



# The Carriage Stone

January 2005

**New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y.** *Newsletter of the English Church*

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Hughart as our temporary supply Pastor for a period of six months commencing the first of January 2005. Dr. Hughart was pastor, and then co-pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church for 35 years. He then served as Interim Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, CT; Central Presbyterian Church on Park Avenue in NYC; and All Souls Parish, The First Presbyterian Church in Port Chester, NY.



Dr. Hughart is President of Ethics Management Consultants, Inc. in Bedford, NY. He is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, NYC and received a doctorate in social ethics from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Dr. Hughart lives in Bedford, NY with his working-wife Gloria; they are the parents of two sons and one daughter, and the grandparents to nine grandchildren.

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"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

**Fax:** (845) 354-2344

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

**Web:** nhpchurch.org

**Newsletter Editor:** Robert Philhower

**Newsletter Deadline:** Sunday,  
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**Submissions:** in my mailbox or to  
carriagestone@nhpchurch.org

## The Numbering of Days

The beginning of a new year is an occasion to think about the meaning of time. J. T. Fraser once wrote, "Tell me what you think of time, and I shall know what to think of you." By this, he was indicating that there are several ways of perceiving time. Each of these reflects differences in our personalities. For some people, continuity is established in their lives by relating previous experiences to the present. For them, time is on a line flowing from the past to the present and into the future. For other people, time is circular; time past becomes time present, and then immediately returns to the past as memory. Their typical response to a given situation is, "Oh, yes, that reminds me of..." They tend to be uncomfortable in new situations, and to avoid making decisions that would sever ties with the past, or change their lives greatly. For still others, time gives meaning to events, and for such people meaning is found in what place the events will take in the past, rather than in terms of what effect they have in the present, or where they might lead in the future. The ability to put events in historical order enables them to see how events are valued in the light of history and eternal principles inherited from the past. During the recent presidential election, we heard much about how those events related to similar occasions in the past, and speculation about what historians of the future will say about what happened. For still other people, time is now. They always know what day of the week it is, what time of day it is, and for them time is serious, real and demanding. They don't want to waste a minute, and if they are not doing two or three things at the same time, they are missing out on life. Life is a happening of the moment; where it

came from and where it is going are matters of minor importance. They eventually learn that the timeless and momentous are real, but they never wholly believe it. They do not experience time as flowing, and any delay is annoying. They are skillful in power plays, and if told to be patient, and endure a delay of a month or two, they will maneuver others into fulfilling their wishes immediately. For still others, time is meaningful because of what the future holds. For them, the present is a pale shadow of what is yet to come. Surely, the Wise Men must have been of this type. And probably the Apostle Paul, who spoke of the present as a time when we see through a glass darkly, and the future as a time when we will see face-to-face. Their greatest strength is in their ability to inspire others with a vision of the future. The recognition of the many worlds of time is a crucial step in our effort to number our days.

What have been some beginnings in your life?

What did they demand of you?

Where did they lead you?

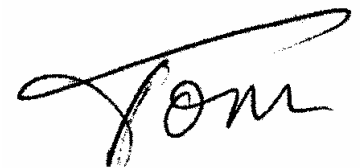
What of beginnings that you halted, gave up on, aborted or forsook? What is it like to begin and then not to continue?

What would you name as the most significant beginning in your life?

What beginnings have been profitable? Costly? Mysterious?

At times of "new beginnings" what was the "word" that was there? Who or what was such a word? How was it spoken? What did it say? In Jesus Christ, we see the Word of God spoken to us.

What is He saying to you today?





## LOCAL MISSIONS

### Thanks from People-to-People

We extend a very special thank you to everyone who purchased items for People-to-People Children's Letters to Santa.

In all, we purchased gifts for five families with a total of nine children! Every child received a coat, hat, mittens, warm shirt and warm pants. Many received warm boots. In addition, each child received a special, wished-for toy. Your generosity made all of this possible.

As many of you know, each year, parents write letters to Santa with special requests and describe their economic circumstances. All of the families we assisted this year were working families with either one or two parents, whose rent, food and other basic expenses exceeded their earnings. There was simply no extra cash for these families to purchase things like new coats or toys for their children. All the parents



wrote of their heartbreak at not being able to give their children anything special for Christmas.

Imagine how happy the children were on Christmas morning opening their gifts from us and especially how happy their *parents* were. As one parent summed up in her letter, "I know my kids would be very happy to receive presents, and seeing my kids happy makes *me* happy."

God bless each and every one of you that donated gifts.

### A Scout is Reverent

From Bill Farro

The Scout Oath starts out "On my honor, I will do my best, to my duty to God and my Country..." All Boy Scouts strive to live that oath daily. The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church has a long history in support of Scouting. Our congregation has been the Chartered Organization or sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 11 since the 1920's.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending as we mark the on-going support of this Troop on Scout Sunday, February 13. As part of our Sunday Worship service, we will celebrate our relationship of encouraging the common values we share with youth.

Presbyterian congregations have used the Scouting program in conjunction with the other phases of the youth ministry for over 80 years. The program has served as a catalyst for strengthening relationships among youth, family and the congregation. More than 140,000 youth members are involved in more than 3,800 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams and Venturing crews across the United States. Note that 112 new Presbyterian Chartered Scout units have been organized in 2004.

The Scouting program at New Hempstead Presbyterian is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provides fun, fellowship and training to our youth as well as youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship and personal fitness.

We encourage all Scouters, not just those in Troop 11, past and present to join us on this special day. Please also join in the Colonial Room for a fellowship hour after the service.



## From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

Pledge statements for 2004 should be in the mail, if they have not already arrived at your home. The good news is that most people achieved their pledge. If you find that you fell short of yours last year, you can still make it up. Mark your check "Pledge 2004."

Envelopes for 2005 have been distributed. If you did not get a box, please speak to Ed Garcia and



he will be happy to get you one. Note that some of the numbers changed over from last year. It's okay, you should use the envelopes with the new numbers. We will try not to change the numbers next year.

New Hempstead is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and, as a member church, we are required to help support the ongoing work of the national church and its subsidiaries. This includes the operating costs of the Presbytery of the Hudson River, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly. Our church has been assessed about \$20 per active church member. We have 149 active members, so we owe the Presbytery just under \$3,000. This is the "Per Capita" Tax. Part of our budget has been set aside for this purpose, but if you can, we would appreciate a gift to the church of your family's portion of the tax. One of the first envelopes in your box is for this purpose or you can mark your check "per capita tax." Either way, your gift will go to the support of our local church as well. Not only does the Presbytery provide services to our congregation, your gift will release money from our budget which can go to further our local programs.



## Session Highlights

From Susan Rentz, Clerk of Session

Despite all the holiday activities, the Session has been very busy conducting church business. We have been working hard to prepare the church budget for your approval at the annual meeting and have been monitoring the pledge campaign.

As seen on the front page, the Worship, Music and the Arts Committee has made arrangements for Rev. Tom Hughart to be our stated supply minister. He will be with us until a permanent minister is found. Welcome, Rev. Hughart!

The Facilities Management Committee has been overseeing work on the electrical outlets in the kitchen (Murchison Hall), replacement of the stove and the painting of the sanctuary (which looks terrific! -- Thanks -- just in time for the holidays).

We are excited by the recent baptisms, reception of new members and election of new officers. With God's grace, we have been able to carry on with hope during this transition time. Please keep the new Session in your prayers as we strive to serve God at our NHPC home.



## Meet for Breakfast

### Women's Breakfast

The monthly women's breakfast will resume on Saturday, February 5 at 8:30 AM, weather permitting. We meet at the Rockland Diner; 29 Third Street; New City. The phone number there is 708-0191.



## Annual Meeting

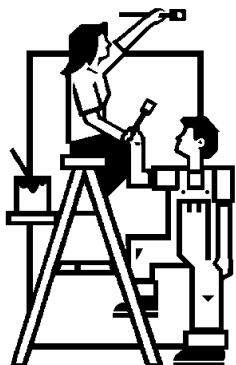
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will hold its annual congregational meeting for 2005 on Sunday, February 6. All members are urged to attend. We will approve the 2005 budget, hear from the church committees, discuss the business of the church and thank those who have led NHPC through some difficult days. Look in your bulletin to learn when and where you can get a copy of the annual report.

## Facilities Management

From Mark Zacheis and Pam Charbonneau

Last spring members of the men's group spackled and painted the center section of the front wall of the sanctuary, the section behind the pulpit. It came out so nice that the Building Committee wanted to get the rest of the sanctuary painted too. The cost of a professional painter proved to be out of reach, so the Building Committee decided to take on the task of doing the painting on their own. Over the past couple of months they have managed to spackle, sand,

and paint the entire front wall (floor to ceiling), the back wall, and the side walls on the first floor of the sanctuary (the windows and the radiators have not been done yet). The narthex will be done next, and then they will work their way up into the balcony.



The new paint color is very close to the old color, so the change is subtle and you may not have noticed the difference. If you look closely however, you'll see that the black marks, chipped paint and gaps in the wainscoting are gone and that the walls are much more attractive.

That so much has been completed already is remarkable, considering that a small band of volunteers has only been able to put in a few hours on Saturday mornings. With the holidays now over, they are starting back up again. If you can spare a few hours on a Saturday now and then and would like to help, please contact Pam Charbonneau or the church office. Or, just show up on a Saturday morning.

Our thanks to those folks who have already contributed their time to the job. It looks lovely!

In addition to ongoing painting activities, we will be scheduling a spring clean up before the Easter holiday season. Since Easter falls on the last Sunday in March, we will have the clean up on a Saturday morning in early to mid March — March 19 at the latest. We will keep you posted as to the exact date in the coming weeks, so please check your bulletin.

Outdoor activities may be limited, depending on whether we still have snow. However, there will still be plenty of work to do inside the sanctuary, Colonial Room, and the kitchen in Murchison Hall.

Food and drink will be provided for the volunteers. If you can, please come and help with the spring clean up. It's a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship time with others in the congregation while getting the buildings and grounds ready for Easter.



**WORK DAY**  
• a t t h e •  
**CHURCH**

## Pageant 2004

From Leslie Rosenow

On December 19, the children of NHPC Sunday School presented the Annual Christmas pageant at 11 AM worship service. The program was centered on the idea of children writing letters to the Biblical characters of the Christmas story. In these letters, the children asked personal questions of the various characters. For example one little girl asked in her letter to a shepherd if "shepherds ever get lonely at night on the hillside?" Another asked Mary "How did you feel when an angel told you that you were to have God's son?" The costumed Biblical characters then answered each letter with their own words and feelings. This simple, poignant program was very moving. The children read their letters beautifully and all could feel the meaning in each question and response.

I want to thank everyone who helped make this Christmas Pageant a success.

This pageant is the twelfth that I have been involved in at NHPC. I have many fond memories of angels without halos, wise men in sneakers and last minute changes that made me crazy! However as I reflect on all the wonderful Christmas programs at NHPC. What stands out most is the story! How no matter what happens, God comes to each of us. Wherever we are, whatever we are rushing to do. The Christ child beckons us to meet with him at the manger.

Blessings and Peace for this New Year and Always.



### Thanks for Sharing Your Talent

We'd like to acknowledge and thank Tim Bidon and Nadia Omer for sharing their musical gifts as part of the pre-service music at the Christmas Eve Service. They were inadvertently left off the program. They performed "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (after the brass quintet selections) and sounded great!

*Christmas Music*





## Church Officers

The following members were elected to the Session and board of Deacons in January:

Laura Bidon (Session class 2005)  
 Pam Charbonneau (Session class 2007)  
 Percival Crockett (Deacons class 2007)  
 Sharon Edelsberg (Deacons class 2007)  
 Wendy Keryk (Deacons class 2007)  
 Susan L. Rentz (Session class 2007)  
 Barbara Zacheis (Session class 2007)

Thanks to them for their willingness to share their gifts of leadership with the congregation. In addition, we offer our heartfelt thanks for the officers whose terms are up and who are rotating off the boards:

Carl Camenisch  
 Carol Camenisch  
 Joann Vargas Feyjo  
 Leslie Rosenow

Leslie Rosenow is staying on as Superintendent of the Sunday School.



Nancy Jacobs wonders who may have seen the Salzburg, Austria poster displayed during the International Luncheon on November 7 of last year. She's hoping to get it back.

## New Baby!

Hamadi Marcus Martin was born on the day of Epiphany, January 6, 2005 at Nyack Hospital.

Congratulations  
 on Your  
 New Baby!



Hamadi is the son of Nardie Valery and Hamadi Martin. His grandparents are Karen and Charles Martin and Marie and Fred Valery. See what love God has revealed to us in the birth of this child.

Congratulations to Jaden Christian Lorico who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship on December 12. Jaden

was born August 23, 2004 to Nehemias E. and Weslee (Tempongko) Lorico. His grandparents are Nehemias N. and Milagros E. Lorico, Wilfredo Tempongko and Bessie S. Chinnery.



## Welcome Walshes!

Please welcome the Walsh family to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Suzanne and John Walsh joined NHPC on Sunday, January 2. Suzanne was baptized on that day as well.

On the next Sunday, Reverend Hughart baptized their daughter, Angelina Rose Walsh.

## Is Your Home Safe from Hazards?

From Home Aides of Rockland

Home Aides of Rockland, Inc. is offering free in-home safety assessments for Rockland County residents aged 65 and older.

A member of the nursing staff will conduct a room-by-room survey that identifies potential hazards in order to help seniors remain safe in their homes. SAFE (Safety Assessments For the Elderly) is a pilot project that was developed in response to concern over preventable accidents in the homes of older adults. Falls are one of the most common home accidents that can lead to serious injury and permanent disability. Preventing accidents may be as simple as securing rugs and using reflective tape on stairs. An extensive home safety checklist is used by a highly experienced home care nurse to identify safety concerns within the home, as well as in the area leading to the home. Following the survey, the nurse will share a list of specific recommendations with the participants.

A Vision Grant from the United Way of Rockland County is providing the funding for a limited number of home safety assessments to be conducted at no charge to the participants. To receive more information or to schedule a free home safety assessment, please call Home Aides of Rockland, Inc. at 634-2024, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM.

We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of [people] willing to be coworkers with God ....  
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



A minister on the Internet, who calls himself simply Pastor Tim, loves to tell jokes. One joke is about a little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap, while he reads a bedtime story to her.

As the child listened, she kept reaching up to her grandfather's face to trace his many wrinkles with her finger. When the story was finished, she looked at him quizzically and said, "Granddaddy, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

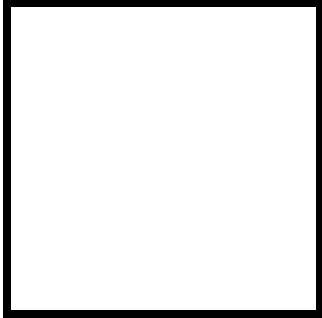
"God made me too, didn't he?"

"Yes," he affirmed. "God made you not too many years ago."

She then placed one of her hands on her own face, noticed how smooth it was and said, "God's getting better at it now, isn't he?"



Thanks to all who sent in their articles before the deadline this month. I had much less time than usual to pull together the newsletter and the early information was a big help!



*Newsletter of the English Church*

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church  
484 New Hempstead Road  
New City NY 10956

## DATED MATERIAL JANUARY 2005

**Just for KIDS**

**David's Psalm of Praise to God**

When we welcome the New Year, let's not forget to praise God!  
In the Bible, David praised God often in his psalms.

Follow the path to read David's Psalm of Praise.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:1-3

Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:1-3