



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

February 2018

Church Is a Proclaiming Station

From the Pastor's Desk

The Changed Church

Luke 4:16-22

[This month's message was written by Pastor Al.]

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and, as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read." Luke 4:16

Jesus had lived just down the street there in Nazareth and, as a child, He was brought regularly to the synagogue to worship. The worship services were done in a very systematic order every Sabbath. Psalms sung, prayers offered, and the Scripture read. The Sabbath service was conducted in an orderly fashion and rarely deviated from that order. If the opportunity arises, I would suggest that you attend a synagogue service to experience what takes place.

We lived in Connecticut for many years and resided in a neighborhood with several Jewish families. We became good friends with several and were invited to both Bar-Mitzvah services (for boys) and the Bar-Mitzbat services (for girls). I felt very honored to be invited. The occasions were very moving. The song leader, or cantor, was very skilled in directing the music.

The highlight of the service was when the coming-of-age young ones read the Scripture in Hebrew from the scrolls.

"And the book [scroll] of the prophet Isaiah (61:1) was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.' And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them; 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'" Luke 4:18-21

The synagogue service was radically changed by Jesus. One wonders about what happened at the synagogue in Nazareth after Jesus spoke those words.

"They were speaking well of Him, They were wondering at the gracious words He spoke, And they were questioning His background: 'Is this not Joseph's son?'" Luke 4:22

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Feb. 3, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Feb. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Feb. 12 – Lincoln's Birthday

The Civil War President who restored the Union.

Feb. 15 – Valentine's Day

Feb. 22 – Washington's Birthday

Commander-in-Chief, Founding Father, and first President.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Weds. Night at 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study

First session begins on Feb. 7.

The synagogue was radically changed. I think several old predominant families left, others clung to the message, and still others continued wondering just Who this Jesus was.

Church is not like it used to be. I speak of the church in general, not singling out Hillside. We have watched it change and some remember what the church used to be and some wish it were back that way again.

Church was central in people's lives. When the door was opened for anything, everyone would come. These were good times but as time has changed so have people.

The computer was supposed to free up time. Work was to be easier and the work week shortened to 30 hours. In reality it increased the work and the work week. In our world of comfort, we have become much busier.

The church must work in the place among the people where it is placed. The unchanging Jesus must remain central to all that the church does.

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

Church is not just a nice thing to do on Sunday. It is a proclaiming station to reach a lost world, to disciple Christians, and to give hope and encouragement to all. We can't do church the way we used to, but we can change to meet the circumstances without compromising the Good News of Jesus Christ. By His Word He changed the synagogue at Nazareth and He will change His church today. (Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, NASB.)

✠ Pastor Al

Men's Breakfast

On Feb. 3rd at 8:00 a.m., come on up the hill for Men's Breakfast. We'll discuss over breakfast whether the Perennial Prognosticator of Pennsylvania, known as Punxsutawney Phil, told us anything worth believing on Friday, Feb. 2nd, and make predictions about the upcoming Sunday's Super Bowl game, which starts at 6:30 p.m.. Then we'll move into the more substantial realm of the Book of Romans and see what spiritual insights we can learn.

Property and Space Patrol

After a long stretch of sub-freezing temperatures, January gave us a few mild spells and very little snow. Other than a slight case of frosted pipes at the church, everything seems to be working properly. Let's see what the groundhog has to say on Feb. 2nd!

✠ Pastor Al

Right to Life vs. Planned Parenthood

On Jan. 13, the New Hampshire Right to Life organization held its Rally and March for Life in Concord. About 100-150 people – children, teenagers, young people, and older people – braved the cold to show their support for the unborn.



As the group marched from the Capitol south along Main St., it encountered a few dozen hostile protesters lining the sidewalk in front of the abortion clinic. They waved their signs and shouted in unison, "Our bodies! Our rights! My body! My rights!" The pro-life marchers wisely avoided replying to their taunts and stayed focused on the march.



Photos by Michael Frascinella

A recent mailing from Focus on the Family highlighted a particularly disturbing down side to the issue, which is the continued funding of Planned Parenthood by the federal government.

The following is an excerpt from an article on their Social Issues web site.

"How many abortions has Planned Parenthood performed?"

In 2016, the year of the latest report, Planned Parenthood performed 321,384 abortions, a small decrease from 328,348 in 2015. That's roughly 38% of the abortions sold in the United States. Abortions comprise 13 to 14 percent of all Planned Parenthood's client visits in a given year, although since 1993 the organization repeatedly claims abortion only represents 3 percent of all its procedures.

Though the overall number of abortions decreased in the U.S. from 1995-2014, the percentage of abortions Planned Parenthood sells continues to increase. The number of abortions sold by the organization has grown by 11 percent since 2006 and 139 percent since 1993. **Its own numbers demonstrate that Planned Parenthood is in the abortion-selling business.** [emphasis in the original]

For the full story, go to <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/life-issues/> and select the Planned Parenthood link.

The Early Days of the Faith

A Profile of John Mark

The following list provides highlights of the life of this well-known gospel writer. For each item of interest, there is a scripture reference, so have a Bible handy so you can look them up.

John Mark was:

- A close companion of Peter, from whom Mark received the traditions of what Jesus had said and done. Mark recorded and preserved Peter's teachings, and then arranged and shaped them into his gospel. Early church fathers viewed Mark as the interpreter of Peter.
- Possibly the "young man" who fled the scene after Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. If so, he was a witness to the ministry of Jesus. See Mark 14:51-52.

See *Early Days* on p. 3

Early Days (from p.2)

- The son of Mary, the woman in whose house the Jerusalem church met, and the house where Peter went after a miraculous escape from jail. See Acts 12:12.
- A cousin of Barnabas who was with Paul when he wrote to the Colossians and was commended to the Colossians. See Col 4:10.
- A companion of Paul and Barnabas. See Acts 15:37.
- The cause of an unfortunate split-up between Paul and Barnabas because Mark had deserted Paul during the First Missionary Journey. Mark then went with Barnabas to Cyprus. See Acts 15:37-39.
- Requested of Timothy by Paul as useful for serving the Lord. Paul was in prison again, possibly in a Roman dungeon. See 2 Tim. 4:11.
- Described by Paul as a fellow worker. See Philemon 24.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to anyone who is celebrating another orbit around the Sun. Let us know if that's you.



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

- 2/2 Frank & Nanette Dawson
2/15 Michael & Gail Frascinella

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 Feb. 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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