



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2018

CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE KING OF KINGS

From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas Is More than the How the World Celebrates It

Luke 1:30-35

This past week I was watching a television show where the main theme was Christmas. During the episode, the story shifted to two neighbors who were in the throes of a Christmas light war. If you don't know what that is, it is the merry (not so merry) practice of neighbors trying to outdo each other with Christmas decorations and lights.

Anyway, the scene that was set had the younger neighbor looking on while his older more established neighbor was getting all the glory for his home light display. The older gentleman was out there serving up hot cocoa to all his visitors who were oohing and aahing his magnificently lighted house, having lots of pictures taken. To which the younger neighbor looked on with envy and whined about how the other guy got all the attention, while his house was just as beautifully lit as the other guy's.

So not to be outdone by his neighbor, the younger man got a fifteen-foot inflatable snow man, climbed the ladder to the top of his house, stapled the thing in place, and hit quick inflate. Well the thing shot up faster than the man could anticipate and it knocked him clean off the roof and onto the ground below, becoming severely injured and needing immediate medical attention.

As the emergency response crew took him away on a back board to the ambulance, his wife said to him, "Look honey everyone is now taking pictures of you." To which he replied with a painful smile, "This is the happiest Christmas ever!"

You may laugh or be in shock at such a situation, but the ubiquitous Christmas light war happens in many of our American towns, and done so in the "Christmas Spirit." On one hand we just want to get mad at such individuals for missing the true message of Christmas, but on the other hand we know we ought not to be mad, because we shouldn't expect the fallen world to act like those who are saved.

We live in a society where a time-honored Christian tradition to celebrate the birth of Jesus has been hijacked by a society that chooses to worship instead a "Fat Jolly Old

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 1, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

Dec. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Dec. 9, midday – Hillside Christmas Dinner

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School and Bible Discussion

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

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. – Bible Study on Isaiah

Elf" called Santa Claus, while decorating their houses with lights, trees, blow-up figures, presents, and wreaths – which have nothing to do with Jesus.

As Christians we know that Christmas is more than just how the world chooses to celebrate it. Christmas is more than just an occasion to get together and enjoy family. In reality, it's about a particular person whom we as Christians worship.

This is clearly shown to us in Luke 1:30-35. In this Gospel, Luke recounts what is Mary's retelling of the event that started it all. In the account, the Angel says to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | At the Dentist | Hymn Titles | Sutherland Springs | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

What is Christmas to us Christians? What makes Christmas more than how the world celebrates it? First, Christmas is the celebration of the first Advent or Coming of Jesus. We celebrate Jesus' birth because it was the fulfillment of a long awaited promise to which Jesus would bring salvation to all mankind.

Second, Christmas is the fulfillment of the long awaited promise to King David that there would be an heir of his who would sit on the throne of Israel for all eternity. Jesus is that heir who is the King of kings and we Christians honor Him as our King.

Third, Christmas is the fulfillment of the long awaited promise that one day God would once again walk with man as He did in the Garden of Eden, that a relationship with man would be restored. That restoration is met in Jesus Christ, for we learn from this passage that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit and thus He would be called "The Son of God." We Christians know that Jesus is more than the King of kings, He is the Lord of lords as well and we worship Him for He is our Lord and our God.

I don't know about you, but I do not see that same kind of thought, commitment, and observation in many who celebrate Christmas in the worldly way in our society. Lest I sound too much like a Scrooge, I admit I like to see some colorful decorations, a tree in the living room, and presents under the tree as well during this time of year. But as a Christian such practices are a far secondary aspect of the Christmas season.

Let us not celebrate Christmas merely in the same way in which the world celebrates it, but instead let us celebrate it as it was intended: to glorify God for the birth of His Son Jesus so that the fulfillment of a covenant would be met and we would have a King and Lord who we will worship and celebrate for eternity.

May you have a Blessed Christmas,

✠ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast

This event takes place right on the very first day of the month, Dec. 1. The guys chip in to bring various dishes so we always have a good breakfast to look forward to.

This month it should be stick-to-your-ribs biscuits and gravy with eggs, bacon, sausage, and whatever else goes with all that.

After breakfast we get into some Bible discussions. We will be finishing up with the final chapter of Romans. We have been working on it a chapter a month so, at long last, we have reached the end. Praise the Lord!

Fellowship Events

On Sunday Dec. 9 after the Worship Service, join us as we enjoy a potluck Christmas Dinner. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share and enjoy some fellowship before things get more hectic.

Let us never forget that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Property and Space Patrol

Things were fairly quiet in November, but cold. Two small snow storms had to be plowed.

It looks like December is starting off with mild weather. After Sunday's rain, the forecast is for mostly sunny days with temps one day in the 40s and the rest of the week in the 30s. Pray for a mild winter.

✠ Pastor Al

Dad at the Dentist

The following article comes from *Our Daily Bread*, the daily devotional booklet from Our Daily Bread Ministries. The focal passage was Matthew 26:36-39.

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

The related story tells of a 10-year-old boy pleading with his dad to not let the dentist pull a tooth. The story was dated November 6 and was written by Adam Holz.

I didn't expect a profound lesson about the Father's heart at the dentist's office—but I got one. I was there with my ten-year-old son. He had an adult tooth coming in under a baby tooth that hadn't fallen out yet. It had to come out. There was no other way.

My son, in tears, pleaded with me: "Dad, isn't there another way? Can't we just wait and see? Please, Dad, I don't want to have this tooth pulled!" It just about broke my heart, but I told him, "Son, it's got to come out. I'm sorry. There's no other way." And I held his hand as he wriggled and writhed while the dentist removed that stubborn molar, tears in my eyes too. I couldn't take his pain away; the best I could offer was to be present with him in it.

In that moment, I remembered Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, asking His Father for a different way. How it must have broken the Father's heart to see His beloved Son in such agony! Yet there was no other way to save His people.

In our lives, we sometimes face unavoidable yet painful moments—just like my son did. But because of Jesus's work for us through His Spirit, even in our darkest moments our loving heavenly Father is always present with us (Matthew 28:20).

Funny Hymn Titles

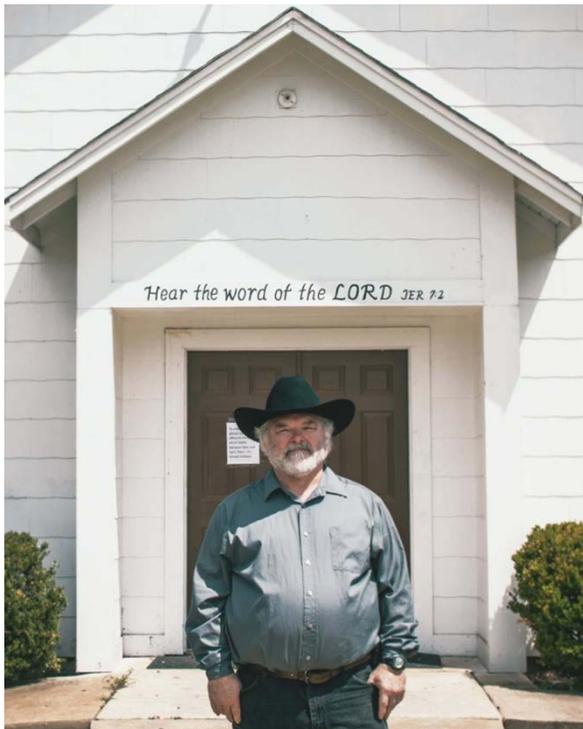
This list of fractured hymn titles was submitted by Cynthia Ward. The hymns can be sung during your Christmas dinner. The one about the garlic dressing is pretty good. Others may not be as familiar.

See *Hymn Titles* on p. 3

Hymn Titles, from p. 2

- "When the Rolls are Cooked by Wanda"
- "Up From the Gravy"
- "Let There Be Peas on Earth"
- "What a Friend We Have in Cheeses (all our Brie and Camembert)"
- "Blest be the Pies Combined"
- "His Eye is on the Turkey"
- "Come Thou Fount of Garlic Dressing"
- "Take My Knife and Lima Bean"
- "Pass Me Not the Jellied Salad"
- "Just As I Yam"

Sutherland Springs Remembered



On Sunday November 5, 2017, a small Baptist Church of some 50 members was ground zero for the worst massacre in Texas' history. The aftermath in this small town outside of San Antonio was 26 dead and 20 injured. It could have been worse but for the intervention of Stephen Willeford, who lived down the street from the church.

The November issue of *Texas Monthly* magazine has a gripping, in-depth, and compelling article and photos about the man they called "the ultimate good guy with a gun."

Without hesitation after hearing the gun shots, Willeford grabbed his AR15 rifle, ran to the church, and called out and shot the shooter twice, who then fled in his SUV. With help from a passing driver, he chased the shooter for several miles, until the shooter ran off the road and killed himself.

In the story, we learn of the many painful experiences Willeford endured during his life, experiences that tried to shake his faith. After the shooting, he was deluged with

requests from the local and national media for interviews, as well invitations from Congressman Henry Cuellar, Senator Ted Cruz, and Vice President Mike Pence. He humbly regretted being called a hero when all he wanted to do was comfort the families who suffered loss.

And the church which had about 50 members has grown to about 200 and is building a new, bigger sanctuary.

For the full article, go to

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/stephen-willeford-sutherland-springs-mass-murder/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following family members who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun. They are also faced with the dilemma of birthday gifts vs. Christmas presents.

- 11/29 Michelle Robertson
- 12/16 Connor Robertson
- 12/21 Juliette Robertson
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, let the editor know about it.

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 Dec. 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.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Modeling the truth of God's Word



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