

New England Mission Center  
Congregational Support Ministry  
*Mission Flash*

*Mission Flash* will be sent when a Mission related event happens around our Mission Center. This is to keep you up to date on the many exciting things that are happening in our congregations. Please make sure that a copy of this *FLASH* is posted on you congregational bulletin board.

Mission Flash # 22-08

Jun 2, 2008

## Traditions of Memorial Day

Small town America often gets swallowed up in the hubbub and fast pace of our busy world. This is not the case in Indian River (Addison), Maine. This village has a long tradition of celebrating Memorial Day as it has throughout the years. I remember, many years ago when I was a small child, gathering at the Grange Hall to begin the march to the cemetery on the hill. Our parade took us across the bridge where we paused to remember those veterans that died at sea. Here we place a wreath made of cedar into the water to go out with the tide. After a prayer we continue our journey up the rocky path to the cemetery where we were joined by the community to share in worship, song and fellowship. After a short ceremony the children wind their way through the gravestones to place individual flags on each veteran's grave. It is a memory that will always be with me.

Years have passed since I was a child but the Memorial Day ceremony in Indian River continues. This is my 17<sup>th</sup> year of presiding over the parade and ceremony and I am proud when I see the families of our community bringing their children to be part of this historical and, yes, traditional celebration that brings our small town together under God, remembering what a blessed place we live in. Praise God.

