



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 8

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2015

## INVESTING IN ETERNITY

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### What Will You Invest In?

Mark 8:36

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to take the kids up to the Flume in Lincoln, NH. It was my fifth time going, but for the kids it was their first.

We were accompanied by my brother, Ken, who had been there a few times himself, as well as his son Luke, who had not. It was a great time to explore God's creation and spend time with family.

Being able to walk straight up into the Flume Gorge and take in the wonder was exhilarating. After we traversed the gorge we were able to follow along a path to Liberty Gorge. That viewing was different, in that we were not right in the gorge itself, but were able to observe it from above. The whole trip was about two miles long, which was worth the time, effort, and cost.

What is worth your time? What is worth your effort? What is worth your cost? Such questions need to be asked about our Christian faith and practice. What are we willing to do for God? What are we willing to give up for his kingdom? Are we willing to forego something for His work and for His glory?

There are many things in life that we will invest in. Some are short-term, such as a good day out with the kids, going out on a date with the spouse, or buying a new TV. Other things we invest in are long-term, such as planning for retirement, buying a home, or earning a degree. Either way, short-term or long-term, we invest our time, effort, and cost in the things that matter to us. What I want to encourage is that in those things that matter to us we not just include God, but that we put Him first and foremost in our plans. We should plan things through the lens of our faith and make decisions that are God directed.

In Mark 8:36 Jesus asked a question that should be asked by all. "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? (NASB)" Now this passage primarily is directed to the one who will ignore God's call to salvation.

For those of us who have yielded to Christ for salvation there is a secondary application. That is, if we who are Christians spend our whole life pursuing the pleasures of

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Aug. 1, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Aug. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Coming in September

Fall Weekly Bible Series

#### Weekly:

#### Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

#### Wednesday Adult Bible Study

Resumes in September with coverage of Genesis chapters 17 through 50.

this world and gain everything while ignoring God, what profit is that for us?

It is important to ask such a question because we are not called out of sin to embrace the finer things of this life, but to live for Christ, our Lord and Savior. How can we achieve living a life that glorifies our Savior? By putting God first in everything we do. That in all our decisions and in the expenditure of our time, effort, and cost, we will glorify and enjoy God.

This is not to say we cannot enjoy His creation, or enjoy fine dining with our spouse, or buy things in this world that make it easier to live. This is not to say we should not plan not plan for retirement, or make a home for our families, or invest in an education that can open doors for employment.

It is to say that, in all we do, we keep Jesus Christ in the front of our thinking and planning. That way He can direct and guide our paths in such a way, that in all we do in regard to our time, effort, and cost, we will glorify Him. When we do this, we will then invest also in eternity, which of course is the longest and greatest investment we can make that will profit us the most.

God Bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | Church Sign | 10th Anniversary | Living Up to Our Reputation | 12 Things | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

## Men's Breakfast

Once again it's time to rustle up some grub and meet at the Hillside Breakfast Nook for some food for the body and then some food for the soul.

Join the guys on Saturday August 1st at 8:00 a.m. and we'll enjoy some food, fellowship, and a fine time in God's Word.

## Property and Space Patrol

Mowing and maintaining the grounds continues as the summer progresses. The brush pile gets a little bigger each week.

Parsonage: The electrical wiring in the garage and pastor's office has been repaired. Installation of the emergency generator is almost completed. The master bathroom needs an upgrade to eliminate some leaking. A conversion of the parsonage furnace to propane is being seriously considered but not feasible until at least late 2016.

Church: The handrails along the front ramp have been replaced.

✠ Pastor Al

## Church Sign Update

The church voted to install an internally lighted message board to replace the existing sign. A standard sign is available through "Signs for Jesus". The message would be changed daily by remote control. A building permit was applied for in the town of Pembroke and was denied by the town building inspector. The decision was appealed and an attorney engaged in behalf of the church. The appeal hearing was held on July 27 with several church members attending.

The Pembroke Zoning Board (ZB) heard both supporting and opposing arguments. The hearing took over three hours with much discussion. The ZB ruled that the building inspector was correct in his decision to deny the permit. The ZB also denied a request for a variance to allow the sign. Based on the town regulations, such a sign would distract from the rural character of Pembroke Street and the size of the sign, 49 sq. ft. would not be in compliance with the town sign ordinance of 12 sq. ft. for our zone.

As a church, we will meet to decide if we should continue to pursue installing the new sign or to let the matter drop.

The sign installation and legal fees are being paid for by Signs For Jesus, Inc.

Meanwhile, we need someone to help change the existing sign message on a regular basis. Please call the church if you could help with this.

✠ Pastor Al

## Pastor Jim's 10th Anniversary

A celebration of this anniversary is planned for the afternoon of Sunday November 8. This will be a noteworthy milestone for both Pastor Jim and for the church. We have learned from and prayed with the family and enjoyed their children as they grew from little munchkins to their teen years.

Pastor Jim and Michelle have blessed us over the years and now we are blessed to have Doctor Jim as our Senior Pastor, having masterfully earned his doctorate this year.

Invitations are to be sent out to the area churches and past and present members. If you would like to help with preparations, please contact Pastor Al Page or Mike Frascinella.

## Living Up to Our Reputation

The following teaching is a reprint from *What Does God Think of Me Now?* which is a booklet published by RBC Ministries.

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Let's briefly walk through Ephesians 4-6 and see what Paul said about living as members of the heavenly realm.

**Live up to your position (4:1-3).** Walk worthy of your identification with Christ by being humble, gentle, patient, loving, and united.

**Use your spiritual gifts (4:7-16).** The abilities Christ has given you must be put into practice within the church. •

**Put off the old life (4:17-19).** Reject the futility of the devil's way of life.

**Put on the new life (4:20-24).** Decide to live in accordance with your position in Christ.

**Love others (5:2).** We are to love people sacrificially, as Christ loved the church.

**Stay away from wicked people (5:5-7).** They will drag you back toward the darkness.

**Walk in light (5:8-9).** We do this by manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

**Walk wisely (5:15).** Avoid the wasted days of the old way of life.

**Let the Holy Spirit fill you (5:18-21).** Let Him take full control of your life.

**Put on the armor of God (6:10-17).** This will protect you from Satan's attacks.

**Pray continually (6:18-20).** Let all of your thoughts, deeds, and circumstances become a cause for communication with God.

When you are following these directives and growing in holiness, you will be living up to your reputation in Christ.

## 12 Things a Church Should Know about Its Pastor

Sean Simonton (NHBA Church Planting Catalyst) recently tweeted a link to the following article directed toward pastors and written by Dr. Chuck Lawless. This not a 12-step program but one pastor's ideas of how to foster a closer relationship between pastor and congregation.

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I love the local church. In the church I have found a family that loves me, prays for me, challenges me, and stands beside me. My experience is that most churches want to love (See 12 Things on p. 3)

## 12 Things (continued from p. 2)

and follow their undershepherds as they walk together.

At the same time, though, I fear that the disconnect from pastor to pew is often too wide to build a good team. In that light, I believe many pastors need to be more open to sharing life with their congregation. Thus, I list twelve things a church should know about its pastor.

Some of these items may surprise you, but that's the point: we pastors don't often share enough.

1. **Your conversion experience.** Pastors often share their story in the hiring process, but seldom after getting hired. Consequently, many newer church members don't know these stories.
2. **Your baptism story.** Folks who hear pastors proclaim the Word ought to know about this spiritual marker in their leaders' lives. After all, baptism is to be a witness.
3. **Your spiritual disciplines strategy.** Believers need role models to help them read the Word and pray. Telling them your strategy will give them ideas for their own life and increase their confidence their spiritual leader is following God.
4. **The latest truth you've learned from God's Word.** Share with them the result of your studies; show them your joy in hearing from God. Let them know that all believers should continue growing.
5. **Your sermon preparation strategy.** When they know the work you do, they will pray more for you – and they may be more protective of your study time.
6. **Your latest efforts in evangelism.** A congregation needs to know their pastor is trying to reach the lost. Tell the stories, but do so without drawing attention to yourself.
7. **Your latest efforts in discipleship.** Pastors should be pouring themselves into the next generation of leaders. When the church knows you're raising up leaders, they'll think more about the future.
8. **Your prayer needs.** We assume church members pray for us, but they must do so generically if they don't know our needs. Be willing to share your heart a bit.
9. **Your day off.** You deserve a day off. Your family deserves time with you alone. Tell your church about your day off, and protect that day as much as possible.
10. **Your birthday and anniversary.** Give your congregation an opportunity to celebrate with you on these important days. In fact, let your church know the birthdays of your entire family.
11. **Your reading list.** Some church members will want to read with you. Others will simply be glad to know you're reading. Still others will begin reading something because you recommend it.
12. **Your vision for the church.** Your members want to know your goals, your direction, your plans for the congregation. Work with the appropriate staff and teams to lead the church to buy into that vision.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 8/9 Nathan Frascinella  
 8/12 Virginia Smith  
 8/25 Robert LaValley



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If we overlooked your anniversary, please contact the editor.

## 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 Aug. 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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