



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 16 No. 11

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2017

Thankfulness for Blessings

From the Pastor's Desk

This month we dug into the archives and found a gem that fits this month's theme of giving thanks for God's blessings.

Hebrews 12:28

Recently I participated in singing an old familiar tune that many love. The old beloved tune is "Count Your Blessings." As it was sung I wondered how many individuals singing the song really take a minute to count their blessings.

It is a song that is supposed to induce a great appreciation and thankfulness for what God has provided. The chorus reads, "Count your blessings, name them one by one: count your blessings see what God hath done."

We as Americans have much to be thankful for this time of year in which our country celebrates the great old pastime of "Thanksgiving." We have freedom in our country that many in other parts of the world could only dream of.

We have the freedom to meet every week and worship our creator God and our Redeemer Jesus Christ. We have the freedom to disagree with our politicians without the fear of being hauled away for our contrary convictions. We have the right of free speech (at least for the time being) to disagree with the norms of society. We have the right to rise up and bear arms in defense of these freedoms.

We have grocery stores on many main streets, super department stores to choose from, and many different gas stations to get gas for our cars. We can have fast food or gourmet food [or slow food -- Ed.]. We can go for a ride and cross different state lines without getting stopped or questioned. This list could go on for a mile, but I think the point is made that we are truly blessed.

We as Christians have even more blessings to be thankful for. We have a renewed relationship with our Father and creator God. We have a new understanding of the love of God. We know we have great worth in the sight of God because he sent his Son for the forgiveness of our sins. We have a part in the resurrection and in the second coming of Christ. We will rule with him for all eternity. We have victory over death and an assured home in heaven forever. We no longer stand in fear of condemnation or God's wrath. Indeed we as believers have much to be thankful for.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Nov. 4, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Nov. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day dinner, but give thanks to the Lord for all you have.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

In Hebrews 12:28 God tells us through His apostle, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." A mark of a Christian is to exhibit to the world that you are thankful for what God has done for you.

Let us walk around this Thanksgiving season with a heart, mind, and expression of thankfulness for all to see. When others see our thankfulness being expressed, they too will want to know who Christ is.

When they learn of the true God and Savior, they too will be able to count their blessings naming them one by one, counting their blessings in seeing what God hath done.

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

This month, Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 8:00 a.m. Come on up the hill and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast (food for the body). Many guys bring a favorite dish to share and we always have plenty left over. The meal is followed by an engaging Bible discussion (food for the soul). We are currently working through a discussion of the Book of Romans.

It's a time of fellowship for the guys and we always have a good time.

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Fellowship Events

There is no specific fellowship event planned for the month, but after Worship Service, several people linger, have a coffee and some pastry, and enjoy each other's company.

Don't be the first out the door, but try the impromptu fellowship some time.

Property and Space Patrol

October 28 was a great day serving the Lord by cleaning the church and grounds and getting things ready for winter. Several people attended and here's what we accomplished in service to the Lord. We had so much help that we were done before noon.

- Church carpeting was vacuumed, downstairs rooms were cleaned up, the bathrooms were cleaned, and all trash was removed. Thanks to Julie Jenkins and her hard working crew.
- Air conditioning units were removed and stored.
- A 20-ft. dead tree was cut down and added to the brush pile out back. It took three trips with Pastor Al's trailer to complete that job.
- A filled sand barrel behind the church was muscled to the outer side of the parsonage driveway, with help from "Big Jim."
- A handrail on the parsonage deck was replaced.
- The second story gutters on the front and rear of the parsonage were cleaned of leaf debris.
- The mounting bolts on the steeple were tightened. This required Pastor Al to crawl into the front attic without falling through the sheet rock!
- The non-starting church lawn tractor was hand pushed onto Pastor Al's trailer for some offsite repairs.

Whew!

✠ Pastor Al

Thanksgiving Day

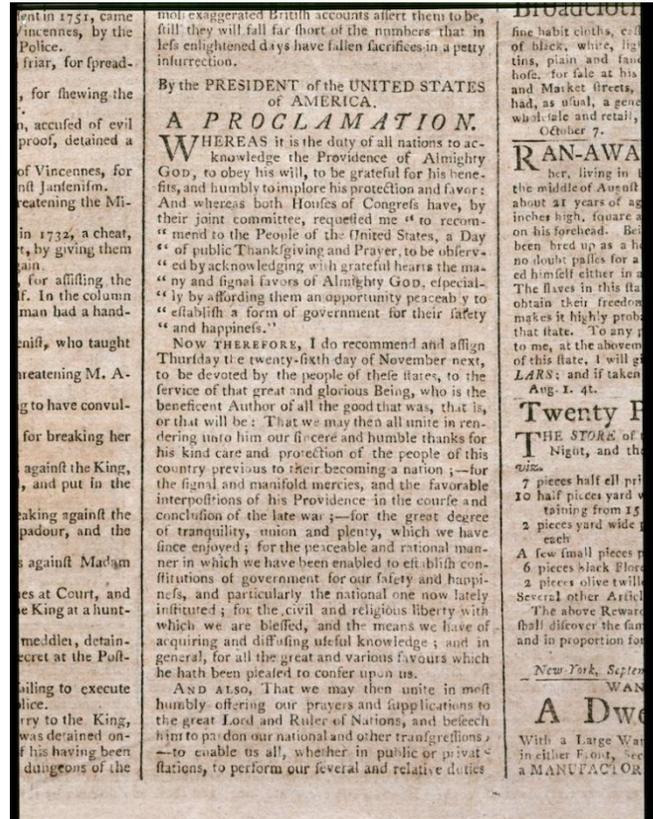
A National Day of Thanks

Since colonial days, Americans have set aside days of thanksgiving, prayer, and fasting to commemorate important events. This practice continued through the American Revolution. The following historical note comes from <http://www.mountvernon.org>, a web site dedicated to the life and times of George Washington.

 "In 1789, Representative Elias Boudinot of New Jersey presented a resolution requesting that Congress persuade the now-President Washington to declare a thanksgiving observance in honor of the creation of the new United States Constitution. Congress agreed and passed the resolution creating a joint committee to make their request to the president.

Washington issued a proclamation on October 3, 1789, designating Thursday, November 26 as a national day of

thanks. In his proclamation, Washington declared that the necessity for such a day sprung from the Almighty's care of Americans prior to the Revolution, assistance to them in achieving independence, and help in establishing the constitutional government.



"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with

See Day of Thanks, p.3

Day of Thanks, from p. 2

which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us. "

Not ignoring the authority of state governments, Washington distributed his proclamation to the governors, requesting that they announce and observe the day within their states. Newspapers throughout the country subsequently published the proclamation and public celebrations were held. Washington himself marked the day by attending services at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, and by donating beer and food to imprisoned debtors in the city.

The 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation, however, did not establish a permanent federal holiday. Washington issued another proclamation in February 1795 to recognize the defeat of a taxation rebellion in Pennsylvania. Later presidents, including John Adams and James Madison, declared days of thanksgiving. But it was not until the Civil War of the 1860s that President Lincoln initiated a regular observance of Thanksgiving in the United States.

Martin Luther's 95 Theses

Five hundred years ago on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. He had been a priest at the City Church and preached against the practice of selling indulgences. These were like "Get Out of Jail Free" cards that people could buy for deceased loved ones.

After reading a training manual for indulgence traders, he penned a letter to his church superiors, which letter argued for the elimination of this abusive practice. With this letter, he included his 95 Theses.

Two of these statements are very much to the point:

"27. They preach only human doctrines who say that as soon as the money clinks into the money chest, the soul flies out of purgatory.

28. It is certain that when money clinks in the money chest, greed and avarice can be increased; but when the church intercedes, the result is in the hands of God alone."

To see the whole list go to

<http://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html>

What the Preacher Said

A cute story submitted by Cynthia Ward.

A preacher was making a wooden trellis to support a climbing vine. As he was pounding away, he noticed that a little boy was watching him.

The youngster did not say a word, so the preacher kept working. He was sure the lad would soon leave but he didn't.

Pleased at the thought that his work was being admired, the preacher finally said, "Well, son, are you trying to pick up some pointers on carpentry work?"

"Nope. I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

11/19 Barbara Kingsbury

11/29 Michelle Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month: If that's you, please let the editor know so he can update our records.

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 is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Nov. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella@comcast.net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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