



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 15 No. 5

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2016

SEEK THE ARMS OF GOD'S COUNSEL

From the Pastor's Desk

Delighting in the Word of the Lord

Psalm 119:174

Do you like things that are sweet? There are many things in this world that taste really good. Cotton candy, chocolate, pudding, ice cream, oh the list can go on and on, could it not?

One of my most favorite things to do when I was younger was make a cake. It wasn't necessarily the end result I was seeking as much as the journey to get there. In fact most times I didn't even get to the icing. You see it was the prerogative of the baker to be the first to lick the batter bowl and beater bars. Oh how I loved to leave extra behind in the bowl so that I could get as much fudgy goodness to snack on as possible. Then, if that wasn't enough, no sooner was the cake completed I would cut the biggest, hottest piece of cake and sit down to watch a movie with the largest glass of cold milk possible.

Still to this day, if Michelle or one of the kids is baking a cake, I call first dibs on the batter and I make sure I somehow sneak the largest piece possible as soon as it comes out of the oven. I have often told people that it doesn't take much to satisfy me for I delight in the simple things.

Well there are other things we can find our delight in, which draw our hearts and fulfill our desires and can bring delight to our lives. Family, relationships, cars, work, cloths, and money are all items that have the capacity to bring delight if kept in their proper perspective and place. But do any one of these things or all of them combined bring lasting delight? Will they fill emptiness, or bring comfort, or produce good counsel, or lead one into righteousness? Some possibly, but not all can completely. There is one place where we can find the answers to our deepest needs and always receive the right counsel at our most dire times: the word of God.

The psalmist tells us in Psalm 119:174 that God's "law is my delight." If we understand the various synonyms for the term "word" we can readily recognize terminology such as commandments, laws, precepts, and truths as those synonyms. In this passage the psalmist recognizes that the laws or the words that come from God which lead to righteousness are a delight. It is the word of God that brings

Upcoming Events and Meetings

May 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

May 5 – National Day of Prayer

May 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

May 7, 9:00 a.m. – Spring Clean Up

Get the church ready for summertime.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

us to safe harbors of healing and peace. It is the word of God that directs us down lighted paths of comfort and help. It is the word of God that brings delight when all other people, places, or things fail us.

The righteous declaration of the psalmist points us to the author of that Law and it is God himself, the one who will never forsake you, nor mislead you, nor harm you, nor leave you. It is the law or the word of God that the psalmist delights in because it comes from the very heart of God himself.

What do you delight in? Each of us can spend a life chasing after things, items, money, and possessions that ultimately leave one empty. We can spend a lifetime delighting in everything but that which we should delight in.

Mind you, finding temporal pleasure in good and wholesome things is not a sin in and of itself, but placing one's hopes, trust, and dreams in things for eternal delight and pleasure ultimately leaves one wanting more. However, learning to delight in the law and word of God will never leave you hungry, wanting, or thirsting again to be fulfilled in other things. Filling yourself up in the pleasure of God's counsel and love will bring about the delight that lights up your soul and will never cast you down.

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)

Let me encourage you today to find delight in the one place that will fully satisfy. Where is that place? In the arms of God's counsel, His word. Run there and know the fulfillment your heart desperately seeks in a world that cannot satisfy you.

✠ Pastor Jim

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer takes place on Thursday, May 5th, 2016. This day was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress that was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The theme for this year is **Wake Up America** and is based on Isaiah 58:1. The web site states that the emphasis is on "the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to the God of our Fathers in reverence for His Holy Name." The selected scripture is Isaiah 58:1a, "Cry loudly, do not hold back; raise your voice like a trumpet..."

We would do well to heed the rest of that verse, "And declare to My people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins."

For more information about this important date, go to <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, May 7 at 8 a.m. join us for a hearty Men's Breakfast. We'll have some home-cooked food and some fellowship, and then continue with our discussion of the Letter to the Colossians.

Spring Clean Up

On May 7th, right after Men's Breakfast, we'll get some exercise by engaging in Spring Clean Up. Pastor Al will have the complete list of tasks we need to complete.

The air conditioners need to be taken out of storage and set up in the sanctuary. The church needs a thorough cleaning and unneeded materials and trash need to be tossed in the dumpster.

Outside, any plow scrapes in the grassy parking area need to be raked out, and brush needs to be collected and put in the burn pile.

"Many hands make light work."

Disaster Relief Training



A daring crew of Hillsideers stuffed themselves into Pastor Al's Buick at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday April 23rd for the 2 1/2 hour trek to Northeastern Baptist College (<http://www.nebcvt.org/>) in Bennington, Vermont. The goal

was to complete training courses and become Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (DR) Volunteers.

Along with Pastor Al were Michael Frascinella, Jesse Page, and Eric Page (who was just recovering from pneumonia and

spent the whole morning hacking and coughing in the back seat. He was feeling better by the end of the day).

After arriving at the college, we registered and paid out fees, indulged in some coffee and pastries, and headed for the basic training class led by Tim Buehner, New England DR Assistant Director. This was well-presented overview of the nature and purpose of the SBC DR ministry.

For the rest of the day, we had a choice of one of three modules: Disaster Assessment Module, Mud Out Recovery Module, or Chainsaw Recovery Module. While Pastor Al worked on hardware props for the modules, the rest of us attended the 3-hour Assessment Module given by John Scoggins, New England DR White Hat.

John's class was thorough, in-depth, and amazingly detailed. It covered all aspects from the first hours after a disaster strikes, through each stage of local, state, and federal evaluations until the disaster is officially called and SBC DR crews are mobilized. The methods used to determine the level of property damage (Destroyed, Major, Minor, and Affected) were explained with diagrams, tables, and photos of real properties. The physical, material, emotional, and spiritual needs of disaster victims were also discussed. In all, the two-part session spanned over 220 PowerPoint slides!

The hierarchy of the SBC DR command structure was also discussed. This is visually delineated by the use of white hats (Incident Commanders), blue hats (Crew Leaders), and yellow hats (the volunteer workers).

During a delicious luncheon, service awards were presented. We were pleased to applaud as Pastor Al received a Distinguished Service Award.

A criminal background check is initially performed on all volunteers to make sure there is no question as to their suitability to serve. Volunteers who successfully complete the training receive certificates and a photo ID badge that conforms to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards and clearly identifies the bearer as a qualified SBC DR volunteer.

It was day well spent and we now call ourselves the Disaster Brothers! we hoped we would get the opportunity to use our training to help people in need, but then again, we hoped that the next disaster would not come too soon, for others' sake.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Property and Space Patrol

First mowing of the year was today, April 30th. My past records show May 10 as about the time of first mowing.

With rain on Sunday, May 1, the grass will surely grow. The Work Day is on Saturday May 7 following men's breakfast.

✠ Pastor Al Page

The God Who Paints

The following story comes from the April issue of *Our Daily Bread*. This devotional booklet is a publication of Our Daily Bread Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

See *The God Who Paints* on p. 3

The God Who Paints (from p. 2)

Nezahualcoyotl (1402–1472) may have had a difficult name to pronounce, but his name is full of significance. It means “Hungry Coyote,” and this man’s writings show a spiritual hunger. As a poet and ruler in Mexico before the arrival of the Europeans, he wrote, “Truly the gods, which I worship, are idols of stone that do not speak nor feel. ... Some very powerful, hidden, and unknown god is the creator of the entire universe. He is the only one that can console me in my affliction and help me in such anguish as my heart feels; I want him to be my helper and protection.”

We cannot know if Nezahualcoyotl found the Giver of life. But during his reign he built a pyramid to the “God who paints things with beauty,” and he banned human sacrifices in his city.

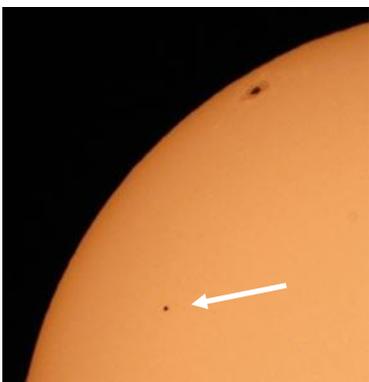
The writers of Psalm 42 cried out, “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (v. 2). Every human being desires the true God, just as “the deer pants for streams of water” (v. 1).

Today there are many Hungry Coyotes who know that the idols of fame, money, and relationships can’t fill the void in their souls. The Living God has revealed Himself through Jesus, the only One who gives us meaning and fulfillment. This is good news for those who are hungry for the God who paints things with beauty.

✠ Keila Ochoa

Our Daily Bread Ministries

The Heavens Declare ...



A big event that will cause eyes to look heavenward is the Transit of Mercury on May 9th. In the 2006 photo to the left, Mercury is the small dot near the bottom, while a sunspot appears near the top.

What is a Transit of Mercury, you ask? It is an astronomical event

during which the orbit of an inner planet (either Venus or Mercury) briefly places the planet directly between the Earth and the Sun, causing that planet to become visible as it crosses the disk of the Sun. Since the Sun is only 1/2 degree across (same angular size as the Moon), and planetary orbits are not in the same plane, it is quite rare for this type of event to occur. Most of the time, the angle of these inner planets' orbits causes them to pass either slightly above or slightly below the sun as seen from our viewpoint.

The entire transit will be visible from the eastern U.S., most of South America, and part of Western Europe. First contact is at 7:12 a.m. EDT, midpoint is at 10:57 a.m., and last contact is at 2:42 p.m. Thus you will have several hours to view the transit. All we need to do is pray for clear skies.

For more information about the history of transits, details about the May 9th event, and safe ways to view it, go to <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/observing-news/get-ready-for-may-9th-transit-of-mercury-041320162/>

✠ Michael Frascinella

The youth pastor fell
asleep in staff meeting.
So we laid some clothes
on the chairs
and exited quietly.
Then we blew a trumpet!

Sign submitted by Cynthia Ward

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

5/22 Rachel Page

5/26 Michael Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God’s blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month: If that's you let the editor 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 May 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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