



# The Carriage Stone

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y. *The English Church*

November 2013



## Thanksgiving Baskets



"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

**Web:** [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org)

**Administrative Assistant:** Kristen Rabeler

**E-mail:** [office@nhpchurch.org](mailto:office@nhpchurch.org)

**Look for us on Facebook!**

**Newsletter Editor:**

Robert Phillhower

**Next Deadline:**

Sunday, November 17

**Submissions:** in my mailbox  
or e-mail to

[carriagestone@nhpchurch.org](mailto:carriagestone@nhpchurch.org)



## A Spiritually Gifted Church

On Saturday, Oct 19, 10 elders and deacons and I attended a workshop lead by Rev. Margery Rossi on “Discovering our Spiritual Gifts.” And, boy, are we gifted! But that is no surprise: Our God is a gift-giving God.

Spiritual gifts are:

- Based in Scripture
- Parts of God’s own being
- They are given to the Church to serve the world and build up the Body of Christ
- They are every Christian’s at their spiritual birth
- Grace-given (we do not and cannot earn them)
- They are not talents; they are extra-ordinary abilities
- They are our job-description for ministry

Spiritual gifts are NOT:

- Natural talents and abilities
- Roles we serve in
- To be used for Self-gain
- The same for everyone
- Given fully developed—we have to grow into them



Using the book *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts* by Charles V. Bryant, Margery identified 32 gifts that the Bible speaks of God giving to the Church to carry out its ministry in the world. Our Church leaders at the retreat scored highest in the gifts of Faith, Humor, (yes, that is a biblical spiritual gift—it’s also called lightheartedness), and Service. We also scored highly in Intercessory Prayer, Giving, Hospitality and Mercy.



One thing I learned in this retreat was that our Spiritual Gifts are where our interests and passions are. Knowing our gifts and using them faithfully will energize us, not burn us out.

Learning of these gifts among the 11 of us gathered is just the beginning of putting them to even more faithful use. I would love to offer this workshop to as many in the congregation as are interested, perhaps some Sunday after worship, or another time that works for folks. It is so exciting to see how blessed

we are, and how well God has equipped us for ministry in this time and place. I close with the quote that Margery used to close our time together:

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

--Marianne Williamson

To God be the glory!



**“Celebrate  
Abundance!”**

**Harvest Homecoming Luncheon &  
Sandy Shelter Reunion  
at the Stony Point Center**

Sunday, November 3  
12:30 – 2 PM  
*All are welcome! Free of charge*

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church has been invited to attend the “Harvest Homecoming Luncheon & Sandy Shelter Reunion” at the Stony Point Conference Center.

Every year for the past five years, Stony Point Center has hosted a "Homecoming Weekend" in the fall. This year the festivities will include a "Sandy Reunion" Luncheon, to mark the one-year anniversary of the Center's “Sandy Shelter,” celebrate the families who stayed there, and give thanks to all who supported them.

NHPC was a part of this “Sandy Shelter” effort, assisting and supporting one of the Stony Point families who stayed at the Center after being displaced from their home in the Ba Mar Mobile Home Community. Your prayers and generous gifts helped support the Mazariego family, who has since been able to return to their home.

Contact Mission Chair Laura Metallo-Bidon if you are interested in attending the event, and celebrating the abundance of hospitality at the Stony Point Center.

**Talent Show**

Everyone had such fun at last year’s talent show that Kryste Andrews and the Deacons are planning another one for Saturday, November 2. Your fellow congregation members have been preparing their acts for weeks now and are ready



to perform for you. At least they’re as ready as they’re gonna be! Soup and dessert will be provided—see Terry Lucas if you want to help with refreshments.

**Helping Hands Holiday Mission:**

**Safe Haven at NHPC on  
December 11, 12 and 13**

Once again this year, NHPC is proud to partner with [Helping Hands of Rockland County](#) to provide Safe Haven for homeless men and women of Rockland County. On December 11, 12 and 13, we’ll be providing a hot meal and overnight shelter for our Safe Haven guests in Murchison Hall.

Volunteers will be needed to cook, serve, clean-up and provide overnight chaperone on those nights. Take a few hours from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to remember the true meaning of the season, give thanks for our abundance of blessings and share them with our neediest neighbors. Contact Mission Chair Laura Metallo-Bidon if you can lend a helping hand.



## Notes from the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

Stewardship season is upon us and the committee will be talking about their plans for 2014 in the coming weeks. As a prelude to those



### Treasurer's Report

conversations, I'd like to report on the financial position of the church, nine months into the year.

Total expenditures through the end of September came to \$128,602 versus a budget of \$135,403.

The biggest cost savings has been in the property and maintenance area.

On the revenue side, through the end of September we've taken in \$136,596 against a budget of \$131,510. The biggest reason for the excess was an un-budgeted and unanticipated special donation. Most of our budgeted revenue sources are on budget.

Congregational pledges however are running about 6% behind. There are a handful of folks who are slightly behind in their giving. Pledge statements as of the end of September have been distributed. I encourage you to check yours, and if you find that you are behind, please make an effort to catch up before the end of the year.

At the end of September, we are showing a surplus of \$7,968 against a budgeted loss. I am encouraged by the results and am ever hopeful that our church can end the year with a surplus. If we do, we can pay down the balance of the loan from the capital fund and start building back an operating fund balance. Thank you for your support.

## Holiday Boutique

From Pam Fink

It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner. To get us in the holiday mood, this year the Fundraising Committee is organizing a Holiday Boutique on Saturday December 7. The event will occur in the big room of Murchison Hall and it will run from 10-4. There will be handicrafts and goodies for sale as well as a raffle and "white elephant" sale. We welcome any handicrafts that you would like to contribute as well as Christmas-themed items for the "white elephant" sale. If you are a baker, we would love to sample some of your cookies, brownies or cupcakes. Please let any member of the Fundraising Committee know if you have something that you'd like to contribute.

The committee decided that the Boutique would be opened to outside crafters who would like to offer their goods for sale. Each table can be rented for \$25. If you or anyone that you know might be interested in renting a table, please call the church office (845 354-2372) to let us know. Let's make this an event to remember!



## Helping Hands Outreach Store

Helping Hands needs your help!

The Helping Hands Outreach Store is in desperate need of clothing, especially winter coats for men and women, winter boots or shoes for men and women, gloves and sweaters. We have enough toiletries for our needs, but underwear and socks are always welcome.

If you have clean, gently used clothing to donate, please call Laila Eugene at 667-2588 or e-mail at [laje25@hotmail.com](mailto:laje25@hotmail.com)

## Thanksgiving Baskets

It must be November because this is the month when we start collecting food for the Thanksgiving Baskets food drive. Last year we collected enough to provide 33 baskets to those that would otherwise go without on Thanksgiving. This year we would like to match, if not beat that number.

Here you see our list of what goes into a proper Thanksgiving meal. Now we know that many of you can't imagine a Thanksgiving meal with boxed or canned potatoes instead of fresh ones, or one with cake instead of pumpkin pie. And what about grandma's famous corn soufflé and green beans almandine? We know you're right, but we are trying to keep it easy for you.

We'd like it best if you are able to shop for one of each item and deliver it all in one package (basket, box or bags are fine). We'd like it even better if you are able to shop for two of each item and deliver them in two separate packages. That doesn't mean that we'll refuse a bag full of canned vegetables or cake mixes. And that doesn't mean that we'll refuse a bag with only a partial meal because that is the best that can be done. And that doesn't mean that we'll refuse cash or a check because you forgot to go to the grocery store. We'll take it all and we'll take it any way you want to give it!

What you could do to help us out is to deliver your food contributions to the church narthex no later than Sunday, November 18. We'd like to be able to make a shopping list a bit more in advance, rather than having to do all the sorting, make the list and do the shopping all on the last Sunday – it makes for a really long day. We'll take cash and check donations up to November 25.

Hey turkey, what about the turkeys? If you have a turkey that you would like to donate, please keep it at home until November 25. We don't have the space to store it.

Lastly, please help us out by signing up your donation on the handy sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room. Again, it makes it much easier to plan.

Questions? Please contact Pam Fink or any member of the fund raising committee. And thank you for your support.

Turkey  
Stuffing mix  
Boxed potatoes  
Gravy  
Canned vegetables (2–4 cans)  
Canned sweet potatoes/yams  
Corn bread mix  
Cake/Brownie mix  
Cake frosting  
Applesauce  
Canned cranberry sauce  
Soup (2 cans)  
Loaf of bread



## So, What's a Sabbatical, Anyway?

From Pastor Lori Knight-Whitehouse

One of the seeds that got planted in my head and heart when I made my Credo last winter was the idea of taking a Sabbatical. The root of the word is in "Sabbath"—a time of rest apart with God. I have begun the conversation about taking a sabbatical with the Session, and a committee of folks from the congregation. Below is Hudson River Presbytery's policy on sabbatical leave for pastors.

### Sabbatical Leave Policy

#### INTRODUCTION

Often on completion of a number of years of ministry and service, clergy and/or senior Presbytery staff members need time to refocus their vision, update professional skills and find renewal of the sense of Call. Just as the Sabbath day is a gift from God during a busy week of work, so the greater gift of a Sabbatical Leave can offer valuable refreshment and rejuvenation for those who labor continuously for God's people.

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of a Sabbatical Leave within the Presbytery of Hudson River is to allow adequate time away from normal job responsibilities for personal and professional growth, spiritual renewal and a revitalization of vision and hope. **The Leave should offer a time of refreshment for the benefit of both the participant in the Leave and his or her staff and/or congregation.** It would also be appropriate for the Presbytery to consider how the sabbatical time could be an opportunity for its own growth and renewal.

#### II. DEFINITION

A Sabbatical Leave is a break and change from the everyday routine and therefore would include a balance of reflection and prayer, rest, study and travel. A church-related Sabbatical Leave is ordinarily not the same as in a

corporate or scholastic setting. Therefore, it is not to be a time for advanced degree work (D. Min. or Ph.D.) It is not to be considered a vacation nor should it be used for career advancement nor career assessment. It is NOT intended to be used as a chance to escape difficulties within the local church, nor is it a substitute for annual study leave.

#### III. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for a Sabbatical Leave within the Presbytery of Hudson River would require the completion of at least seven (7) consecutive years of employment. There must be at least seven (7) years between Sabbatical Leaves; and within the Presbytery, no more than six (6) such leaves will be granted during any one year. Sabbatical Leaves are to be made available to all pastors within the Presbytery as well as to the Presbytery Executive and Associate Executive.

#### IV. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. The length of a Sabbatical Leave within the Presbytery of Hudson River will be a maximum of four (4) months in any one year (or two months in each of two consecutive years). Annual study leave may not be taken contiguous with a sabbatical. Ordinarily vacation would not be taken in conjunction with sabbatical leave.
2. Adequate opportunities for planning the substance of the Sabbatical Leave and for the sharing of its results are vital to its success and should not be overlooked. Prior to the beginning of the leave, there should be at least one-year notice to the session/council, congregation and/or staff outlining the purpose of the sabbatical. Nine months prior to the leave, a written proposal detailing its purpose and content including plans for pastoral coverage should be submitted to the personnel committee and/or session/council. At least six months prior to the leave all approvals should be secured (Committee on Ministry,

Personnel Committee, Session/Council). A commissioning ceremony would be most appropriate and meaningful.

3. During the period of the Sabbatical Leave, full salary and benefits will be provided by the employing organization. Payments under the terms of call for travel expenses and other administrative expense will be suspended during the period of the Sabbatical Leave.
4. Upon returning home from Sabbatical Leave, the Pastor and/or General Presbyterian must remain in his or her position for at least one (1) year or otherwise forfeit the salary attributable to the period of the leave.
5. There will be detailed re-entry plans that will allow the Presbytery/congregation and GP/minister to share their different journeys. Examples of such plans might include a one-day all church retreat with church congregation leaders, a special debriefing with session/council members followed by an all church supper and time for sharing, etc.
6. In all cases, the clergy-staff member will be restored to their former position and status and shall receive a salary at the level they would have had had they not taken the Sabbatical Leave.

God willing, I will be taking a sabbatical leave in late 2015. I will keep you updated as my plans with the committee and the Session begin to take shape.



## Buy a Bunny a Little Time

From Nancy Jacobs

Most people agree that bunnies are cute. And baby bunnies are absolutely adorable. So every year, people buy bunnies for their children for Easter. The bunny grows and lives in a cage, sometimes outdoors, sometimes in an out-of-the-way part of the house. When purchased, these customers don't consider the 10-year life span and special characteristics and needs of the little bunny they buy. "An estimated 60% of rabbits are rescued by or relinquished to shelters from...Easter purchases"

House Rabbit Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization with two primary goals:

- To rescue abandoned rabbits and find permanent homes for them and
- To educate the public and assist humane societies, through publications on rabbit care, phone consultation, and classes upon request.

Please support one of my favorite charities by throwing your pocket change into the Colonial Room change jar in November. It's the jar showing the logo above, as well as a picture of my late bunny-friend, Impy.

Thanks.