



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2016

## HIDING FROM GOD

### From the Pastor's Desk

Nothing to Hide?

Acts 4:13

Do you have secrets? Do you have moments in your life that you wished remained private, but became public instead? How about an event in which you were totally exposed, whether emotionally or physically?

My mom has a picture of me that I have not been able to hide from since I was a little boy. When Michelle and I were dating we were going through some family pictures in the various photo albums my mother had assembled and left in the secondary family room. I had totally forgotten about one of the most embarrassing pictures she had kept prominently in the pages of that book. As we were going through it there it was in all its splendor for Michelle to gaze upon; a picture of me totally naked running towards the water at the beach. Now mind you I was only about two or three years old, but there it was a picture of my backside for all the world to see.

Some may think that this was not such a big deal, but there is an extra part to be told to this story. You see it was a newspaper headline clipping from the local paper called "A Way to Beat the Heat." That day in which I donned my birthday suit in public, there just happened to be a reporter there and he snapped the photo that was so joyously clipped by my parents those many years ago.

How embarrassing. Not embarrassing when it happened mind you, but definitely embarrassing to a teenager who looked to do nothing more than remain macho in front of his girlfriend. I felt completely exposed and when Michelle looked at me she could see that I could not hide the embarrassment on my face. I so take some solace in this moment because, though this happened to me, I can't wait to show similar photos of my kids to future marital prospects.

Well, all joking aside, there is a passage in scripture that tells us that, although we may try to hide things from one another and we may try to keep things hidden from the Lord, we cannot keep secrets from God. In Acts 4:13 the author writes, "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (NASB).

Now if you let yourself stop and think about that it should humble you for a moment. To think that though we work hard to put up barriers of protection, to create façades for

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Jan. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Jan. 9, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast**

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

**Jan. 16, midday – Right to Life Rally**

Concord State House, then March for Life down Main St.

**Jan. 17, 3 p.m. – 10th Anniversary Party**

Celebrating Pastor Jim's 10th anniversary at Hillside

**Weekly:**

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

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



misdirection, and defend our ego from all those who know us, we can do nothing to prevent God from seeing everything about us, for He sees it all!

What do you try to hide from God? What do you work hard at to prevent Him from knowing the real you? Do you try and put up barriers or defenses so that He cannot look over your walls of futility? The reality is there is nothing you can do to prevent Him from knowing the real you and what's even scarier is that He knows you better than you know yourself, for nothing is hidden from Him.

He knows what you have done, He knows what you are doing, and He knows what you may or will do in the future. So why do we try to hide things from Him? When we stop

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

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

**Pastor's Desk** (from p. 1)

and ponder upon this reality we must recognize that ultimately such actions reflect less of what we believe about Him and more about what we try to deny about ourselves.

The reality is we live among a fallen people in whom we are counted among, thus we need to protect ourselves emotionally and physically. We do this because we have been hurt in the past and we do not wish to be ridiculed and slandered again.

But with God that is not the case. He is perfect. He is patient. He is loving. He is understanding. Since He is all these things and more we do not have to worry about how He will react or what He will do. Thus we are called to strip ourselves our all our manmade barriers and embrace the reality that is already in play. He knows it all anyway, so don't keep up appearances in His presence.

Instead, be willing to expose your most inner pains and problems so that He can begin to work in your life. The longer you try to hide such issues from the Lord, the longer it will take for Him to work things out for His glory and your good within your life.

If you approach Him willing to be stripped of all pretenses and pride then you will recognize there is in fact nothing you can hide from Him. Then you will know the fullness of the relationship He desires to have with you and you will know what it is to truly have an open relationship with your God.

Blessings in this New Year,

✠ Pastor Jim

**Encountering Christ**

by Ellen Lakshmi Goreh

*(Title not by Author)*

This poem was submitted by Pastor Jim

In the secret of his presence how my soul delights to hide!  
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side!

Earthly cares can never vex me, neither trials lay me low;  
For when Satan comes to tempt me, to the secret place I go.

When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of his wing  
There is cool and pleasant shelter and a fresh and crystal spring;  
And my Savior rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet:  
If I tried I could not utter what he says when thus we meet.

Only this I know: I tell him all my doubts, my griefs, and fears.  
Oh, how patiently he listens! and my drooping soul he cheers.  
Do you think he ne'er reproves me? What a false friend he would be  
If he never, never told me of the sins which he must see!

Would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the Lord?

Go and hide beneath his shadow; this shall then be your reward.

And whene'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,

You must mind and bear the image of the Master in your face.

**Men's Breakfast**

The first Men's Breakfast of the new year will be a week later than normal, on January 9 at 8 a.m. Plan on coming for a great home-cooked meal followed by a lively discussion of Colossians, which we started on last month.

**Pastor Jim's 10th Anniversary Party**



On January 17 at 3 p.m., help us celebrate Pastor Jim's 10th year leading our congregation. Since the actual anniversary date was the end of November 2015, the decision was made at a previous business meeting to wait until after the holidays had passed before hosting the celebration.

We will also celebrate the fact that Pastor Jim is now Doctor Robertson, having successfully completed his doctorate work at New England College in Henniker, NH last year, receiving a Doctor of Education degree (Ed.D.).

**Property and Space Patrol**

A messy snowstorm on Tuesday December 29 covered Pembroke and surroundings with about four inches of wet snow topped with sleet. But the driveway was soon plowed and by Thursday it was clear and wet.

Pray for fluffy snow next time.

✠ Pastor Al Page

**Franklin Graham in Concord**

"America is in trouble, and it's getting worse every day. More and more, we see the godless forces of secularism seeking to silence Christians who stand up for their beliefs. We see a culture that wants to remove God and His Son, Jesus Christ, from public view. As a nation we have turned our back on God.

That's why I'm going to Concord—and all 50 state capitals—in 2016 to hold prayer rallies as part of the Decision America Tour. I will be challenging believers to pray for our nation, vote for candidates who support biblical values, and to run for office at all levels—local, state, and federal. I will also be preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which has the power to change hearts and lives.

Will you join me for this important event? I encourage you to bring your friends, your family, and your church. Let's stand together in prayer for our country before it's too late."

*See Franklin Graham, p. 3*

**Franklin Graham (from p. 2)**

**Decision America Tour Prayer Rally**  
 Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 12:00 p.m. (noon)  
 State House Plaza  
 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH

**Give It Away**

Pastor Al sent in this brief article from Our Daily Bread Ministries.

Many charities that help people with various needs depend on donation of unwanted clothing and household items from those who have more than enough, and it's good to give away unused things, so they can benefit others.

However, we are often more reluctant to part with things of value that we use every day. Whatever we feel is "most valued" in our lives today could be of great benefit to someone we know. It may be our time, our friendship, encouragement, a listening ear, or a helping hand.

When we give away what the Lord has given us, He is honored, others are helped, and we are blessed.

✠ David McCasland, *Our Daily Bread*

**New Year's Resolutions**

When it comes to making New Year's Resolutions, I don't have a specific top 10 list. I do reflect on the past and set personal goals for the future. That's important. This season of taking personal inventory is like a much needed wheel alignment. I just haven't codified my thinking into a specific list of resolutions.

If, however, I was pressed to make a short list, perhaps the best thing I could do would be to echo something spoken by author and evangelist Jonathan Edwards back in the 1700s. See if you don't agree that these two resolutions are so simple, yet so powerful:

**Resolution 1: I will live for God.**

**Resolution 2: If no one else does, I still will.**

What about you?

✠ Jim Daly, President, Focus on the Family

**The Meaning of a Name**

The following story is from *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for Dec. 1, 2015.

According to a New York Times article, children in many African countries are often named after a famous visitor, special event, or circumstance that was meaningful to the parents. When doctors told the parents of one child that they could not cure the infant's illness and only God knew if he would live, the parents named their child "Godknows."

Another man said he was named "Enough" because his mother had 13 children and he was the last one! There's a reason for everyone's name, and in some cases it also conveys a special meaning.

Before Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord told Joseph,

"[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means "the Lord saves."

In that day and culture, many children would have been named Jesus, but only one came into this world to die so that all who receive Him might live eternally, forgiven and freed from the power of sin.

In Jesus we see God's loving purpose & boundless grace.

Charles Wesley wrote these words that we often sing as Christmas nears: "Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee."

Jesus came to turn our darkness into light, to transform our despair into hope, and to save us from our sins.

✠ David McCasland, *Our Daily Bread*

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**



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

1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson

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.

**Newsletter Redesign**

In keeping with the idea of new things for a new year, the *Hillside Monthly Dispatch* has undergone a slight redesign including a new Pony logo, new masthead, new colors, and new look for article headings.

**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 and Editor, 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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