



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 18 No. 9

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

September 2019

## *Choose Him Over This World*

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Transformation Within

Romans 12:2

Just couple of months ago we had a tree collapse into the entryway of the church. For years those of us involved with building and grounds knew that the trees along the road have been dying and we've tried to have the state proactively take them down, but basically they said it was our problem to deal with.

Well deal with it we did indeed with the one that has finally fallen down. Pastor Al, Connor, and I got together the following Monday morning and put the big hurt on that fallen tree and got rid of it in a matter of couple of hours.

One of the most noticeable things was that where the tree snapped there was a tremendous amount of interior rot. There was so much rot that it was hollowed out and there was some kind of nest in it, probably one belonging to a squirrel.

What was just as noticeable was how light that part of the tree was. A large portion of the tree was extremely light in that I could pick up boulder size pieces without too much strain. However, when we got down to the lowest part, below the rot and break in the tree, it was still fresh and solid. When trying to pick up equal size pieces of that solid tree, it was near impossible. The weight had to be near five times greater than the rotten sections. Thankfully, Pastor Al, an experienced tree destroyer, knew to cut them smaller so that Connor and I could handle them.

As I consider that tree, it got me thinking about our walk with the Lord. I know you must think that I often consider this when it comes to many illustrations in life, well I do. Besides, the word of God tells us in Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Do not be conformed to this world! How often do we intentionally or unintentionally allow ourselves to conform to this world, or behave like we belong in this fallen realm? Being conformed to the world is the opposite of being transformed in Christ.

To be conformed to this world is to be the antagonist to all that is Godly and holy. To be conformed to this world is to

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### Sept. 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

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

#### Sept. 8, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### Sept. 11 – Patriot Day

Remembering the terrorist attack of 9/11/2001.

#### Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. – Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Fall Study Series starts.

#### Oct .3 – Take Your Bible to School

#### Weekly:

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

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

allow ourselves to indulge in unhealthy intake of what is wicked, rebellious, and sinful in the sight of God.

Thus we may be like the tree that fell in the church's front yard. Initially it looked fine to some on the outside, but on the inside was full of rot. Then slowly, week after week, year after year, like that tree, our spiritual health begins to fail. Our outside begins to look like our insides. Spiritually we're rotting from within and the outside starts show the unhealthy diet of sin we have allowed to grow in ourselves because we have conformed to this world.

However, the way to combat that is given to us in this verse. Instead of being like the world, we are called instead to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That means we purposefully go out of our way to choose the things of Christ. That we, like in any diet, say no to what is unhealthy and yes to that which allows us to grow strong.

Thus if we actively engage in the renewing of our minds then the transformation will take effect and we will then

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Men's Breakfast | Fall Bible Study | Property & Space Patrol | Gospel Radio | In Memory of 9/11 | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

know how to please God because we will know what is good and acceptable and perfect. What an easy principle to apply in our lives, but seemingly the hardest thing to overcome. Yet if we live according to the truth of transforming our minds in our lives, then we will know what a healthy spiritual life is through that spiritual transformation from within.

Where do you stand in your spiritual health? Is it like the tree that seemingly looks good on the outside for a while, but inside is really dying? Or have you reached that point in which you claim to know Christ but those around you see the slow decay of your faith and notice the limbs of your tree falling off when difficult times come?

Maybe you have reached a point in which, spiritually speaking, you have been blown over and the rot in your spiritual life is bared open for everyone to see. If you happen to be a person who has actively engaged the Holy Spirit within and have been transformed in the renewing of your mind, then stay strong in that and enjoy the fruit that comes from obeying God's word.

However, if you have struggled and allowed the world to creep into your walk with the Lord, then don't worry, for Christ can bring you back around. Once you confess and repent of your slow fade into internal spiritual rot, the Lord can work with you and begin to strengthen you once again, transforming you into His image. Like the healthy part of tree that was nearly five times heavier than the rotten parts, He can make you strong and sturdy again throughout your whole being.

Let me encourage you today to take a moment and analyze your spiritual condition. See where you have allowed yourself to be conformed to this world. Recognize where you allowed sin to reign in your heart and mind in which spiritual rot is visible. Be ruthlessly true to yourself so that, when you begin to be transformed in the renewing of your mind, those areas in which you once allowed sin to reside in your soul will no longer have any space available because you have renovated your whole self, for the transformation within has taken hold of you.

May God's grace strengthen you as you actively choose Him over this world, as you seek to be transformed within in the things of Christ.

✝ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is as late as the first Saturday can get: September 7th. Let Pastor Jim know if you can bring some food to share. Breakfast starts about 8:00 a.m. and we always hope for new attendees to join us. Invite someone you know.

After breakfast, we will jump into our Bible discussion of the Gospel of Mark. We always have a lively discussion that sometimes makes it hard to get through one whole chapter. But we're not racing through the Scriptures. You can't be blessed by God's Word doing that.

## Fall Bible Study Series

Pastor Jim is going to be leading the Fall Bible Study Series. The weekly series takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights, with the first meeting on Sept. 24th.

The subject matter is going to be 1 & 2 Corinthians. The schedule has 1 Corinthians taking up the Fall time period and 2 Corinthians taking up the 2020 Spring time period.

First Corinthians was a letter that Paul wrote around 55 A.D. to the early church he established in Corinth in Greece. He wrote it after learning that the church had fallen into serious moral errors.

Second Corinthians was written soon after the first letter, possibly a year or two afterward from Macedonia. It may have been his fourth letter to that church. In this letter, Paul finds himself defending his ministry against opposing teachers of false doctrines.

This should be an enlightening and encouraging series.

## Property and Space Patrol

Mowing continues at the church but the grass thankfully is not growing as fast this time of year.

If you can bring a set of pruners and you know what the bittersweet vine looks like, you can help by cutting it out wherever it is invading the property, like under the front stairway and climbing some trees and shrubs.

This time of year, the vine produces hard, golden berry cases about the size of a pea. When ripe, the case splits open to reveal a poisonous red berry. If you're ambitious, rip it out by the roots and put it in the dumpster.



✝ Pastor Al

## Tune in to Gospel Radio

In the Concord area, get more of God's Word by tuning into New Hampshire Gospel Radio at 99.1 FM or 104.3 FM. For example, on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. the locally produced "Saturday Night Gospel Hour" offers a wide variety of southern and country gospel music.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly.

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

## In Memory of 9/11



This September 11th marks 18 years since Islamic terrorists attacked the United States and used passenger jets to kill almost 3,000 Americans and others in senseless acts of destruction at New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in a field in Shanksville, Penn.

The events are seared into our memories and we can all recall what we were doing that day under a clear blue sky. Sadly, the struggle against these terrorists continues to this day, but, thank God, we have never experienced another attack like 9/11.

We should also note that people born since 2001 have no memory of the event. We need to teach them what happened, not as a way to promote animosity, but as a warning. In the words of American philosopher, George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Today, the Freedom Tower stands in Manhattan near the site of the original two towers, piercing the sky at 1,776 feet tall, a number which is a deliberate reference to the year of our Independence Day.



Let us pray for our country and its leaders, that they will continue to protect us from evil. Let us also remain vigilant against the people who serve a hateful ideology and who still seek to take our freedoms away, especially our freedom to serve our Risen Savior.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

9/22 Julie Jenkins



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

9/7 Fred & Virginia Smith (moved to Texas)

## 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 Sept. 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.



**Hillside Baptist Church**  
**547 Pembroke St.**  
**Pembroke, NH 03275**

*Modeling the truth of God's Word*



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

