



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2016

THE REAL MEANING OF EASTER

From the Pastor's Desk

What Does Easter Mean to You?

Matthew 28:6a

I can remember as a child waking up on Easter Sunday morning and running downstairs to see a large Easter Basket with my name on it sitting upon the large dining room table. It always seemed to me that it was just waiting for me to come and tear into it with a great frenzy that only a young boy could give. As I ripped into the brightly colored basket year after year I witnessed an array of bright colors and lots of chocolate. Easter in my young mind meant lots of candy, egg hunts, and big dinners after church.

Now, many children receive gifts much like the ones they would receive on Christmas morning. Church was always the place we went to on Easter morning when I was a kid, and even as a youngster I recognized that there were more people than usual attending church. Have you ever noticed that every year on Easter we tend to receive a flood of visitors in our church pews?

Many families gather together at church for their twice a year reunions (Christmas being the other day) and many feel that this is all Easter is about. Some church members believe that Easter is the day that you have to go to church and it would be a sin to go anywhere else. To those outside the four walls of the church, Easter can be seen as perfunctory to some and to others it can seem self-righteous. With children focusing on candy, toys, and baskets, with adults gathering together for a reunion and parties, and with church goers looking to get the Sunday over with, where can the Christian find the proper balance?

The proper perspective must be found within Scripture. God's Word tells us what this day is all about, we just need to read it and understand it. In the Gospel of Matthew, verse 28:6a, the angel said unto the women, "He (*Jesus*) is not here (*in the grave*): for he is risen, as he said." This day is about Jesus and his resurrection. It is not about candy, toys, baskets, family reunions, parties, or an ordinary Sunday morning.

This is the day we celebrate the fact that our Lord and Savior conquered death and sin. This is the day in which we take time to worship our Lord for the sole fact that he has redeemed all who believe in him and his resurrection. There is nothing inherently wrong with celebrating Easter with

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Mar. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 20 – Palm Sunday

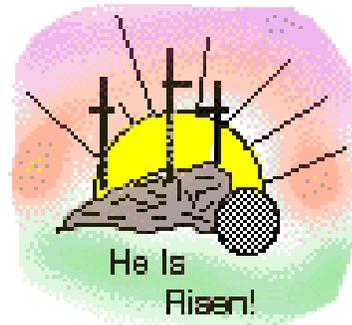
Celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Mar. 27, 6 a.m.? – Sunrise Service

An outdoor service is to be held in the field across from the Chichester Congregational Church, 153 Main St.

Mar. 27 – Easter Sunday

Celebrating the Lord's glorious resurrection!



Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

family and passing out gifts, but in the midst of all this celebratory observance, the real meaning can get distorted and fogged out. We must take the time and teach our children, no matter how old they are, that this upcoming Resurrection Day is about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let your family know that you appreciate them coming on this very special day, but that you would rather see them

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

every Sunday worshipping Christ as Lord and Savior, not just one day a year to please mom or dad. This is the time of year that we cannot afford to placidly sit in a pew and expect our family members to understand or get our faith. We have to express it to them with clarity and exactness. Their very souls are hanging in the balance between heaven and hell. We who know the truth must express this truth for their sake and the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If a loved one comes to know Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior through our concerted efforts, then this day will mean more to us than any other day we have ever known. Easter will become more than just another Sunday for our loved ones, more than just a special Sunday filled with secular trappings. It will truly become the day they worship Jesus as Lord and Savior. After all isn't that the real meaning of Easter?

Blessings,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

The final days of February are at hand. It's amazing that March is here already. Local folks have already started tapping the maple trees. If you have the time, visit a local sugar house, especially one that still uses a wood-fired evaporator. The most wonderful aroma is the mixture of hot maple sap and wood smoke.

On Saturday, March 5th at 8 a.m., we won't be boiling syrup, but we'll be having a fine home cooked breakfast followed by a congenial Bible discussion. Yes it's Saturday and you want to sleep in, but get up early and come on over and join us. You'll be glad you did.

Property and Space Patrol

There has not been a lot of activity with property maintenance. The lack of snow has been in our favor. The pavement was plowed a few times, but each time there was only about 3-4 inches of snow. About 600 pounds of salt has been spread so far. We usually use about 2000 pounds each winter.

The mild winter has also helped cut down on fuel consumption in both the church and parsonage.

✠ Pastor Al

Things That Last

Things just don't seem to last. Our car is 10 years old, the truck is 11 years old, my suits, we won't talk about that. At my age I keep thinking I won't need to buy another car or suit or furniture or lawn mower. The stuff I've got ought to last. But it doesn't.

It seems like it's throw-away-stuff, not meant to last or be fixed. It all has a built-in shelf life; like food, best if used before. We get "lifetime warranties" (have you ever tried to process one?). I think my socks have that kind of guarantee.

I have been reading through the Good News Translation with the Apocrypha (GNT), Catholic edition. Finally, finished I Chronicles last night. I must admit that I did not

read and try to pronounce every name listed in this book. I did that years ago and it's not productive to go at it each time I read the Bible through. As I started reading the last chapter, #29, I approached it with a "finally done" attitude. But as I read the Lord spoke through His Word. Verses 2-9 tell of King David's offering for the building of the temple followed by what the people gave. The GNT lists the quantities in **tons**. David gave 115 tons of gold, (NASB: 3000 talents) and the people gave 190 tons of gold. The silver, bronze, and iron are all listed in tons.

In verses 10-19, David praised the Lord. In verse 12, he states that "All riches and wealth come from you." Verse 14 says, "Yet my people and I cannot really give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is already yours."

So who really owns what we say is ours? My house. Whose house? My car. Whose car? My money. Whose money? My clothes. Whose clothes?

It's all the Lord's. He is just letting us use it for a little while. We will soon pass on and someone else will live in our house, our car will be recycled into who knows what, and our wealth will be distributed as the Lord sees fit.

As David did, we need to acknowledge who is the real owner of all these things.

✠ Pastor Al

Saint Patrick

Patrick (about 389-461), the great missionary to the Irish, was probably born in Roman Britain. He was the son of a deacon and magistrate named Calpurnius.



The details of Patrick's life are disputed and overlaid with many pious legends. For example, the Catholic Church never officially canonized him, so he is a saint with a lower case "s" just like all other believers. Also, Ireland never had any snakes so there was nothing for Patrick to drive out except pagan beliefs. The story of Patrick using the three-leaf shamrock to illustrate the Trinity did not appear in writing until about 1726.

The small amount of definite information about him is found in his two writings: *The Confession* and *A Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus*, a chief in North Britain.

At the age of 16, while staying on his father's farm, Patrick was seized by raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland. After six years of service as a shepherd, he escaped and eventually reached home again. He also spent some time in Gaul (modern France). During his captivity, his Christian faith had been decisively deepened and he became convinced that he had to return and evangelize Ireland. Once in a dream he heard the voice of the Irish calling: "We beseech you to come and walk among us once more."

Patrick returned to Ireland as a bishop in 432 and spent the next thirty years ministering there. He had a great influence on several chieftains and had special ties in the areas of Tara, Croagh Patrick, and Armagh. Although he was not well educated, he encouraged learning and, possibly through

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Patrick (from p. 2)

contact with strict monasteries in Gaul, he began to emphasize the ascetic life and monasticism.

Patrick also communicated the priority of mission to Celtic Christianity, which produced great numbers of monks who evangelized Western Europe during the sixth and seventh centuries.

His birthday is celebrated on March 17.

[Excerpt from *Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity*.]

Urgent Witnessing

This cartoon was received from Cynthia Ward.



Cecil firmly believes timing is an important part of effective witnessing!

The Olive Press

The following article comes from *Our Daily Bread* Devotionals for March 2016. It offers cogent visual and scriptural references to Jesus' final suffering on our behalf.



If you visit the village of Capernaum beside the Sea of Galilee, you will find an exhibit of ancient olive presses. Formed from basalt rock, the olive press consists of two parts: a base and a grinding wheel. The base is large, round,

and has a trough carved out of it. The olives were placed in this trough, and then the wheel, also made from heavy stone, was rolled over the olives to extract the oil.

On the night before His death, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives overlooking the city of Jerusalem. There, in the garden called Gethsemane, He prayed to the Father, knowing what lay ahead of Him.

The word Gethsemane means “place of the olive press” – and that perfectly describes those first crushing hours of Christ’s suffering on our behalf. “And being in agony He prayed very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.” (Luke 22:44)

Jesus, the Son, suffered and died to take away “the sin of the world” (John 1:29) and restore our broken relationship with God the Father. “Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; ... But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by his scourging we are healed.” (Isa. 53:4-5)

Our hearts cry out in worship and gratitude.

✝ Bill Crowder, ODB

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 3/7 Jesse Page
- 3/30 Amanda Robertson



Hillside also wishes God’s blessing on anyone celebrating a wedding anniversary this month:

If that's you, please let us know.

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 Mar. 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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