



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2015

A LIFE CHANGED BY CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk

Never Too Old to be Made New: A Tribute to Leo Bubacz

John 19:39-42



Have you ever had anyone in your life that you have been praying for to receive Christ as his or her Savior, only to be met with anger and rejection towards God? My step-grandfather was that way for the longest time. He was a nice guy, but he didn't have any need for God in his life.

Have you met a few of those in your journeys?

It was when he met my grandmother that he was introduced to Jesus, but still he rejected the Lord. After years of marriage my grandmother passed away and he was left alone. He was one who had problems with his grown children and they wanted nothing to do with him, so when my grandmother died he had nowhere to go. It was then that my parents invited my step-grandfather to come live with us.

Grampa Herold came to New Hampshire around 1980 and it was through the love, acceptance, and influence from our family that he finally received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He was 74 years of age when he and I were baptized the same night by my father at Manchester Baptist Church.

I tell this story because I had not met anybody else that I know of who received Christ so late in life. That is until I met Leo. It wasn't till I had the privilege to do his funeral that I learned that he was baptized only ten years ago.

Though Ruth has been saved for quite some time, Leo had not been. It was a little more than ten years ago that Leo and Ruth started coming to Hillside Baptist Church. This was due in part to Carlye, their granddaughter, going to the children and youth program that the church had at the time.

It was a short time later that he accepted the Lord Jesus as his Savior at a Campbells Concert. He was soon baptized and joined the church in February of 2004 at the "young" age of 71. It was soon after that I met Leo and Ruth when I became the pastor here at Hillside.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion.

Jan. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 17, 11:45 a.m. – March for Life

A rally for the unborn at the State Capitol followed by a March for Life down Main Street.

Jan. 25, Midday – Quarterly Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

There is one thing for sure about Leo. Although he suffered from physical pain, he always seem to have a sparkle in his eye. He always had a strong hand shake and a kind word to say. There is no question in my mind that he enjoyed a personal walk with King Jesus.

Leo reminds me of old Nicodemus. Do you remember him? He was the one who came to Jesus at night and spoke with him in John 3. Jesus spoke words of wisdom and truth to Nicodemus, but it appears that what Jesus shared did not penetrate Nicodemus' heart till later on in life. Now I do not know how old Nicodemus was, but even if he was comparatively young in age to Leo he was definitely old in heart.

Nicodemus kept to the old ways, old practices, and old mentalities of his day. He was rigid and coarse in his belief system. Even though we do not know for sure how old he was, Nicodemus was often portrayed as an older gentleman who had some level of influence on the religious order of the day. Yet when Jesus spent time with him during a nighttime conversation, Nicodemus ultimately chose to remain hidden in the shadows looking to only watch and observe Jesus. It wasn't till we come upon John 19:39 that we see Nicodemus emerge from the shadows and step into the light.

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

He stepped into the light when Jesus needed to be buried. Only Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took care of the dead body of Jesus. It was at that moment that Nicodemus was found with the Lord, and old Nicodemus was made new. Christian history records that Nicodemus became a follow of Christ that day.

We must always remember that no one is too old, too sinful, too lost, or too far away that Christ cannot come into that life and change the old into new. When I think of Leo I am reminded that someone who was advanced in age, who knew life, who lived life, who tried it his own way, and did his own thing for seventy years was old when he met Jesus at the cross of Cavalry. It was there that the old man, Leo, died and the new man, Leo, came into being, the new man who had a sparkle in his eye, a warm handshake to give, and a good word to share with others. That is the Leo Bubacz I remember.

It was the new man who went on to be with the Lord last month, for the old man died and was buried at the cross of Christ. We as a church celebrate Leo's life, we honor his memory, we miss his physical presence, but we know that, when our time comes, we will see the new man, Leo, again in heaven. Though he is absent among us, he will never be far from us, for, like us, he has received eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Here at Hillside Baptist Church, our thoughts and prayers go out to Ruth and her family at this time. May the Lord's grace be upon you as you look forward to the day when you see Leo again.

✠ Pastor Jim

Leon Bubacz, Feb 12, 1933 to Dec 12, 2014

We are saddened to lose Leo but we rejoice at his new home. Leo was raised in Blossburg, PA and joined the Air Force in 1950. While stationed at Geneva, NY in 1954, on a blind date, he met his wife Ruth from Mansfield, PA. After one year of marriage and gaining their daughter Sharon, Leo was transferred to Iceland for a one year unaccompanied tour.

His next duty station was at Niagara Falls, NY for four years where Bruce, Craig, and Mark joined the family. This was followed by the whole family being transferred to Germany for another four years. The next duty station was at Mt. Laguna, CA which included a tour in Viet Nam.

Leo's final duty station was at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, NH where son Criss was born. On January 1, 1971, Leo retired as a Technical Sergeant with 20 years of service.

Leo's field of service while in the Air Force was in the Supply Department in the Commissary section. This type of service was put to use in civilian life as he worked for Q.D. Foods. This company opened a branch in the Concord area and this is how the Bubacz family settled in Allentown. They became members of Hillside Baptist Church in 2005.

As with the United States Air Force jets that carried Leo and his family all over the world, angels carried him into the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Technical Sergeant Leon Bubacz, United States Air Force (ret), with wings on high, we wish you a smooth eternal flight.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Men's Breakfast

We met before the newsletter went to press and had a fine meal together featuring scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, toast, and coffee.

The surprise entree was Concord Grape Pie, which a few guys tried out and enjoyed.

Fellowship Events

On January 25 at midday after the Worship Service, we have a quarterly business meeting to review the 2014 finances. The meeting will be preceded by a good old Baptist Potluck Dinner.

Even if you don't bring any food, we always have plenty to spare, so feel free to stay for dinner and fellowship.

Property and Space Patrol

We dodged another snowstorm that came in Saturday night and left a few inches of slush topped by an inch of frozen snow. Pastor Jim got hold of Bob Lavalley's plow truck and had the driveway cleared so that Sunday services could proceed on time.

Praise the Lord for plow trucks!

✠ Pastor Al Page

Northeastern Baptist College

January 2015 Update

Heat is up and running in the library. Repairs to the library roof are scheduled to be completed in mid-January.

The next big project is to repair the bath vents in the dorm rooms (the former Kirkside Motel). It was discovered that none of the rooms are vented to the outside.

The old garage at the library will become the maintenance building. At the library, the former kitchen will become the sports and fitness center.

At the college building, offices for new staff are scheduled to be completed by June. Anyone interested in going over to Bennington for a work day, please contact me.

"J" term starts after the first of the year, then the spring semester begins the third week of January. The college is interviewing new faculty and staff. There are new students joining in the spring semester and it looks like there will be substantial student growth in fall 2015.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

- 1/1 Fred Smith (a belated happy birthday!)
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson
- 1/12 Chris Frascinella
- 1/21 Cynthia Ward



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

- 1/5 Robert & Terri LaValley
- 1/31 Floyd & Janet Jenkins

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership. It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Jan. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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