



The Carriage Stone

October 2023

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



From
Bread
& Wine

To
Faith
& Giving



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Nearer than When We First Believed

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 13: 11-14

God willing, by the time you all read this, we will have closed on our new home in Kingston, NY. My retirement is really ‘nearer to us now than when we first became believers.’ Of course, our salvation is and has always been assured in Christ Jesus. (And I don’t know that any of us has the time or inclinations to revel in darkness, debauchery and licentiousness, quarreling or jealousy!)

Hudson River Presbytery requires that this note be published in as many venues as possible (newsletter, Facebook, church bulletin, etc.)

“When a pastor resigns from a pastorate, retires from service, or becomes Pastor Emerita/us, that minister shall no longer perform pastoral functions such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospital visitation or counseling. Active or inactive church members should not request a former pastor to perform pastoral duties. If requested, the pastor shall tactfully decline. On occasion, the pastor or moderator may, with the approval of session/council, invite the former pastor to perform such duties.”

For some, this may sound harsh, but these boundaries make it easier for both the Pastor and Congregation to move on.

I am grateful to you all for 18 wonderful years----and I’m not gone yet! My last service will be our traditional Christmas Eve service. We still have time together to celebrate together and say our goodbyes.

Lovingly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori" with a stylized flourish underneath.



Holy Cow Committee Results

Jane Craig Sebok

Early in 2022, the church participated in a survey developed by Holy Cow! Consulting, known as the CAT. More than forty people took the survey, and we got a wealth of information. A consultant explained the data to us, and then Session met to discuss next steps. They came up with some goals, and then voted to ask the Presbytery for a Holy Cow coach. Six dedicated people, the Holy Cow Committee, agreed to meet with this coach, Martha Spong, every month for the next year. Pastor Lori was also an integral part of this committee and attended private sessions with Ms. Spong as well.

As time went on, the committee decided that instead of just making recommendations, we could start taking some actions, with Session approval. To that end, we worked with various committees and Music Director Lois Anderson to realize the goals we had in mind. The following represent the results that are accomplished or ongoing:

- Livelier tempos in anthems and hymns
- New hymnals with more contemporary and livelier music, along with old favorites
- New outreach brochure, showing who we are
- New, updated, more contemporary website (scheduled to be completed by the end of October)
- More activities for people 55 years of age and older

- Activities available to community at large
- More outreach activities
- An improved experience for YouTube viewers

The last two survey results we addressed involved attracting families with children and providing more opportunities for Christian education. We felt that trying to attract young families was a daunting task, due to the older demographics of the congregation and the community. So, we decided that the best thing was to show how welcoming we were, with the new brochure, new website, and more outreach, and to meet the needs of the children we already have.

For the Christian education, we thought that adult education was going well, but that we might work with the Christian Education Committee to come up with ideas to make Sunday school more appealing, as well as educational.

I would like to thank Pastor Lori, Martha Spong, and the other committee members for the hard work they did this past year and work moving forward. To the glory of God!

Recognition for Lori

As Pastor Lori's last year with us rushes into the fall, please circle November 14 on your calendar. That is the date of the Presbytery meeting to honor her service. All are invited.

It will be held at the [Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester County](#).

This issue includes graphics from <https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/free-annual-stewardship-resources/>





Stewardship

From the Stewardship and Finance Committee

We have just entered autumn, and it seems unbelievable that we are already making appointments for dates in 2024. The fall season brings with it a time for reflection, especially reflection on what our church means to us.

Earlier this year, we learned that our cherished Pastor Lori would be retiring at the end of December. That means there will be big changes in 2024, but we old timers know that change is good, and not to be worried – God is with us. The church leaders of the Session are already making plans to fill the pulpit next year.

In mid-October, we will initiate our Stewardship Campaign, which will culminate on November 5, Stewardship Sunday. Now is the time of year when we make a new commitment, a pledge, to support this church in the coming year. To keep our church strong, we need both a financial pledge as well as giving of time and talents. A financial pledge allows us to generate a sound budget for the church in the coming year. Committing your time and talents is what has made our church what it is today and helps to carry out our mission.

In the next few weeks, you will hear more about church budget and finances, and more personal stories from people who pledge their support to the church, and why they choose to do so. We encourage you to be in an “attitude of gratitude” and prayerfully consider pledging your support to the church.

Karen Martin sent us some photos of Marcus, heading off to college. Best of luck to him from his church.





Just as I was getting ready to send this out, Lori and Howard posted pictures of their new house on Facebook. Congratulations!

