
Chair, Mission & Outreach

## Vacation Bible School

This year VBS (Vacation Bible School) is in “God’s Big Backyard”! Come join the fun as we sing, dance, laugh, do arts and crafts, listen to bible stories and get involved with some hands on local mission projects. Don’t miss out. This summer, VBS is the place to be!



Dates: August 4, 5, 6 and 7  
(Monday – Thursday)

Where: Germonds  
Presbyterian Church

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

## A Baby Shower

From the Deacons

The Deacons invite you to participate in a “Baby Shower” during the months of June and July. In an effort to expand community outreach, baby items, new and gently used, will be donated to the Nyack Resource Center to be distributed to needy expectant mothers.

Boxes decorated in pink and blue can be found in the Colonial Room. All that you have to do is leave your gifts there and the Deacons will see that the items reach the Center sometime in August.

Items that would be greatly appreciated by mothers to be include:

- clothing
- bibs
- crib sheets
- blankets
- disposable  
diapers
- toiletries



What's happening at  
New Hempstead Church over  
the summer for families and  
kids?  
**LOTS!**

This month we kick off an exciting new year with “Family night at the movies.” Kick back, relax with some fresh made popcorn, or maybe ice cream is more of your comfort food. We’ll have that too. Come and share a night with your family and friends.

Don’t be the only one missing out on all of the fun!

Event: Movie night at New Hempstead  
Presbyterian Church

Movie: **Meet the Robinson’s**

Date: **Friday July 18**

Time: **7:30 PM**

## Help Save a Life

Participate in Blood Drive Sunday, Aug 3,  
12–3 PM in the Colonial Room. Mark your  
calendars and invite a friend.

There is no substitute for human blood.



## Square Dancing

Do you remember seeing Nancy Jacobs walking through the Colonial Room, dressed up in a square dance outfit after one Sunday worship service last year? Well, YOU don't have to

wear that gear in order to take advantage of the FREE INTRODUCTORY square dances, which run from June thru October on the 2nd Friday of each month (7:30 to 8:30 PM).

You and your friends can experience the joy of square dancing FOR FREE on those nights. No experience is necessary, nor is a partner. You'll be away from your kids for only an hour—unless you bring them with you.

The dances are held at the West Nyack firehouse dance hall.

42 Strawtown Road  
West Nyack NY 10994

(If you let Nancy know you're going, she'll meet you there...)

## Ten Excuses Not to Donate Blood

### 1. "I'm afraid to give blood."

Most people are the first time, but if you just take the time (and courage) to make one donation, you'll wonder why you ever hesitated. There's really nothing to it!

### 2. "Other people must be giving enough blood."

You can gamble your life on that assumption, but please don't gamble other people's lives. What a tragic and useless waste it would be if someone died because people did not care enough to donate blood - if they left it for someone else to do.

### 3. "My blood isn't the right type."

Every type is the "right" type. Both rare and common blood types are needed all the time.

### 4. "They wouldn't want my blood because of the illness I've had."

If you have doubts, the staff in the donor center will answer your concern.

### 5. "I don't have any blood to spare."

If you are reasonably healthy, you have 10 to 12 pints in your body. You should be able to give one pint regularly every 56 days (up to 6 times a year) without any problems.

### 6. "My blood isn't rich enough."

Everyone who donates undergoes a mini-physical exam that includes a hemoglobin test for anemia. If you are deferred because of low hemoglobin levels, most people donate another time without any problem.

### 7. "I'm afraid of being turned down."

If you are medically deferred, that's okay. At least you tried. It may only be a temporary deferral, so try again later. The need for blood will never run out.

### 8. "They'll take too much and I'll feel weak."

The amount taken is less than one pint. Besides, your body makes new blood constantly. In fact, the volume you give will be replaced within 24 hours. Most people just continue their usual activities after donating.

### 9. "I didn't realize my blood was needed."

It certainly is. Good Samaritan had transfused more than 4000 units of packed cells last year. To meet the transfusion needs of our patients, 35-40 units of blood are required daily.

### 10. "I'm too busy."

Positively the poorest excuse ever invented. You can make the time, if you really want to. The entire process takes a little more than an hour. A little of your time will save LIVES.

# MILESTONES

**Naomi Philhower**, daughter of **Elaine** and **Bob Philhower** earned full marks (28 of 28) on her trombone solo for NYSSMA. The festival took place May 10 in Kingston. Her parents are very proud of her hard work.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Martignetti** who plays "Tricia" in the cast of the national tour of A Chorus Line. Rehearsals began in NYC in March and the show opened in Denver this May. You can see her headshot by going to [www.achorusline.com](http://www.achorusline.com) and following the links at the top for "tour" and then "cast." She'll be on the west coast for the next few months then come east in the fall for performances in Boston and Philadelphia.

**Bruce Rentz** said farewell to NHPC on Sunday, June 15. His send-off included a musical presentation from the choir and a delightful cake shaped like a piano. We wish him all the best in Arkansas.



**Lori Knight-Whitehouse** and **Howard Whitehouse** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a party after Worship. Below are some photos taken by Liring Nangoi at the event.



