



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 18 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2019

## Resolution: Live for Christ

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### A New Year, A New Start

##### Hebrews 12:1-2

Here we are again. Another year seemed to zip right by us and, when we blinked, it was over. The year that was called 2018 was filled with its ups and downs. Many of us experienced great joy and happiness and others were not so fortunate this year. How was the year for you? Did you have more joys than sorrows? I hope and pray that you did.

With the year 2019 standing before us, what can we expect from the Lord? We can expect His hand of protection and love to be upon us. We can expect that He will continue to work in this world for His glory. We can anticipate many coming to Christ for salvation. We can have the faith that He will continue to watch over our family and finances. The Lord God Almighty is going to do great things in this upcoming year.

What are you going to do this upcoming year? What resolutions or changes are you willing to make in your life? Many will decide to lose weight. Some will set their minds to saving more money. Others will devote themselves to spend more time with their families. All of these are good and necessary, but what kind of decisions or resolutions have you made in regards to your walk with the Lord?

Have you made a decision to be less angry with others? Have you decided to be more generous and forgiving with those who make you impatient? Are you going to be more of an encourager for your spouse and children? Are you going to commit yourself to spending more time with your Lord and Savior?

Hebrews 12:1-2 says "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (NASB)

I quote this passage because, when it comes to making New Year's resolutions, what we need to do is look back on our lives and determine what sins so easily entangle us. We must

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Jan. 5, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Jan. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Jan. 12, 11:15 a.m. – March for Life

Rally at the State House in Concord, NH

#### Weekly:

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

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

be honest with ourselves and recognize every encumbrance that brings us down. We must take our focus off such sins and place it upon our Lord and Christ. We must fix our eyes on Jesus who is the author of our salvation and the perfecter of faith.

What sins have caused you to continually stumble this year? What sins trip you up? What sins constantly bring you down? Those are the sins that are constantly putting a wall up between you and the Lord. It is time to recognize those sins for what they are and give them over to the Lord. Throw those sins from off your back and place them at the feet of Christ and seek His strength for overcoming them.

It isn't till you lean on Christ and receive His strength will you know how to fulfill the resolutions of the New Year. Until you go to the foot of the cross and bend low before the Master, you will continue to fall short of new spiritual goals in your life. We are to draw strength from Him for in our weaknesses will we find the strength of Christ to give us the strength for victory.

With this new year comes a new start. The start to live for Christ more fully in your life. The start to walk more righteously before God the Father in the strength of Christ. The new start that will bring release from those things that enslave you. A new start sounds good doesn't it? What

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

## Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

better time to make a commitment to grow closer to your Savior than with a New Year's resolution.

With this New Year upon us, may God's grace go with you. May His love overshadow you. May His joy fill your souls. May you know His presence in your life more fully. May your walk with Him be more fulfilling.

God Bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast



The first men's breakfast of the year takes place on the first Saturday, January 5th at 8:00 a.m. Since we finished the book of Romans last month, it's time to pick a new study topic. What will it be?

We can talk about that over breakfast, and then begin our new Bible Study discussion.

## Property and Space Patrol

The church got through December in pretty good condition. We didn't get much of that cheap fertilizer called snow.

✠ Pastor Al

## March for Life

The New Hampshire Right to Life organization is holding its Right to Life event on January 12th. This event is held to remember the sad U.S. Supreme Court decision decided on January 22, 1973, which decision has led to the legal killing of millions of babies across this country.

A rally on the State House steps is planned to start at 11:15 a.m. Several speakers are to address the rally supporters.

The March along Main Street is scheduled to begin around 11:45 a.m. You may bring your own signs or use one of the NHRL signs.

Refreshments will be served at the end point of the march at St. John's Church on South Main St. At 1:00 p.m. the keynote speaker will be Neil Hubacker, Director of Strategic Alliances for Cornerstone Policy Research.

For more information, go to [www.nhrtl.org](http://www.nhrtl.org).

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Repeal of Tax on Churches Appears to Fail in Congress

On Dec. 21, 2018, Tom Strobe, the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press, wrote an article about this issue.



WASHINGTON (BP) -- The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation Thursday (Dec. 20) to reverse a year-old law that calls for churches to file tax returns for the first time in American history, but it appears unlikely the effort will go any further in this Congress.

The House voted 220-183 in a nearly party-line vote for a bill that included repeal of a 2017 tax cut's provision -- Section 512(a)(7) -- that required houses of worship and nonprofit organizations to pay a 21 percent tax on such employee benefits as parking and transportation. Only Republicans voted in favor of the proposal, and all but three of those opposing the legislation were Democrats.

The House's action, however, apparently will fall short of ultimate nullification of the controversial provision. The Senate does not appear to have the votes to approve the House-passed measure, Southern Baptist policy specialists said.

"We are disappointed that despite strong leadership from Senators James Lankford [R-Okla.] and Chris Coons [D-Del.] and Congressman Mark Walker [R-N.C.], and strong bipartisan support for fully repealing the nonprofit parking tax, Congress was unable to do so this year," Travis Wussow told Baptist Press. "We will continue to work on this issue in the 116th Congress and continue to call on members of both parties to set politics aside and get this done."

Wussow is general counsel and vice president for public policy of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

The ERLC -- joined by 32 other organizations -- sent a letter Nov. 13 to leaders of two congressional committees and some other members asking them to repeal the church tax provision before the end of the year.

In the letter, the coalition said the First Amendment is the basis for not requiring houses of worship to file tax returns. It "allows houses of worship to operate independently from the government and shields houses of worship from government interference and intrusive public inspection into their internal, constitutionally protected" activities, according to the letter.

## The Return of the Sun

The Winter Solstice of December 21 has come and gone. This was the day of shortest daylight when the sun was at its lowest point at midday. Things are slowly changing.

The U.S. Naval Observatory publishes data tables on numerous celestial objects. Of great interest is the table of sunrises and sunsets. For example, on January 1st, sunrise is at 7:15 a.m. and sunset occurs later that day (duh!) at 4:19 pm. If you go to the end of the month (January 31), sunrise is at 7:00 a.m. and sunset is at 4:54 p.m. Thus, in one month, sunrise will occur 15 minutes earlier and sunset will occur 35 minutes later. The length of daylight will increase by 50 minutes -- nearly an hour.

Curiously, the time of sunset is increasing faster than the time of sunrise. This is good because it gives people driving home from work or other places increasingly more daylight during their late afternoon commute.

We will still have the cold weather to endure until at least April, but more daylight is a hopeful sign that we are getting closer to Springtime.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Good Riddance Day

The following interesting article appeared in the December 28 entry of the *Our Daily Bread* devotional booklet. It was written by ODB contributor Marvin Williams, who related a story about an unusual New Year's practice. Read Psalm 103 verses 1-12 before reading the article.

Since 2006 a group of people have celebrated an unusual event around the New Year. It's called Good Riddance Day. Based on a Latin American tradition, individuals write down unpleasant, embarrassing memories and bad issues from the past year and throw them into an industrial-strength shredder. Or some take a sledgehammer to their good riddance item.

The writer of Psalm 103 goes beyond suggesting that people say good riddance to unpleasant memories. He reminded us that God bids good riddance to our sins. In his attempt to express God's vast love for His people, the psalmist used word pictures. He compared the vastness of God's love to the distance between the heavens and the earth (v. 11). Then the psalmist talked about His forgiveness in spatial terms. As far as the place where the sun rises is from the place where the sun sets, so the Lord has removed His people's sins from them (v. 12). The psalmist wanted God's people to know that His love and forgiveness were infinite and complete. God freed His people from the power of their transgressions by fully pardoning them.

Good news! We don't have to wait until the New Year to experience Good Riddance Day. Through our faith in Jesus, when we confess and turn from our sins, He bids good riddance to them and casts them into the depths of the sea. Today can be a Good Riddance Day!

## Tune in to Gospel Radio

When traveling about the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. They offer well-known speakers, music, news, and local events. For example, on Saturday nights at 6:00 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music.

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 1/10 Peter Jenkins
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson
- 1/21 Cynthia Ward



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please 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 Jan. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, [mfrascinella at comcast dot net](mailto: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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