



# The Carriage Stone

March 2017

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



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of  
**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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Sunday, March 26

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## The Office of Elder

This is the second of a two-part series on Church Officers. Now we look at the office of Elder. The Bible speaks of the gifts of God for the benefit of God's people in several places: 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4, and the following, from 1 Tim 5: 17:

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching

My own personal favorite Biblical mention of elders comes in Numbers 11: The Israelites are getting' all whiny in the desert, telling Moses how much better off they were in Egypt (in slavery!). Here's the exchange between Moses and God:

11 So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12 Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. 15 If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

16 So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. 17 I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.

God distributes the Spirit so Moses doesn't have to lead the people all by himself!

In the Presbyterian Church, pastors and elders take the same vow. There is no hierarchy of authority as there is in some other traditions. As a pastor, I like being part of a team, because I'm a lousy "lone ranger." Elders (like deacons) must be members of the congregation that calls them to office.

Our Book of Order describes the qualities and duties of Elders this way:

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office.

If you should be asked by our Nominating Committee to serve as an elder, you can be sure that you have been subject to much prayer and conversation by the committee. (This is the Christian version of "extreme vetting.") Yes, there is work involved, but God expects you to use your gifts and skills for the building up of Christ's Body, the Church. If we have no leadership, we cannot fulfill our mandate to show the light of our Lord Jesus to the world.

That being said, the Session (the council of Elders) also has a lot of fun. We love God, we love each other, and we love this congregation. I hope you will give prayerful consideration when the Nominating Committee asks you to serve in no matter what capacity. We cannot be Church without you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a stylized "ri". Below the name is a horizontal flourish line.



## LOCAL MISSIONS Safe Haven Nights

On the nights of February 14–16, we again fed and housed some of Rockland County’s homeless. We were a bit surprised at the number of guests, ranging from 43–46, but fortunately had enough food for all and enough space for everyone to have a place to lie down to sleep.

This program is only possible because of the generosity of the volunteers who support it, and they deserve a big thank you. On Thursday night, folks from Germonds Church, led by Sue Ternquist, did the cooking and serving, and 4–5 of the AA members gave a hand in setting up and serving on all three nights. Volunteers from our church who helped with the shopping, prep, serving and clean up were Syenni Lucas, May Lie, Liring Sullivan, Bob and Elaine Philhower, Mark and Barbara Zacheis, Mary Ann Witte, Karen Martin, Jeff Portner, Lona Asher, Sylvia Miller, Patty Coar, Laura Bidon, Janine Kallé and Pam Fink. The overnight chaperones were Mark and Barbara Zacheis, Walter Smith, Karen Martin, Bruce Brown and Pam Fink.

We are also grateful for the many donations of hygiene articles for our guests. It is really heartwarming to see the smiles on their faces as they “shop” the bins of supplies and find something that they need or want to have.

In April, we will have another rotation of Safe Haven service (April 18–20). Hopefully, we can again count on the service of our dedicated volunteers to help with this important mission on these nights. But if you are unable to participate, we always welcome the donation of hygiene articles. Our guests appreciate every offering.

### HELPING HANDS HYGIENE KIT

Tooth Paste  
Disposable Razor  
Shaving Cream  
Socks  
Deodorant  
Wash Cloth  
Shampoo  
Hand Soap  
Tissues  
Comb OR Brush  
Lip Balm

### Thank You from M.A.D.E. Transitional Services



Toney Earl Jr., Founder and Executive Director of M.A.D.E. Transitional Services, visited NHPC during worship on Sunday, February 5, and took the opportunity to thank our congregation for our recent gift to his organization.

Earl, of Spring Valley, founded M.A.D.E., a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, in 2014 to help reduce the unemployment, recidivism and homelessness of men who have been incarcerated. Currently, the organization runs the “Ready, Set, Work!” job-readiness program at the Rockland County jail, and plans to offer transitional housing to further ensure successful return to the community for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Our gift to M.A.D.E. represents a portion of last spring’s “Peacemaking Offering,” dedicated to local organizations working for peace and social justice in our community. We are proud to support Toney and M.A.D.E. in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable members of our community.

## One Great Hour of Sharing 2017

“God has called us to a new kind of fast—  
Not to give up our bread, but to share it.”

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share.

Started in 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising funds to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of manmade or natural disasters. Today, your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide assistance in the following areas:

**Self-Development of People:** Your gifts help projects like “Jobs Not Jails,” providing over 7,000 people with access to jobs and education as they build new lives after prison, thus reducing the probability of repeat offenses.

**Presbyterian Hunger Program:** Your gifts help communities engage in sustainable agriculture and programs like “Earth Care Congregations” that creatively work to address long-term care of the earth to end hunger and poverty for the most vulnerable.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:** Your gifts provide food, shelter, and education to refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria and helped rebuild 40 homes in Homs, Syria for those who wish to restore the Syria they love.

**You can be part of this lifesaving work by giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please give generously, now through April.**



## Facing Racism: A Vision of the Beloved Community

During Lent, we will continue our series of conversations on white privilege and racism by exploring the PCUSA's response to racism. We will be joining with folks from Palisades Presbyterian, alternating locations, in weekly Wednesday evening discussions.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognizes that the task of dismantling racism is a long-term struggle that requires discernment, prayer, and worship based action. As we move into the next millennium, congregations, presbyteries, and synods are engaging the problem of racism in unprecedented numbers. This is a significant development in the struggle for “racial” justice. In order to respond to this challenge, the 211th General Assembly (1999) approved a comprehensive policy document that will guide the church's ministry of “racial” justice in the next century.

Here is the schedule for the study. All meetings start at 7:30 PM

March 8	New Hempstead
March 15	Palisades
March 22	New Hempstead
March 29	Palisades
April 5	New Hempstead
April 12	Palisades

The document, **Facing Racism: A Vision of the Beloved Community** is available at:

<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/facing-racism-vision-community/>

Palisades Presbyterian Church is at  
117 Washington Spring Rd,  
Palisades, NY 10964



### **Welcome Home**

God loves all of his children equally, every one of them. He has told us to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is in this spirit that we at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church define ourselves as an inclusive church. Anyone who walks through our doors we greet with open arms, regardless of the color of their skin, their gender, their marital status, or their religion.

Our Session recognizes this truth and has taken action to demonstrate it. On our sign on New Hempstead Road we have hung the greeting "Welcome Home", and have added some color. On the left is the LGBT rainbow and on the right is a palette of skin tones. In this way, we are telling passers-by that we are open and inclusive to all.



### **Website Updated**

Thanks to your sending pictures, I was able to update the header picture on the website again with photos of more recent events. Thanks to our church photographers! More church pictures are in the galleries under the fellowship page.

### **Church T-shirts going on sale!**

Barbara Zacheis will be taking orders for our new Church t-shirts in the Month of March!

Now visitors to our events like tag sales, art auctions, Safe Haven and other fellowship activities will be able to identify the NHPC members, and we will be more and more recognized as part of this community thanks to the beautiful art-work of Robert Greenhalgh.

See Barbara to order your size. Price of each t-shirt is \$10, and will be available in adult sizes.





### News From the Capital Campaign

Last month we wrote about the first project of the capital campaign, the carpet in the sanctuary. This month we write about the second project, the heating system in the Colonial Room.

The church building has two heating systems, one for the sanctuary and a second for the Colonial Room. The systems are independent of each other and both are boilers pushing hot water through radiators. Over the past few years the Colonial Room one has required regular repairs and constant care. Add to that the time it took to get the heat up on a cold winter day, and something had to be done. That day came when the water drained out of the boiler, it kept on heating, and the cast iron cracked.

Enter Percy Crockett and B & T Contracting of Spring Valley. They pulled the old boiler, the radiators, and all of the old pipes out from under the building, and replaced them with a new furnace, baseboard heating, and the new piping that goes with them. The church office got new heating units too, as did Pastor Lori's office which even got its own thermostat. Percy added additional baseboard heaters behind the piano and the sofa where there hadn't been any before. The result is a much faster warm-up time and a much more reliable system.

The project plan of the capital campaign includes replacing both church heating systems. At this point the church furnace is functioning properly and is not causing any maintenance problems. Our Buildings Committee has decided that the smart thing to do is not to fix what isn't broken. We will set aside the funds raised for that system until that time when it does require replacement.

Thank you again to Percy Crockett for leading this project.

### Church Offices and Kitchen Renovations

If you haven't been to visit the church office or attended a coffee hour recently, you may want to stop by to check out the newly renovated offices and kitchen area. These renovations were another one of the major projects covered by the Capital Campaign funds.





For a good part of the summer last year, Walter Smith’s work crews gave the well-used and often-crowded rooms a complete make-over. During the construction period, Kristen Rabeler ran the church “office” from her desk in

the Colonial Room. The music library and mailboxes also occupied a temporary space under the clock in the Colonial Room. For the remainder of the furniture and office supplies, and to hold the new cabinets and counters, we rented a PODS storage unit.



Walter’s crews started with a plan, designed by Pam Fink, and turned the plan into a reality. A small committee (Barbara and Mark Zacheis, Pam Fink) selected the cabinets, countertops, flooring, carpeting and paint colors for the new spaces.

Much of the original space was maintained and materials were re-purposed when possible. There is now a church office with a locking door, an office for the music director, a closet for the choir robes, a coat closet and a larger kitchen with a full-sized refrigerator! The traffic flow in

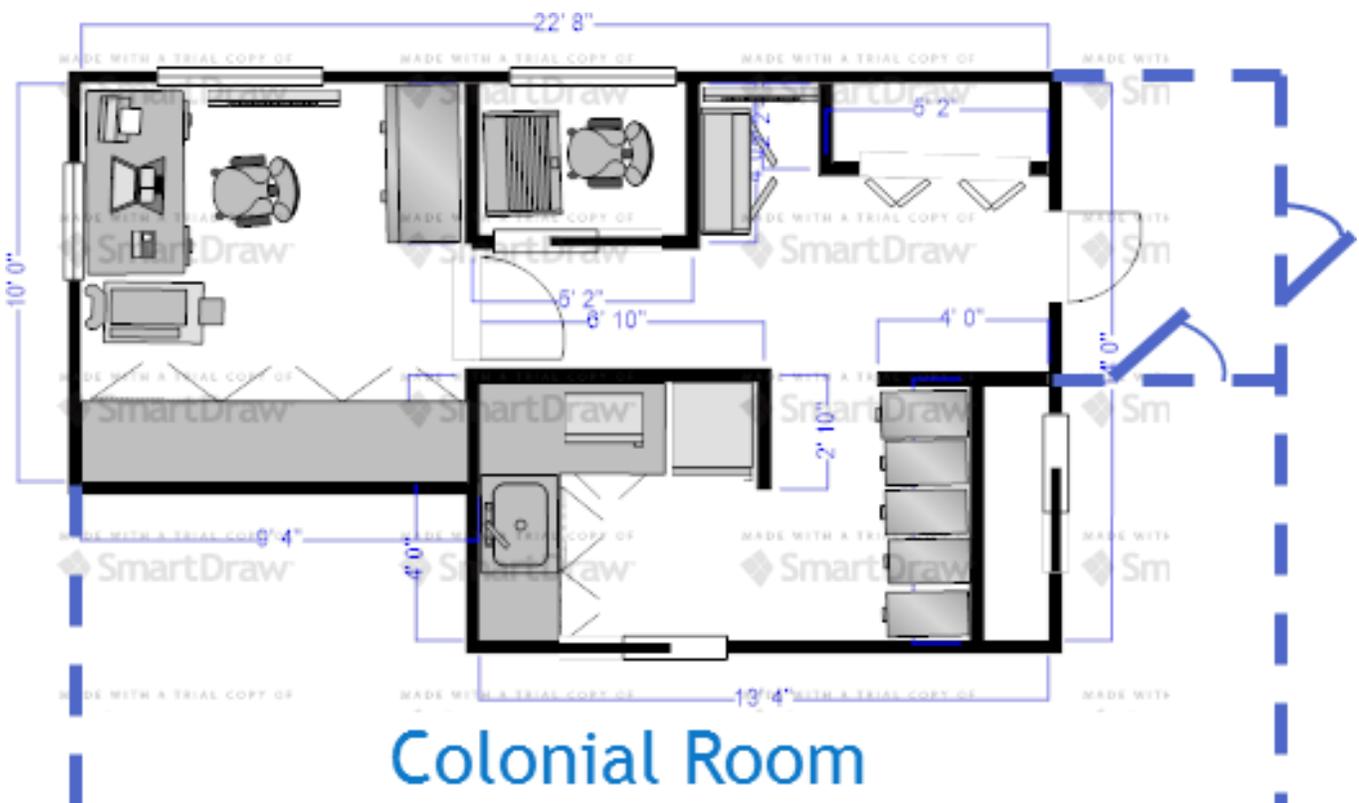
and out of the rooms is much better, and the transom window openings in the kitchen and music directors office allow the natural light to flow from the window into the kitchen area.

An added bonus to the renovation was that we had the opportunity to sort through the many items stored in the office and kitchen areas. We eliminated a lot of unused or extraneous materials that had accumulated over many decades. Some of these items made their way into the Fall Tag Sale, or were otherwise recycled.





Finally, as part of the renovation, we also replaced the carpeting in the Pastor's Study. The old carpeting had been there for at least 20 years and was showing its age. The Colonial Room, kitchen and office spaces now provide beautiful and inviting places for all of our congregants and visitors to use.



## **HRU!**

### **(Hudson River University!)**

Saturday, March 11, 9 AM–2:30 PM  
Stony Point Center

We have great faculty, sharing their awesome skills and experiences during our spring semester of HRU! There will be three practical “majors” offered: Christian education; healthy interaction in times of disagreement and conflict; and stewardship and finance. Each of these majors will have three 75-minute classes: early and late morning and after lunch.

#### **Christian Education**

Using Godly Play with Children  
Christian Education with Youth  
Rethinking Adult CE: Sharing  
Possibilities and Resources

#### **Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches**

How Did Jesus Handle Conflict?  
How to Speak Authentically and Gracefully  
Creating an Effective Conversational Process for Congregations

#### **Stewardship and Church Finances**

Stewardship 101 Workshop: Part A  
Stewardship 101 Workshop: Part B  
The Nuts and Bolts of Church Finances and Bookkeeping

More information about each course is available through the Presbytery communication website: [Learn more.](#)

“Students” (aka participants) can “major” in one area, taking all three classes, or can be a “liberal arts” student and take classes in two or all three major areas.

This university is open to all... old and young... any church members, officers or friends from any of our HRP congregations! The best part is that tuition is FREE! There will be a cost for lunch (\$10) but all instruction and materials will be at no charge.

Please register on the Presbytery website, [here](#), selecting the courses you will want to take.

Alternatively, for more information, ask Laura Bidon to forward you a copy of the e-mail from Presbytery with all the links.

