



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2016

SEEKING THE LIVING WATER

From the Pastor's Desk

Are You Needing to be Refreshed?

John 4:13-14

Often I hear from one of my kids, you guess which one, that I am old. Now mind you there are days in which that statement feels more true than not, but for those of you who may be reading this statement with a bit of condescension I recognize that being 44 years of age is not that old.

When I think about how long I have lived in New England, I stop and count the years I have been blessed to reside within this wonderful region, which by the way is 34. Out of that time I have lived in New Hampshire for 30 years.

Now I tell you this because something has happened that I have not seen before in this beautiful state. Do you know what it is? If you guessed more Massachusetts people than ever you would be wrong. What I am talking about is the drought. I never thought I would hear of such a thing within my lifetime and in fact many who are much older than I have stated that same thing.

Last spring I started paying attention to the rain total given each night on the news and I didn't give it much concern because it was just a small decrease. Then the weather person kept mentioning that the rain totals were irregularly low and that we had a mini-drought which I thought would be corrected over the winter. After all we had such a great spring, summer, and fall I thought for sure we were going to get nailed with snow over the winter months.

However, this past winter was one of the mildest on record and produced very little to no snow over the entire state. Which of course meant that the lack of rain from last year was not going to be replenished by the melting snow out of the mountains or throughout the state. Then it happened again this year, virtually no rain in the spring, summer, and now not much of any rain into the fall.

What is the result? Severe drought throughout most of New Hampshire. For the first time in my life, Massabesic Lake, which provides Manchester and surrounding towns with its drinking water is four feet below the average this time of year. That's right, it is 48 inches lower than it should be which has uncovered large areas of the shore line all the way around the lake. Our largest lake, Lake Winnepesaukee, is two feet below the average and boats are having a difficult

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 1, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Oct. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 29, 9 a.m. – Fall Workday

Getting the church ready for winter

Oct. 30, Noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

time getting out of the lake because of the low levels.

Water bans are in effect all over the southern part of New Hampshire and some towns in the furthest southeastern corner of the state are seeing wells run dry for the first time. Farmers have to work four times harder to produce the same amount they were able to produce last year with a crop that is not even close to being as robust as it has been in previous years. Also, there is a long-term threat in place in which if little to no rain falls in the next few months many will run out of water throughout the upcoming winter.

Why do I mention the drought? Well I do so because it is clear that the earth cries out for water. It cries out for refreshment and nourishment that only the rain can give it. It desires to be renewed and it needs to be soon or it may have dire effect on next year's crops and forestry.

The lack of water points to both short-term and long-term needs that must be met if the land is to be healthy once again. That is also true for us as well. For we need the living water which only Jesus provides. When Jesus met with the woman at the well He told her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water

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

Pastor’s Desk (from p. 1)

that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

What Jesus offers benefits us both in our short and long term needs. Just as the earth cries out for water, our souls also cry out for His water. Just as regular water nourishes the land, He nourishes us when we are low, hurting, dejected, and in pain. He heals our wounds and mends our broken hearts with the living water we thirst desperately for. But unlike the earth during a drought, the rain it receives is only temporary, and the earth will continue to need more rain and more rain and even more rain over the course of time.

However, those places that know the nourishment of a fresh water spring that never runs dry know no drought, for the spring continually supplies the needed nourishment.

Well, Jesus tells us the water that He gives is not like the rain that falls from the sky and needs to continually fall to keep us well. Instead, the water He gives is like the spring and it will well up from within us and we will never thirst again, being continually nourished night and day. He will give what our hearts need long-term, regularly, without end if we but trust in Him.

Is your soul like the land here in New Hampshire: dry, drought-laden, and crying out for refreshment? Then turn to Jesus and He will meet your every need now and forevermore. He will take care of you and you will never know what it means to be thirsty again. May you trust in Him today and know what it means to be refreshed in the Lord.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men’s Breakfast

This is the first Men's Breakfast of the fall season and, no, we won't be serving toasted maple leaf sandwiches. But it will be a good meal, with lots of fellowship, and a worthwhile discussion of the Book of Judges. Plan to be with us for a good breakfast, good fellowship, and a good time in God's Word.

Fellowship Events



On Oct. 30th right after Worship Service, we will gather for a Potluck Dinner. Bring something to share. Visitors are welcome to stay for the meal.

Afterward we will hold our quarterly business meeting. A major topic on the agenda will be the 2017 annual

budget. 2016 has been a difficult year so we need to pray for the Lord to bless us with better finances in 2017. Please help us make this a realistic budget that will guide us through the coming year.

The next business meeting will be in January 2017 at which time we will review final income and expenses for 2016.

Property and Space Patrol

The library window mouse path has been repaired and the critter no longer has an entrance. The woodwork and insulation have been put back together better than new.

A Fall Work Day is planned for Saturday, Oct. 29 and the major chore will be to remove and store the A/C units. The rest of the session will involve general housekeeping.

✠ Pastor Al

Mapping the Gospel of John

I like to use maps in Bible study. Maps give us a picture of events in the Scriptures by showing real locations. Can you picture the effort it took when one went “up” to Jerusalem from Jericho? How far was it? How steep was it?

Locate these places on a Bible map:

In John 1:28, where do we first find Jesus? _____

From there he traveled to _____
(John 1:43-44)

In John 2:1, we find Jesus in _____

In John 2:12, Jesus travels to _____

In John 2:13 and 23, we find Jesus in _____

Now picture how long it took Him to travel those distances. In just two chapters, Jesus traveled over 100 miles.

Maps bring the Scriptures to life by giving us a sense of reality and showing us that the Bible is true.

✠ Pastor Al

Everything Comes from God

The following article was the September 8th entry in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet and was written by Keila Ochoa. First read 1 Chronicles 29:14-19 and then read this article to get the proper impact.

I was 18 years old when I got my first fulltime job, and I learned an important lesson about the discipline of saving money. I worked and saved until I had enough money for a year of school. Then my mom had emergency surgery, and I realized I had money in the bank to pay for her operation.

My love for my mother suddenly took precedence over my plans for the future. These words in the book *Passion and Purity* by Elisabeth Elliot took on new meaning: “If we hold tightly to anything given to us, unwilling to let it go when the time comes to let it go or unwilling to allow it to be used as the Giver means it to be used, we stunt the growth of the soul. It is easy to make a mistake here, ‘If God gave it to me,’ we say, ‘it's mine. I can do what I want with it.’ No. The truth is that it is ours to thank Him for and ours to offer back to Him, ... ours to let go of.”

I realized that the job I had received and the discipline of saving were gifts from God! I could give generously to my family because I was sure God was capable of seeing me through school another way, and He did.

Today, how might God want us to apply David's prayer from 1 Chronicles 29:14, “Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us”? (NLT).

Fall's Jewish Holidays

It's October and Jews around the world are celebrating three special holidays.

Rosh HaShanah (Oct. 2 at sundown)

Rosh HaShanah literally means "Head of the Year" in Hebrew. It falls in the month of Tishrei, the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar. The reason for this is because the Hebrew calendar begins with the month of Nissan (when it's believed the Jews were freed from slavery in Egypt) but the month of Tishrei is believed to be the month in which God created the world. Hence, you might think of Rosh HaShanah as the birthday of the world.

Rosh HaShanah is observed on the first two days of the month of Tishrei. Jewish tradition teaches that during the High Holy Days God decides who will live and who will die during the coming year.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Awe, during which Jews reflect upon their actions over the past year and seek forgiveness for their transgressions in hopes of influencing God's final judgment.

Yom Kippur (Oct. 11 at sundown)

This holiday occurs 10 days after Rosh HaShanah. Its purpose is to bring reconciliation between people and between people and God. Jewish tradition states it is also the day when God decides the fate of each human being.

Although Yom Kippur is an intense holiday it is nevertheless viewed as a happy day. Why? Because if one has observed the holiday properly, by the end of Yom Kippur they will have made peace with others and with God.

Sukkot (Oct. 16 at sundown)

Sukkot is a seven-day harvest holiday that arrives during the Hebrew month of Tishrei. Also known as the Feast of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles, it starts four days after Yom Kippur. Sukkot harkens back to times in ancient Israel when Jews would build huts near the edges of their fields during the harvest season. One of these dwellings was called a "sukkah." "Sukkot" is the plural form of this Hebrew word. These dwellings not only provided shade but allowed the workers to maximize the amount of time they spent in the fields, harvesting their food more quickly as a result.

Few people live in the sukkah today but it is popular to eat at least one meal in it. At the beginning of the meal, a special blessing is recited: "Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah."

The Gospels and Self-Defense

An interesting article appeared in "NRA America's 1st Freedom" magazine a few years ago and it was mentioned in a brief news note in a recent issue. The article, entitled "Is The Best Defense A Good Book?" by David Kopel discusses what the author calls "pacifist-aggressive people" who try to use the power of government to force their pacifist ideas on the rest of us.

The article begins with some eye-opening statements by some mainstream churches on the topic of gun control and self defense. At a Congressional hearing on gun control, a Presbyterian Church representative declared that his church "has resolved, in the context of gun control, that it is against the killing of anyone, anywhere for any reason." United Methodist Church publications tell women that they have a duty to submit to a rapist, rather than endanger the rapist by shooting him. Also, a United Methodist Church representative wrote to an attorney for an NRA magazine that a good Christian could not be a member of the National Rifle Association.

The article then moves on to passages from the New Testament that illustrate that Jesus did not condemn the use of swords (the common weapons of the era) for self defense nor condemn soldiers for being dutiful soldiers.

Go to

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2016/4/29/is-the-best-defense-a-good-book/> for the full article and decide for yourself whether it makes any valid points.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

10/1 Pastor Al Page

10/23 Janet Jenkins



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

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 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 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.



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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