

## A Message from Pastor Stephen – November 8, 2020

I have some health issues that make it difficult to continue working effectively in our parish, so I have decided that I need to bring my work in the parish to a close at the end of this year. I will always cherish the time I have worked here as your pastor and I truly wish it would be longer, but that would not be good for you or for me.

Jan and I will continue to live in Pembroke and hope to remain a part of Zion's life as parishioners and to continue to worship with you. My decision in no way reflects negatively on this parish, which I will always hold in the highest regard, with love and thanksgiving for you.

May God continue to bless us and keep us in peace in the days to come, always filled with the hope that is ours in Christ.

Pastor Stephen

## A Message from Church Council Chairperson, Susan Dupuis

Discussions have been held with Pastor Stephen, Bishop Michael, Rev. Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, Ellen Vandersleen, Council Vice Chair, Debbie Wegner, Chair of Personnel and Susan Dupuis, Council Chair. As a result of these discussions Church Council have made some plans to support Pastor Stephen in his ministry until Dec. 31, 2020. Pastor Stephen will continue to lead our Sunday worship service.

We will be reaching out for additional support as needed.

I want to read a comment recently made by one of our members, to both Pastor Stephen and Jan, that captures our feelings today:

All of us at Zion are so blessed to have both of you in our midst. You have brought so much to our Parish with your gentle manner, your humor, your beautiful voices, your meaningful messages each week and your friendliness. This past year has been a roller-coaster ride with Covid! We have all kept our faith as you have continued to provide us with your weekly message and prayer! Thank you!

It is with a heavy heart that I accept your letter of resignation on behalf of Zion.

We will continue to pray for your restored health and look forward to having you as a member of our congregation for many years to come.

I also ask that the congregation pray for Zion. We do not know what God's plans are for us, only that we must follow where he leads us.