



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 14 No. 10

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2015

PROVIDING ENCOURAGEMENT

From the Pastor's Desk

Encouragement in Unexpected Places

The other day I was driving into Manchester to help out at the food ministry off Elm Street. As I was driving along, an old pick-up truck got my attention. Now when I say old, it is from the perspective of one who is not yet fifty years of age.

However, it was definitely a Chevy truck that would be dated to the 1980s. What was surprising was the fact that it was in great condition. There did not appear to be a spot of rust on the entire vehicle and the original color was in pristine condition as well. Either that truck has not experienced any of our New England winters by hiding out in a garage, or it's from somewhere in the South where there is no snow, it was in nearly perfect condition.

As I checked the truck out I noticed the vanity plate, you know those plates that generally make you try and figure out what they're saying. For instance I saw one once that said SK8R, which meant "skater," probably one who liked to play hockey or ice skate.

Or how about this one, STRKR? I knew the owner and so I verified that it meant "Striker" and he confirmed that it did. It could have referred to someone who liked to bowl and get a bunch of strikes, or a pitcher in baseball who liked to strike out people, or even a rugby player who played that position on the field. However, because I knew the owner, I knew it wasn't any of those, but instead it was a character he developed for a video game.

Most of the time such plates have a personal message or meaning for the onlooker to try and figure out. Well, on the truck he had 2COR517. This one was not hard – it clearly stood for 2 Corinthians 5:17.

I found it encouraging to come across one who loved the word of God enough to share it. I wish I could say that I had the brain capacity and photographic memory to instantaneously recall what the verse said, but I didn't, thus I told myself to look it up when I got home.

Well, like for many of us, I forgot to look up when I got home. However, I remembered to read it this morning. It says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (NASB). That verse truly is encouraging isn't it?

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Oct. 3, 9:00 a.m.-noon – Fall Work Day

Getting the church ready for winter.

Oct. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 25, midday – Business Meeting

Major topic is the 2016 budget.

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

Studying the Book of Genesis from chapter 17 to the end.

We who are saved in Jesus Christ are no longer what we once were, for we have been changed – changed to do righteous works, to act holy before a holy God, and to live a life for our Savior. The old has truly passed away and because it has new things have come into our lives.

I found this simple license plate to be encouragement in an unexpected place. It was out there in the world, there for all to see.

That should encourage all of us to do the same. To have those plates and bumper stickers on our cars so that they profess our faith. It should encourage us to wear those T-shirts that professes Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

We should be inspired to speak to others with grace, love, and care that come from the fruit of the Spirit that lives in us. And it should spurn us on to conduct ourselves as righteous followers of Jesus in our workplace, home, and community.

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

When we do that, we will not only grow in our faith in Christ, but also provide that much needed encouragement to others who will find that encouragement in an unexpected place.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

It's time to start planning for the October Men's Breakfast which takes place on October 3rd at 8:00 a.m. We have been blessed to have several guys bring in various entrees so the meal is not a chore for just one person. If you can cook up something tasty, or if you just pick up something like blueberry muffins at the super market, we won't complain.

Afterward, plan on some spiritual nourishment as we continue our discussion of the Book of Philippians AKA a Letter from Prison.

Fall Work Day

The Fall Work Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3rd right after Men's Breakfast.

The air conditioning units need to be removed and stored, and the church given a thorough vacuuming and cleaning. We should also go through the food pantry downstairs and determine what items are past their expiration dates.

Outside tasks will include yard clean up and refilling the sand barrels.

Property and Space Patrol

The parsonage propane tank is being replaced and the gas line to the Pastor's office is to be pressure-tested for leaks and replaced if needed. Mowing has slowed down to every two weeks or so as we slide into Autumn.

The Fall Work Day will be on Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is being held right after Men's Breakfast.

The AC units need to be removed and stored, and the church given a thorough vacuuming and cleaning. Outside tasks will include yard clean up and refilling the sand barrels.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Business Meeting and the 2016 Church Budget

The major agenda item for the Fall Business Meeting is the review and approval of the proposed 2016 church budget. The Finance Committee met on Sept. 20, used the 2015 church budget as a baseline, made adjustments, and finalized the proposed 2016 budget.

You are all urged to attend the meeting, participate in the discussions, prayerfully consider the proposed expenses, and join in the vote.

Origin of Sunday School

The following article appeared in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional pamphlet for Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015.

The year was 1780, and Robert Raikes had a burden for the poor, illiterate children living in his London neighborhood. He noticed that nothing was being done to help these children, so he set out to make a difference.

He hired some women to set up schools for them on Sunday. Using the Bible as their textbook, the teachers taught the poorest children of London to read and introduced them to the wisdom of the Bible. Soon about 100 children were attending these classes and enjoying lunch in a safe, clean environment. These "Sunday schools," as they were soon called, eventually touched the lives of thousands of boys and girls. By 1831, Sunday schools in Great Britain reached more than a million children—all because one man understood this truth: "The righteous considers the cause of the poor" (Prov. 29:7 NKJV).

It's no secret that Jesus cares greatly for those who struggle. In Matthew 25, He suggests that followers of Christ show a readiness for the Lord's return by helping the hungry to get food, helping the thirsty to get a drink, helping the homeless to find a home, helping the naked to get clothes, and helping the sick or imprisoned to receive comfort (vv. 35-36).

As we bear witness that Christ is in our hearts, we honor our compassionate Savior by considering those on God's heart.

✠ Dave Branon

For a more detailed account of Robert Raikes and his rag-tag Sunday Schoolers, go to the Christianity.com web site:

<http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/robert-raikes-and-how-we-got-sunday-school-11635043.html>

The Reason for God – a Book Review

Recently a friend of mine gave me a book that the men's group at his church had been using for discussions of Christian values. I just started reading it and it is really engaging. In fact, it is one of those books where you find so many gems that you start underlining the text. I have even taken to creating a secondary index of topics that are not in the main index.

The author is Timothy Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, which he started in 1989 with his wife and three sons, and now has nearly 6,000 regular attendees.

Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, stated on the back cover that "This is the book I give to all my friends who are serious spiritual seekers or skeptics."

The book is divided into two parts: "The Leap of Doubts" and "The Reasons for Faith." In Part 1, the Introduction speaks about our divided culture of faith vs. doubt but presents the paradox that the population is growing both more religious and less religious.

He soon makes the interesting observation that "All doubts, however skeptical and cynical they may appear, are really a set of alternate beliefs." As a suggestion to believers, he talks about helping doubters doubt their doubts. Think about that for a minute.

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Book Review, from p. 2

The Introduction ends with testimonies of four young city people who started out as atheists or sophisticated non-believers and, through encounters with Christian friends or co-workers, began to doubt their doubts and finally accepted Jesus as Lord.

Chapter 1 is entitled, "There Can't Be Just *One* True Religion." By the end of the chapter, you learn that Christianity is that one true religion. The chapter examines three methods that cultural leaders try to use against the supposed divisiveness of religion: 1) outlaw religion, 2) condemn religion, and 3) privatize it.

1) Outlaw religion: a quote by Alistair McGrath in *The Twilight of Atheism* (2004) speaks to this first method. "The greatest intolerance and violence of the [20th] century were practiced by those who believe that religion caused intolerance and violence."

2) Condemn religion: Several subtopics include these: all religions are equally valid, no religion has the whole truth, religion is culturally conditioned, and you can't insist your religion is right. Keller refutes all these arguments, mostly by showing that they are built on alternative articles of faith.

3) Force religion to be private: Keller counters this argument at the end of the section by stating that to call for exclusion of religion from the public arena is itself a religious view.

The final topic, "Christianity Can Save the World," calls its believers "agents for peace on Earth." Harkening back to the early Christians, Keller notes that they were a paradox. The Greco-Roman world at that time was cruel and brutal but Christians were generous, and helped the poor, the sick, and those in prison (like the apostle Paul). In a world that held women in low esteem, Christians afforded women security and equality. All this was because of a man who died for His enemies and prayed for their forgiveness.

I'm in chapter two now, so I'm looking forward to a great deal of illumination and strengthening of my belief in the Risen Savior.

✠ Michael Frascinella

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 Oct. 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.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

- 10/1 Al Page
- 10/23 Janet Jenkins
- 10/30 Gerry Kingsbury



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

- 10/5 Warren & Charlotte Hastings

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

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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