



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2015

Freedom from Responsibilities?

From the Pastor's Desk

Enjoying Our Christian Independence

Independence Day is here and with it a lot of travel and fun, but what does this beloved holiday truly represent and mean in today's world? Many celebrate this holiday by taking time off from work and participating in various parties and events.



This special day of the summer rivals the big one in the winter when it comes to non-stop activities. Picnics, cookouts, swimming, camping, and sports fill the air for the first part of the month as many will gather to spend time with family and friends.

Independence Day for many is a day that we can spend time doing the things we would like to do if we could get time off from work or school. But what does this holiday really emphasize?

In the last several years I have noticed that many in our world today like to take independence to a whole new level. Some want absolute independence from all things that may govern, restrict, or regulate what we consider our freedoms. Is this mindset really what God has intended for the human race? Does God really want us to have absolute independence from all such shackles?

Romans 9 tells us of the sovereignty of God and how we are not independent from Him. Nothing happens outside His will and we as His creation will not ever be independent from Him. This goes for those who choose to accept or reject Him.

We must never forget as Christians that the independence we celebrate is not a license to do as we wish – that is not what freedom is all about. Freedom was never meant to be something that was to excuse us from our duties and responsibilities as members of the human race and as partakers in God's overall design.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Men's Breakfast

No men's breakfast this month due to July 4th holiday.

July 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

July 26, Midday – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

July 27, 7 p.m. – Pembroke Zoning Board Hearing

Regarding new church sign. See the Property & Space article on p. 2.

August 1, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. – Adult Bible Study Series through the Book of Genesis

Also, in 1 Corinthians 10, Paul writes that everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial or constructive. He was primarily talking about the food in which one eats, but the principle of freedom in Christ can be expanded into other areas of our lives as well. The application is that many things in our freedom might be permitted, but it might not necessarily be good for us. We must practice our freedom and independence with temperance.

We as Christians have life more abundantly than anyone else in this world could know and with that abundance comes a greater independence than what we celebrate on July 4th.

We have freedom and independence from death, sin, and destruction; but this freedom does not give us permission to sin against our God for our freedom has come with a great price. We must remember that the independence we have is in Christ Jesus, not apart from Christ Jesus.

See Pastor's Desk, p. 2

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

I hope and pray that all of you had a chance to enjoy your Independence Day this year. I hope it was a safe and happy holiday in which you celebrated the freedom that you have been granted to you by our country, by those who died so that you might have such freedom, and by God who granted you the privilege of being born in such a country that respects the God-mandated truth of our independence and freedom.

✝ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

Since the first Saturday is Independence Day (July 4) and it's a big holiday weekend, it was decided that moving the event to the following weekend would put it almost at mid-month. Therefore, it was decided to cancel the July breakfast and look forward to holding it next month instead.

Fellowship Events

On Sunday July 26, the next quarterly business meeting is to be held, but it will be preceded by a good old Baptist Potluck Dinner. Please plan on staying after the Sunday Service and enjoy some fellowship. If you can bring a dish to share, please do so.

Property and Space Patrol

Proposed New Church Sign

Hillsideers are asked to show their support for the Signs for Jesus initiative at the Pembroke Zoning Board Hearing. The hearing is at Pembroke Town Hall on July 27 at 7 p.m.

The Signs for Jesus organization in Epsom is working with Hillside to install an electronic LED (light-emitting diode) sign at the church. There will be no cost to Hillside but it will be a great outreach to the hundreds of commuters who pass the church each day. The sign will automatically present daily Bible verses that follow a theme that culminates at the end of the week. This will eliminate the need to have a dedicated person devise new sayings and manually change the lettering on the sign periodically.



The sign will use red lettering and will not scroll, blink, or be animated, so it will not be an annoying distraction to drivers and the public like the Hooksett Library's sign. For an example, they have installed one at Route 4 and Main St. in Chichester.

Getting approval for the sign in Chichester was a hard fought battle and it seems like Pembroke is behaving similarly even though Pembroke Academy and two gas stations in town have similar LED signs. Please pray that the

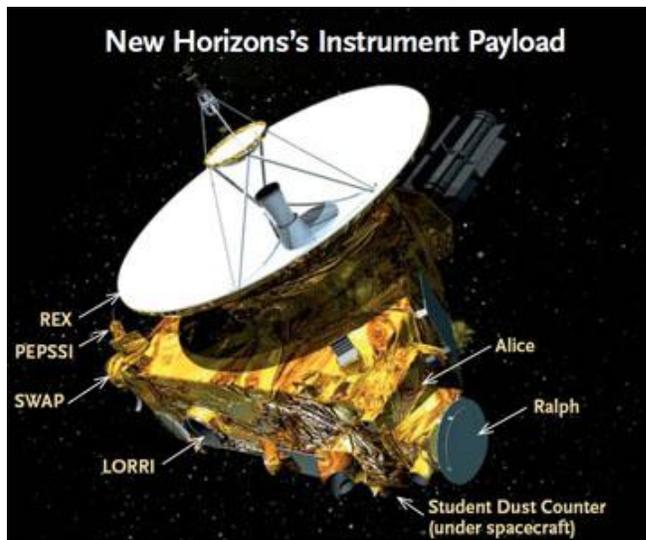
Lord overcomes the opposition. Also, please attend the hearing on July 27 and show your support.

✝ Michael Frascinella

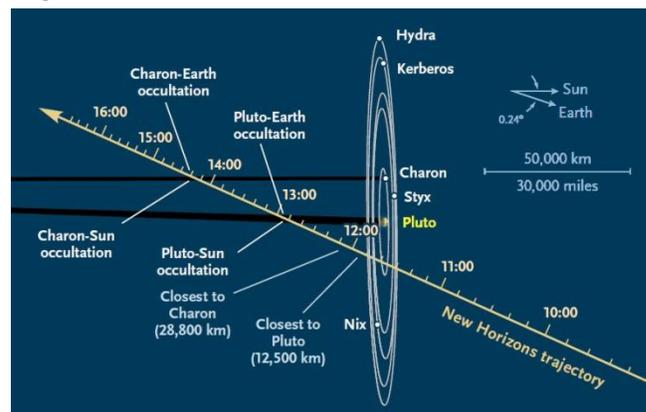
The Heavens Declare

New Horizons Spacecraft to Fly By Pluto

The following information was excerpted from an article that appeared in *Sky & Telescope* magazine's weekly astronomy newsletter dated June 2, 2015. The author, planetary scientist S. Alan Stern of the Southwest Research Institute, is the Principal Investigator of NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto. The spacecraft and its payload of instruments is shown in the following graphic.



"It sounds like science fiction, but it's not: NASA's New Horizons spacecraft is on final approach to the Pluto system! After 113 months in flight [that's 9 1/2 years -- ed.], the fastest spacecraft ever launched is now barely 30 days from its destination. Closest approach of the flyby occurs on July 14th at 11:50 Universal Time (7:50 a.m. EDT). See the diagram.



"During its July 14th pass through the Pluto system at 8.6 miles/sec (13.8 km/sec), New Horizons will execute a complex, preprogrammed sequence of twists and turns to record everything it can during its brief flyby window. Getting all of the Pluto system observations back to Earth

See Heavens Declare, p. 3

Heavens Declare, from p. 2

will take the rest of 2015 and most of 2016, but many images and other observations will be returned during the close-approach operations spanning July 4th to July 20th."

This is a fine example of technology being used to expand our knowledge of the extreme limits of our solar system, which God created for us to marvel at. The ninth planet, which was downgraded to a dwarf planet in 2003, has five moons in orbit. Pluto has a highly elliptical orbit and is now about 3 billion miles from Earth, which is the only inhabited planet in the Solar System. Who but God could have made our Solar System the way it is??

✠ Michael Frascinella

The Nazareth Inscription

I have been reading through *Eerdman's Handbook of the Bible* and was a few pages into the discussion of the Book of Acts when I came across a sidebar about the "Nazareth Inscription." It was a marble tablet measuring 24x15 inches that came from Nazareth in 1878 into the possession of an antiquities collector named Froehner.

It was rediscovered at the Paris National Library in 1925 by M. Rostovtzeff. Inscribed with Greek uncials (uppercase letters) that described a prohibition from Caesar against disturbing graves and tombs, its publication in 1930 took the scholarly world by storm. Some scholars saw it as a royal edict possibly connected to Jesus' resurrection, about which the chief priests spread the story that the apostles had stolen the body (see Matt. 28:11-15). Textual criticism places its origin either during the reign of Emperor Caesar Augustus (31 B.C. to 14 A.D.) or Emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.), with others supporting a late first century A.D. date.

The following text is a translation by Clyde E. Billington, Ph.D. which appears on the web at <http://creation.com/nazareth-inscription-1>. The article, dated Nov. 2012, is about 11 pages long and well footnoted. A second article is also on the same web site.

Line numbers refer to the lines of Greek text on the tablet.

1. EDICT OF CAESAR
2. It is my decision [concerning] graves and tombs— whoever has made
3. them for the religious observances of parents, or children, or household
4. members—that these remain undisturbed forever. But if anyone legally
5. charges that another person has destroyed, or has in any manner extracted
6. those who have been buried, or has moved with wicked intent those who
7. have been buried to other places, committing a crime against them, or has
8. moved sepulcher-sealing stones, against such a person I order that a
9. judicial tribunal be created, just as [is done] concerning the gods in

10. human religious observances, even more so will it be obligatory to treat

11. with honor those who have been entombed. You are absolutely not to

12. allow anyone to move [those who have been entombed]. But if

13. [someone does], I wish that [violator] to suffer capital punishment under

14. the title of tomb-breaker.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

7/10 John Bachand

7/22 Charles and Robert Thomas, the twins



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any people who celebrate wedding anniversaries this month. If that's you, please let the editor know so he can add you to his records.

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 July 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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