



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2018

A Fragrant Aroma to God

From the Pastor's Desk

Ooh That Smell!

Ephesians 5:2 & 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Ah springtime is upon us and there are many fragrances in the air. The budding plants with their flowers full of colors, the decomposing of leaves in the woods letting off the right amount of nutrients for future growth, the grills being fired up to bring about the first burnt offerings to this new season, and carbon monoxide coming through car windows in the vein hope that you are letting in fresh air while driving about.

When you think of springtime, are these some of the smells you find prevalent in your day-in and day-out experiences? Those smells and more are everywhere this time of year and they usher in the expectations of a good, long, warm springtime and summer.

As I think about the fragrances that abound, I am reminded of two passages in Scripture which we should all ponder while standing by the side of the grill this season.

The first passage is in Ephesians 5:2 in which we are told that Jesus who loved us so much gave Himself up as a sacrifice and offering to God on our behalf and was a "fragrant aroma" to the Father. Such a statement is somewhat foreign to us in the 21st century because the sacrificial system is over and there are no more Biblically proper and right sacrifices being offered up to God.

However, there are many passages in the Old Testament in which God reflected on the giving up of proper and right sacrifices and often it is stated that it was a soothing aroma, or a pleasing aroma, or a sweet aroma unto the Lord God. Thus when Paul wrote this in Ephesians we can better understand that Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, was equated with all the right and proper sacrifices in the Old Testament and He too was a fragrant aroma unto God. What a beautiful and concise understanding of how pleasing Jesus was to the Father in all He did.

The second passage connected to the first one is found in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. In this passage, Paul tells the Corinthians about the ministry of his coworkers in the faith and him. In it, he praises God for giving them triumph in all things and that they are a sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 2, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

The men share a meal, then engage in a Bible discussion of the Letter to the Romans.

June 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 14 – Flag Day

June 17 – Father's Day End Baby Bottle Fund Drive

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

And catch this next statement in verse 15, in which Paul says, "For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved among those who are perishing, to the one an aroma of death to death, to the other an aroma of life to life." Wow! Did you ever think of yourself as the aroma of Christ to God when you share your faith with and live out your Christian walk before others?

I tell you, if the fragrant offerings of beasts and birds were pleasing to God in a sacrifice, how much more pleasing do you believe was the perfect Jesus to His Father? No wonder God the Father loves us so much; we are the fragrance of His perfect Son to Him. This fragrance that we have is not something that we can spray on like some kind of cologne or perfume, but a fragrance or a smell that comes from within our very being up to God.

Let me ask you, are you the aroma of Christ to God in all that you do? Did you know that when you shared the message of Jesus that, to those who accepted it, it was the fragrance of life and to those who rejected it, it was the fragrance of death?

No wonder why we as Christians experience rejection so harshly by some when we share our faith. To them, the message of Christ is a horrific smell that is equated with

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Property & Space Patrol | Summer Bible Study | Baby Bottles | Early Days | God with Skin on | Flag Day | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

the stench of decay and death. The message of Christ to them is very unpleasant and instead of finding it pleasing, they run from it, close off their senses to it, and eventually harbor ill will to those who like to exude it.

But to those who accept it, it is the most blessed perfect smell in all of creation. It is an aroma of life, righteousness, and love that is only from God. To those who accept the message of Jesus, it is a smell that they want to embrace, grab hold of, and wear themselves.

Ooh that smell, the smell of Christ, is it coming from within you? I hope and pray it is, for Paul clearly tells us that when we bear the smell of Jesus we also experience victory everywhere we go. For when we serve God and honor the Gospel message in our lives we are indeed victorious in all we do.

I don't know about you, but I want to be known as a person who is the aroma of Christ unto God, for that is a fragrance that is pleasing to Him. I hope you get to enjoy the weather and take in all those wonderful fragrances this springtime and summer.

God bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

When they talk about how time flies, consider that we are starting the sixth month of the year, mowing grass, and putting plants in the garden. It seems not long ago we were dealing with heavy, wet snow.

While the warm weather is upon us, let's meet for Men's Breakfast on June 2nd at 8:00 a.m. for some good food, fellowship, and continued study of the Letter to the Romans.

Property and Space Patrol

With the coming warm weather, mowing the grass has become the main task every week. If you can spare some time to help, let me know.

✠ Pastor Al

Summer Bible Study Series

Starting on June 3rd, the new topic for Sunday School is the second Book of Samuel. This book portrays David who became king after King Saul and his son Jonathan died in battle. It is full of deceit, intrigue, and conflict on the one hand, and confession, forgiveness, and praise on the other. The author is Samuel, who wrote it around 930 B.C.

In chapters 1-10, David becomes king of Judah, establishes a new capital in Jerusalem, and brings the Ark of the Covenant there.

In chapters 11-24, David commits adultery with Bathsheba who was married to Uriah. After David conspires to have Uriah killed in battle, Nathan the prophet confronts David. David repents but the child born to Bathsheba dies.

Bathsheba next gives birth to Solomon, who is to become the next king. The next son, Absalom, eventually overthrows

David's reign. David raises enough troops to recapture the throne, but Absalom is killed in the process.

A subsequent revolt led by a Benjamite man named Sheba pitted Judah against Israel, but David's army prevails.

In the final chapters, David offers prayers and praise to God for delivering him from all his enemies.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Baby Bottle Fund Drive

The Carenet Pregnancy Center in Concord got a late start to their annual fund drive.

Carenet is known for helping women in crisis or unplanned pregnancies keep their babies.



The fund drive usually starts on Mother's Day but we did not get the bottles until almost the end of May. The bottles will be available on the first Sunday of June and we may still have to turn them in on Father's Day, the usual end date for the drive.

If you can help this year, please do so.

The Early Days of the Faith

A Man Named Silas

First, it should be noted that Silas was the Greek spelling of his name and Silvanus was the Latin form. The Book of Acts makes many references to him as a distinguished member and prophet of the early church, as well as a Roman citizen like Paul.

After Paul's First Missionary Journey to the Gentile world, Paul returned to Antioch, Syria and met with church leaders there, some of whom argued that one must be circumcised before being saved. From there they went to Jerusalem, where James convened a council to debate the matter. (Acts 15)

It was finally agreed that Gentiles could receive Christ without being circumcised. James sent Paul and Barnabas with a letter to the church at Antioch. He chose Silas and Judas to accompany them with the news of the Jerusalem conference (Acts 15:22). Silas and Judas were considered prophets of the church (Acts 15:32).

When Paul decided to revisit all the churches that Barnabas and he had established on the first journey, a dispute arose about whether to take John Mark, who had deserted them on that trip. The argument was so strong that Paul took Silas instead, while Barnabas went to Cyprus on his own journey with John Mark. (Acts 15:36-40)

While preaching in Philippi in the Macedonian region, Paul and Silas were hounded by a fortune-telling slave who was a money-maker for her masters. After Paul finally drove the evil spirit from her, her irate masters dragged Paul and Silas before the magistrates and had them beaten and thrown into prison. (Acts 16:16-24)

Here the story gets interesting because that night an earthquake threw open the prison doors, which gave Paul

See *Early Days* on p. 3

Early Days, from p. 2

and Silas the opportunity to preach the gospel to the panicked jailer and his family.

The next day, when the magistrates decided to release them, Paul told them, "They have beaten us [Paul and Silas] in public without trial, men who are Romans ..." (Acts 16:37) Now the magistrates were in a panic for mistreating Roman citizens and begged Paul and Silas to leave the city. And so Silas continued to accompany Paul on this Second Missionary Journey.

Later on, Silas served Peter as either a scribe or letter bearer and was mentioned as "Silvanus, our faithful brother" in Peter's first letter to believers scattered abroad. (1 Peter 5:12)

It must have been an honor for Silas to have served the Lord in spreading the gospel.

✠ Michael Frascinella

The Origin of Flag Day

Flag Day is believed to have originated with BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, who had his students observe "Flag Birthday" on June 14. In the years that followed, several schools, patriotic societies, and even the Governor of New York started to hold Flag Day ceremonies.



After three decades of various Flag Day celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation on May 30, 1916 that established a Flag Day. Finally, on August 3, 1949, President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress that designated June 14th as National Flag Day.

God with Skin On

This article appeared in the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet for May 27, 2018. It was written by Amy Peterson, an ODB contributing writer and author of *Dangerous Territory: My Misguided Quest to Save the World*.

First read Romans 12:9-18, which contains some of Paul's rules for Christian living.

My husband left for a month-long trip, and almost immediately I was overwhelmed by the needs of my job, our house, and our children. A writing deadline loomed. The lawn mower broke. My children were on school break and bored. How would I take care of all of these things on my own?

I soon realized I wasn't on my own. Friends from church showed up to help. Josh came over to fix my lawn mower. John brought me lunch. Cassidy helped with the laundry. Abi invited my kids over to play with hers so I could get my work done.

God worked through each of these friends to provide for me. They were a living picture of the kind of community Paul describes in Romans 12. They loved sincerely (v. 9), considered the needs of others rather than just their own (v. 10), shared with me when I was in need, and showed hospitality (v. 13).

Because of the love my friends showed to me, I remained "joyful in hope" and "patient in affliction" (v. 12), even the mild affliction of solo parenting for a month. My brothers and sisters in Christ became what one friend calls "God with skin on" for me. They showed me the kind of sincere love we ought to show to everyone, especially those in our community of faith (Galatians 6:10). I hope to be more like them.

Prayer: God, thank You for placing us in communities. Help me to look out for others' needs and to show hospitality.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

6/4 Nanette Dawson

6/8 Gail Frascinella



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

6/6 Jim and Michelle Robertson

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 June 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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