

# The Carriage Stone

September 2010

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



<b>Pastor</b>	
Pastor's Message .....	2
<b>Worship</b>	
Fall Worship Schedule.....	3
Attendance.....	3
<b>Christian Education</b>	
Youth Group Resumes .....	3
<b>Mission</b>	
Local Mission .....	3
Peacemaking Offering.....	5
<b>Life of the Church</b>	
Choir Rehearsal Resumes...	3
Milestones.....	4
Thanks .....	4
Computer Classes .....	5

"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of  
**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**  
 484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956  
**The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor**

**Office:** (845) 354-2372      **E-mail:** office@nhpchurch.org  
**Web:** nhpchurch.org

**Newsletter Editor:**  
 Robert Philhower

**Next Deadline:**  
 Sunday, September 19

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

## The Year of Jubilee



*And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, or reap the aftergrowth, or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces. In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property.*

*Leviticus 25: 10-13*

This month I celebrate my Jubilee year: I will be 49, making September 19 the start of my 50<sup>th</sup> year. (I know—it's confusing!) This auspicious time got me to thinking about “Jubilee”—what does it mean to hallow the fiftieth year? In ancient Israel, it meant to level the playing field: all debts were to be cancelled and the land was allowed to rest, to lie fallow. It was about return: return to your property, return to your family and return in some way to your roots. And returning always means leaving something behind.

So often when talk turns to the Biblical concept of Jubilee, the conversation stalls out at the phrase, “But there’s no evidence it was ever practiced in Israel.” Hardly the point! God in fact commands a hallowing, and not only of the fiftieth year, but of our lives as well. As Christians, we understand that the Holy Spirit is the “Lord, the Giver of life” (Nicene Creed) and works to sanctify, to hallow us, to make us holy. While the fiftieth year is a good time to return and take stock, any time can be Jubilee. It is interesting to note that in Hebrew, the word for “return” is the same as the word for “repent.” Any time can be a time to return to God, to repent, to let go of those things which keep us from a deeper relationship with God. The Holy Spirit yearns for us to stop, take a break and take stock of where we are in our journey as followers of Jesus. I know there is much that I can leave behind in order to turn my attention more fully to my Christian pilgrimage. Like the jubilee year itself, it is certainly worth trying, not dismissing out of hand, saying, “There’s no evidence it was ever practiced.”

One of my favorite quotes is from G.K. Chesterton, priest and creator of the Father Brown mystery stories. He says, “*Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.*” (This is certainly worth remembering when folks criticize Christianity without actually going to a church to find out more about us Christians!)

On Sunday, August 15, we had a congregational conversation around what it would look like to receive the Kingdom that the Father wishes to give us. We talked about how we as a congregation would exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, Gal. 5: 22–23) We also spoke about how receiving the Kingdom means welcoming our neighbor. Welcoming goes beyond what happened when someone walks into our doors. It means actually going out and inviting folks to come in! And, as one of you said, if we wait until we are ready, we’ll never be ready. God sees us as ready right now! Like the year of Jubilee, it’s time to give it a try.

I look forward to listening to you when you wish to share your stories and faith journeys with me. I have a nice, new office to receive you in—I’m only a phone call away.



Our latest donation to the food pantry came to 196 pounds. That puts us at 554 pounds for the year. In September, we would like to start collecting Italian – pasta, pasta sauce in jars (Ragu and the like), canned tomatoes, etc. As always, any donation is gratefully accepted.

In June, a number of our members participated in the Food Walk in conjunction with Germonds Presbyterian Church. Our folks raised \$830. Congratulations to all who walked and to all who supported them.

### Youth Group Resumes

From Mark Zacheis and Howard Whitehouse



**Join the Youth Group**

The Youth Group will resume on Sunday, September 12. All young people ages twelve and older are encouraged to come and join in the fun. See Howard or Mark for more details.

**Worship Returns to 11 AM  
and Sunday School Resumes  
on  
Sunday, September 12**

### Attendance Numbers

June 13	67
June 20	59
June 27	47
July 4	48
July 11	37
July 18	37
July 25	39
August 1	56
August 8	46
August 15	35



### *Choir Rehearsals Starting*

From Kryste Andrews

Back to choir on Thursday, September 9 at 8 PM. Looking forward to joyous music celebrations Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

The volunteer choir numbers 16 members at present. That includes sopranos, altos and baritones. We're hoping to add tenors this year in order to offer even more variety in choral pieces to the congregation. We have an awfully good time rehearsing and are always open to new members. Come and see if choir is for you.



# MILESTONES

**Tommy Smith** received "The Best in Training for the Season" at Fawn Hill Day Camp this year. **Michael** rejoined the staff as a counselor in training and after two weeks was promoted to a full time counselor for the lower camp. It was a great summer for all three **Smith boys**.

Congratulations to **Tim Bidon** and **Erica Press**, both graduates of Rockland Country Day School. Tim will be attending Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY, and Erica will be Attending Marymount Manhattan.

Our sympathy to the **Ciruelos** and **Breidenbach** families on the death of **Eduardo Ciruelos** on July 31.

On June 23, **the Reverend Joyce Stedge Fowler** died after an extended illness. She and her late husband, **the Reverend Joseph Fowler**, served as pulpit supply at NHPC many times over the years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Our prayers are extended to the family of **Nancy Jann** who died June 22 after an extended illness. Nancy's husband, **the Reverend Donn Jann** served as pastor here 1988-93.

2010 marks the 150th anniversary of **Germonds Presbyterian Church**. The church was formed in 1860 to minister to the German-speaking community in this area and has been a vital congregation ever since. Germonds will be re-dedicating its Sanctuary and grounds to the Glory of God on Sunday, September 12 at 3 PM. A reception will follow the Worship service. Please RSVP at (845) 623-2120 if you plan to attend.

This issue marks my hundredth issue of **The Carriage Stone** as editor. When Shirley was training me for this job, she expressed hope that I would continue for a while as editor so that she would not be wasting her time. I trust that I have lived up to that. Shirley has more than fulfilled her side of the bargain, sending reminders, handling the calendar, printing, mailing, etc.

Thank you for your kind words and support for these 100 issues. But, most of all, thank you for writing and sending in articles about our collective walk in faith and your personal walk in faith. As we discussed a couple of Sundays ago, both are vital to our preparation to receive God's Kingdom.



**THANKS**  
From Our  
**Pastor**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped renovate the pastor's study and the

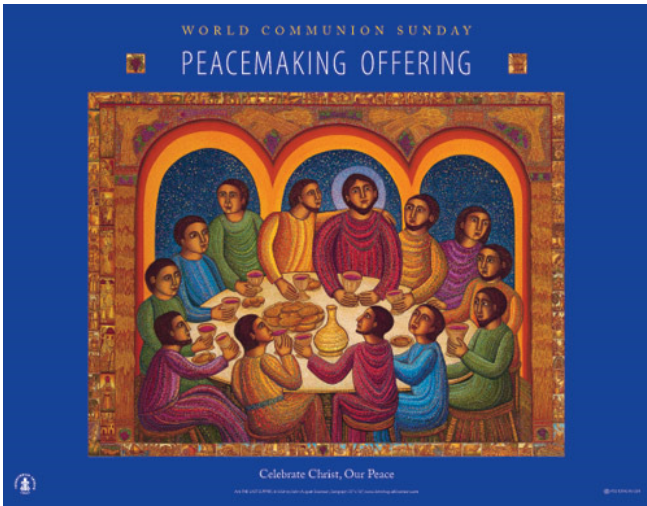
Colonial Room bathrooms.

Wendy Keryk, interior designer extraordinaire, designed the color

scheme, the window treatments and

the layout, with help from Lona Asher and Terri Lucas. Many others helped in many ways: Mark and Barbara Zacheis, Wendy Keryk and Pam Fink painted till they just couldn't paint no more! (Be sure to check out Barbara's woodworking skills on the radiator covers.)

"Thank you" are also owed to Skip at Vanderbilt Hardware in New City, and the folks at Leader Carpet in Nanuet. Please patronize these businesses when you have need of their services.



2010 is the thirtieth anniversary of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Peacemaking offering, following the adoption by the General Assembly of *Peacemaking: the Believers' Calling*, which called for a new emphasis on peacemaking across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year as our church plans to receive this Offering, remember the peacemakers of years past — in our congregation, presbytery, synod and the denomination as a whole. Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who not only taught us the ways of peace but also is our peace.

The theme for the 2010 Offering is “Celebrate Christ, Our Peace.” The art is *The Last Supper*, a serigraph by John August Swanson.

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s General Assembly.

NHPC receives the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 3.

Our congregation is encouraged to retain 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and our community. Twenty-five percent is used by

presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

## Computer Classes for Seniors

The Adult Learning Center of Rockland is an organization of retired Seniors who volunteer to teach other Seniors (and over 50s) how to use computers. They are affiliated with Meals on Wheels.

They are now accepting applications for September classes. Classes are 2 hours, once a week for 4 weeks at a cost of \$40. Advanced classes lasting 8 weeks are \$64. They teach an Introduction to Computers, Word Processing, Quicken, Internet and E-mail, Digital Imaging and Genealogy.

Classes are small, eight students with one instructor and two coaches. For more information, contact Eileen Herkes at (845) 623-5467 or (845) 356-4198.

