

The Carriage Stone

Summer 2010

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



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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The Peru Pilgrims contemplate a metaphor—at 16,000 feet!

From Chris Shelton's blog about the Peruvian Pilgrimage:



Our drivers are fine – they've been this way before, their bodies adjust fast. Ours don't...but no one has thrown up yet, so we're calling it a win.

We've made our way off the main highway...onto a one-lane winding road of dirt and rocks. It's here that the four-driver scheme suddenly makes sense. Three of the drivers are now out of the bus – clearing the road of the larger stones, and directing the driver as he navigates just inches from the ledge. I won't tell you about the drop, off – this is a family blog.

At our uncertain glances, Jed assures us that this is part of the process.

And then we come to a stop. Something in the road before us is too much a challenge. Reverse will do us no good. Walking – um, no. Time to make a new road. Literally.

I've not been on a bus equipped with a pick-ax and shovel. Not until today, that is.

I think I'm going to jettison the old "stuck in a rut" cliché about the Church. We're not stuck in a rut – we're stalled out on the mountains. We've come along way and the scenery has been beautiful. But, now there's a turn in the road...it isn't paved like it was, and it's gonna be slow going and bumpy for a while. The work of church leaders is to get off the bus, and clear the roadway – to make the path smooth... (have we heard this somewhere before? John, is that you again?), to build up a new road so that we can keep on moving. There's no reverse...and there's no comfy way to walk it. It's get to work, or take the tumble.

Rev. Shelton's metaphor is so apt—it seems that the Body of Christ has sort of stalled out on the mountain. Sometimes, we get so absorbed in the scenery around us, and the warmth of the folks within that we forget that the life of faith is a journey—we are called by Our Lord Jesus to keep moving forward!

We are blessed to have dedicated leaders in this congregation. The Deacons are living out their ministry of sympathy, witness and service—rightfully reminding us that there are folks in our community and world who are hurting. People right around the corner who are hungry, who need the "living waters" that Christ offers to all. And the Deacons do this all while also looking after the congregation: warm and friendly coffee hours every Sunday, phone calls, letters, meals and visits to those who need them

The Session is a group of dedicated Elders who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, dedicated to serving Christ's church. We continue to work hard, not just to keep the bills paid and the lights turned on,

but to guide the congregation in the mission of the Church—to keep the bus moving forward no matter how rocky the road.

On Saturday, June 19, the Session met for a time of training and conversation. The bulk of our talk was around how blessed we are as a congregation and just how many resources God has given us. Among these are:

- Holy Scripture
- Time and talents
- Music program
- Openness to one another
- A tough pastor!
- Faith
- Strength
- Physical plant—our buildings and sanctuary
- One another—the strong, loving community that is New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

What gifts we have in this congregation! What a wonderful community of Saints! In Christ, we have everything we need to fulfill our mission statement:

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

We believe that God calls the members of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church to shepherd one another by:

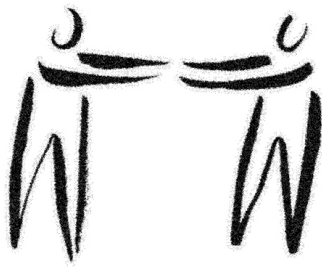
- **Increasing spiritual development in the Christian Faith**
- **Expanding the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ**
- **Working together for the health of our community**

To see our vision become a reality, we must engage in intentional mission.

To this end, may God's work spring forth and flourish.

Please continue to pray with and for this congregation, its leaders, pastor and membership that as we move forward in Christ's service, we navigate all of the rough patches and still take time to enjoy the spectacular scenery!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" with a stylized flourish underneath.



From the Deacons

Thanks to all who so generously contributed to the clothing collection for the fire victims in Spring Valley. Percy Crockett delivered the items to the Martin Luther King Multipurpose Center. Thank you, Percy.

The craft items collected for the “After School Program” at the center were also delivered and a small monetary gift of seventy-five dollars was sent. It is rewarding to help, in some small way, the very worthy community work that the Martin Luther King Center provides.

Summer is here and many of our members will be vacationing and away from home for extended days or weeks. It is important that we do not forget the needs of our friends and church family who need our prayers, our phone calls and visits. The prayer list found in the bulletin is updated with those who need our attention. Please take a few minutes per week to let them know you care.

Capital Campaign

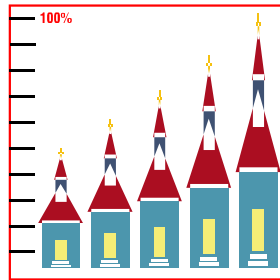
From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

It seems like such a long time ago that we ran the capital campaign, but that was two years ago in April/May of 2008. Over that time period, the church has received over \$100,000 in fulfillment of pledge commitments.

We haven't talked much about the projects that the campaign money is to be used for. Mostly we've talked about the big project of renovating the bathrooms in Murchison Hall. That project is still on, and now that we have accumulated sufficient funds, we're starting the process.

Doing the bathroom renovation is more complicated than any of our other projects. Because we have a childcare group using our space, certain state and local requirements need to be met. We want all of the appropriate agencies to approve the renovation plan before we start – we don't want to complete the renovation, only to find out that the plan is not acceptable and we have to make changes. So to date we've had an architect come in to measure the space and start drawing preliminary plans. Those will be submitted to the authorities for their approval. We are committed to completing the construction by next summer.

There have been other completed projects funded by the capital campaign money. The renovation of the Colonial Room was partially



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

funded by campaign money. Remember that we removed the carpeting, refinished the floor and bought an area rug? There have been other upgrades to Murchison Hall as well, including new energy efficient exterior doors, new basement steps and security improvements. Other projects have included exterior painting, tree trimming and parking lot work.

As we get farther into the bathroom project, we will keep you informed.

Statements of giving covering the first two years (through the end of May 2010) were sent out in the middle of June. Please examine yours and if you find an error, please let me know about it. Giving envelopes have also been placed in the narthex, for those that need them. We tried to save money (and a tree) by only putting out envelopes for those that use them. If you need a box and don't find yours, also please let me know and I'll get you one.

Thank you again for your continued support. Your generosity has allowed us to maintain, modernize and beautify our facilities.



LOCAL MISSIONS

Once again, the members of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church have been generous. Our Pentecost offering raised \$425 to support children at risk, youth and young adults.

Our congregation's contribution to the hunger walk with Germonds Church raised \$800.



The Reverend Dr. Eugenia Lee Hancock died Tuesday, June 1 at her home in Upper Nyack. Dr. Hancock was Professor of Urban Studies and Spirituality at New York Theological Seminary in New York; a founding member of the AIDS Resource Center, now Bailey House, in New York; and a founder of the Nyack Center.

She graduated from Mary Baldwin College and earned her Masters of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary in New York. In 2002, she earned a doctorate at Drew University.

Ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1975, Lee served several churches including New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. More recently, she was the interim head of the Rockland County Day School.

A teacher, leader, lecturer, spiritual advisor, pastor and unique force of nature, Lee Hancock touched many lives and communities. As a tireless advocate of celebrating differences and

promoting tolerance, she spent her life bringing together people of different faiths and beliefs.

To share thoughts and memories, please visit revhancock.com on the web.

[Adapted from *The Journal News*]

In Loving Memory of E. Lee Hancock

From Laura Metallo-Bidon

Lee Hancock passed away on Tuesday, June 1 at home in Upper Nyack, after a long illness. Many at New Hempstead Church remember her as Interim Pastor (1994–95), but our family knew her as the Head of Tim's school, Rockland Country Day School. When I first met Lee at a school event, and introduced myself as a member of New Hempstead Church, a smile came over her face. It was clear that she had a special place in her heart for our church.

Lee also loved Rockland Country Day School – both her daughters went there. She exemplified the very spirit of the school: her kindness, acceptance of all and dedication to each individual child. Her heart was big enough, and her spirit gracious enough, to make everyone feel special and accepted. A teacher, leader, lecturer, spiritual advisor, pastor and unique force of nature, Lee touched many lives and communities. To quote one tribute:

“Lee was a great light. Her absence calls on all of us to glow a little more.”

(D. Brenner)

I count myself blessed to have known her.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is coming August 9–12 at Germonds Presbyterian Church. Classes run from 5:30–7:30 PM. The theme for this year is “Baobab Blast, God’s Great Get Together.” At Baobab Blast, the baobab tree is the central figure—the hub of activity, energy and life. The baobab tree supports and invites community. In fact, the baobab tree is a symbol of community.



The cost is \$5 per person, and volunteers are being sought to help with all aspects of the program—food, crafts,

music, setup, cleanup, etc. Registration deadline is July 31. A registration form is attached to the electronic version of the newsletter. Otherwise, forms are available from Pauline Mattis or the church office.

In addition, you can help by donating supplies. The following supplies are requested:



- Small 8 oz. water bottles
- Juice (no soda, please)
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper napkins
- Disposable plastic tablecloths
- Glue sticks for crafts
- Round wooden chop sticks

Please drop off your donations in the Colonial Room. See Pauline Mattis for details!



Congratulations to Stephanie Martignetti. After a successful run as Maggie in the national tour of *A Chorus Line* (which closes June 13 in Los Angeles), she will join the national tour of *Mary Poppins*. *Mary Poppins* will be in Washington D.C. at the Kennedy Center Opera House July 1 through August 22; Stephanie joins the performance July 13, following 3 weeks of rehearsals. If you see the show there, stop by the stage door and say hi!

Worship, Music and the Arts

Worship, Music & the Arts Committee will meet July 20 at 8 PM in the Colonial Room.