



# The Carriage Stone

May 2005

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y.

Newsletter of the English Church

May 8 Hymn Sing  
**Mothers' Day** Carnations

May 15 Celebrate Communion  
**Pentecost** New Members Join Church  
 Special Coffee Hour

May 22 God Present in Worship  
**Ordinary Sunday** Fun and Fellowship afterwards

May 29 Honor Veterans  
**Memorial Day** Special Anthem  
 Light Lunch  
 Painting and Photo Exhibition



Pastor	
Pastor's Page.....	2
Worship	
Mothers' Day .....	3
Pentecost Sunday .....	3
Memorial Day .....	3
Mission / Evangelism	
Pentecost Offering.....	3
Boy Scout Troop 11 News	4
Habitat for Humanity ....	4
Life of the Church	
Spring Forum Series .....	3
Rockland Opera.....	4
A Service for Seniors ....	4



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

**The Reverend Dr. Thomas Hughart, Supply Pastor**

**Office:** (845) 354-2372      **Newsletter Editor:** Robert Philhower

**Fax:** (845) 354-2344      **Next Deadline:** Sunday, May 22

**E-mail:** office@nhpchurch.org

**Web:** nhpchurch.org      **Submissions:** in my mailbox or to carriagestone@nhpchurch.org

## A Family Values Crisis

It is a tragedy that our society, which claims to value its children, is in fact failing them, despite parents' efforts to sacrifice for their children. One of the claims of the present administration is that there be "no child left behind." The irony is that unselfish parents sometimes have self-centered children, who require a "Supernanny" to come into the home and restore order in less than a week! One reason might be that parents can sacrifice too much, and in the wrong ways. Some are even reluctant to assign household chores because the young child's world should always be "fun." They believe that every activity—a dentist appointment, a hair cut, toilet training, eating, a day at school, Sunday School—must be enjoyable, so that the child will not be "stressed", according to Judy Jones and Lisa Stone of Wellesley, Massachusetts. They think that children are not truly happy when nothing is demanded of them and everything is done for their entertainment. We miss many opportunities to help children grow because we don't want to deal with the repercussions. If children and teenagers are restless, irresponsible, apathetic and self-centered, it may be because we have lessened our expectations. Children will usually deliver the degree of individual competence and social responsibility that adults expect, but they are just as likely to become narcissistic if they are over-indulged by parents who want to insure that they are having a good time, and not having to face some of the demands of growing up.

William Damon, professor of education at Brown University, and director of Brown's Center for the Study of Human Development, takes a hard look at our homes, schools, and communities in his book, *Greater Expectations: Overcoming the Culture of Indulgence in America's Homes and Schools*. He cites over-indulgent child-rearing practices that include over-protectiveness, lack of proper adult guidance, obsession with self-esteem, and undue concern with children's momentary feelings—all of which contribute to a "failure of spirit" in

today's youth. For him, the kind of table manners, lack of respect for adults, and bedtime rituals exhibited in "Supernanny" would have been challenged long ago. He presents concrete proof that children are intrinsically motivated toward character and competence; that they crave difficult challenges; that they thrive on opportunities to serve others; that they seek consistent programs of discipline and schedules which help them to establish proper boundaries in their relationships; and that they are more and compassionate, have a strong sense of justice and want to learn how to make ethical decisions. Instead of protecting them from the challenges of life, we can build upon their natural aptitudes by guiding them to accept personal and social responsibility.

Many people have spoken to me about how important the Church is to them as they attempt to raise their children with Christian values in a society that is so materialistic and status conscious. By understanding what children are capable of learning and doing, parents and church schoolteachers can be ready for opportunities to guide their development in the right ways. Even very young children can grasp the idea that it is sometimes a privilege to sacrifice one's own plans if they are not convenient for everyone concerned; that giving up some personal interest or pleasure for the sake of the larger community can enhance the experience of oneself as well as others; that working hard and doing something well is preferable to being told that whatever we do or make is "perfect"; that the joy of giving can be greater than the pleasure of receiving; and that taking responsibility for our actions is what brings us genuine respect from others. Children learn these values when they see adults who are not always indulging themselves, nor indulging their children, but are teaching by example that sacrificing for others can be a great builder of a sense of self-worth.





## Mothers' Day

We will celebrate Mothers' day, May 8, with a hymn sing starting about 15 minutes before the service. During Worship, we will

recognize all of our mothers. Afterwards, you may select a carnation in honor of your mother and those women in your life who nurtured you.

## Pentecost Sunday and the Pentecost Special Offering

Everyone is invited to observe Pentecost Sunday, May 15, by wearing red clothing to Worship. We will celebrate Communion and new members will join the church. Afterwards, we will have an opportunity to welcome the new members at a special coffee hour.



The Pentecost special offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday. John 20:21b, "...so I send you" is the theme for 2005. Some of the money will indeed be sent out...50% to General Assembly ministries with youth and young adults; 10% to Child advocacy at the national level. However, we will retain 40% of the proceeds in our community to help us to minister to children at risk. You will hear more about the Pentecost Special Offering during Worship in May.

## Memorial Day

The Fellowship Committee is planning a special program for the Sunday Service, May 29.

Veterans from our congregation will participate in the morning Worship. There will be a special anthem by our choir and a light lunch in the Colonial Room.



A special exhibition of paintings and early photos of our members in uniform will also be in the Colonial Room. We invite the entire congregation to join us and meet our Veterans!

## Spring Adult Forum

The Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Hughart leads a new series of discussions for the Spring Adult Forum. They began Thursday, April 14 and are scheduled for Thursday evenings at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. May Topics and dates:

**May 5th – "Stem Cell Research, Cloning, Genetic Testing, Genetic Therapy, and Genetic Engineering."**

**May 12th – "Why Try to be Ethical?"**

Discussion will focus on Business Ethics and some of the implications for stewardship in the modern church, and philanthropy in our society since the Tsunami.

**May 19th - "Christian Zionism"**

Following Pentecost, we will have a lecture and discussion about Christian Zionism and how it relates to the Ascension and Pentecostal churches' teachings regarding the Second Coming.



## LOCAL MISSIONS

### Boy Scout Troop 11 News

From John Damtoft, Committee Chairman

#### Activities in the Past Month:

Our recruiting effort is in full swing. A color pamphlet was prepared for recent recruitment activities: Ramapo Winter Carnival, Hillcrest Health Fair and YouthFest at RCC. The efforts of the troop to actively recruit at these events have paid off — we increased our enrollment by 25% — from 8 to 10 boys since February 2005! We also have a few prospects who are not yet 11 or out of fifth grade, so we expect that September will see another boost in our numbers.

We had 100% attendance at the Six Flags Great Adventure camping trip April 15–17, and a number of first-time camper dads too! The weather was great, and everyone came back with renewed excitement.

We assisted Pack 50 at Hillcrest School with their Pinewood Derby and Blue & Gold dinner, which was held on April 12. As our ‘feeder’ pack, they have been our primary source of new scouts. They have a few first year Webelos, so we won’t be able to recruit them as Scouts until next spring. We will continue to have Den Chiefs at the Cub Scout meetings to assist with their program.

#### Upcoming Activities:

May 2: Troop Committee Meeting in Murchison Hall

May 13-15: Spring Camporee.



Adapted from Habitat World

In order to secure and promote a consistent image around the world, Habitat for Humanity has redesigned its logo.

Habitat for Humanity uplifts people by building decent affordable housing in partnership with them. It fosters unity by connecting them through a shared concern: that far too many people endure sleepless nights in deplorable conditions. Following the teachings of Jesus, Habitat aligns itself with equality and compassion, with service, tolerance and love.

Habitat for Humanity’s logo incorporates these ideals and reflects the principles that shape the Habitat movement. In it, human forms stand united in common purpose, their arms lifted to act on the world’s need for decent housing, not hanging idle as if the work were complete. The roofline represents shelter, to be sure, but also symbolizes the Habitat mission under which people of all races, ages and religious beliefs come together for the common good.

### Rockland Opera to Perform

The Rockland Opera will return to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church on June 5 for a performance at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Please see the church bulletin or the June issue of *The Carriage Stone* for further details.

### Help for Senior Citizens

HIICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program) is a free, objective and confidential state and county sponsored service available to Rockland senior citizens. This service offers up-to-date information on Medicare, private health insurance and related health benefits. For more information, just call 364–2733. A trained counselor will be available to answer your questions.

