



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 19 No. 11

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2020

## GIVE THANKS FOR HIS LOVINGKINDNESS

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Thankful Hearts

Psalm 86:11-13

What are you thankful for this year? Is it that you have made it most of the way through the year 2020 without being too badly scathed? Are you thankful for sports being back on TV and that there was a World Series, NBA Finals, and an NHL championship? Maybe you are thankful for the opportunity to get back out into the world and out of the domicile you have been hibernating in, you know the term used this year as self-quarantine?

With all joking aside the biggest thing I may be thankful for in this moment is that this election cycle has finally come to an end. This year's politics has been filled with more backbiting, more sucker-punching, more slander, more innuendos, and more meanness than any other election I've seen in years and that's just by the political pundits never mind the actual candidates themselves.

Ah, Thanksgiving Day is close at hand and as Christians we are to be the most thankful people of all, for we know true peace with Christ our Savior and an adoption into the family of God our Father. This year as we gather together as family and loved ones, there are many more things we can be thankful for than just what has been mentioned above.

We can be thankful that our God loves us, that our family is together, that we can spend another season of joy and celebration of our Savior's birth. For those of us who have lost loved ones this past year due to COVID-19, an accident, or some other way, we take comfort in the fact that our God is God and they are placed into His eternal care and for that we are thankful.

With all that has happened this year, more now than ever, we need something to celebrate and to be thankful for. We need a Thanksgiving Day together, we need to be close to each other, we need to be strengthened by each other, to be encouraged to move forward in faith that our God is sovereign and His plan is still in place no matter what tomorrow brings.

David knew more about pain, problems, and punishment than most people in Scripture. As a man who was constantly on the run from his enemies who sought to kill him, he

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Nov. 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Nov. 7, 8:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast**

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

#### Weekly:

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

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

**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study**

offered up many prayers and psalms of thanksgiving to the Lord. While focusing on God's safe deliverance from others he wrote in Psalm 86:11-13:

"Teach me Your way, O LORD;

I will walk in Your truth;

Unite my heart to fear Your name

I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
And will glorify Your name forever.

For Your lovingkindness toward me is great,  
And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol."

We can see that David knew what it was to have a thankful heart. Notice a couple of things really quickly in this passage. First, even though David had a solid relationship with God he asked God to teach him His ways so that he would walk in God's truth. What a wonderful request that any individual can ask, for the one who knows the will of God and obeys it knows peace with God and a thankful heart. Second, he asked God to knit his heart to Him so that he would know to fear the name of the Lord. David knew that this would produce within him a thankful heart based upon a heart that was full of the grace and love of God which would produce within him a desire to praise God all his life. Last, David declared a truth about God that many in our world today do not know or have not experienced and that is the lovingkindness of God.

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

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

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

Such a blessed reception of the outpouring of God's affection is something that all of us should desire to sing praises unto Him for His great love, forgiveness, and compassion upon each one of us. David knew the blessed protection of God in a way that many did not know in his time. For us this declares an eternal reality that our very souls are delivered from the depths of Sheol and we will enjoy our God forever because of His lovingkindness towards us in Christ.

We as Christians know more than most what the lovingkindness of God means in our salvation. Does this not invoke in you a thankful heart? Does this not produce in your very soul a desire to sing, write, and proclaim God's praises? Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His lovingkindness last for generations upon generations.

Let us celebrate this more than anything else this upcoming Thanksgiving Day. Let us choose to focus on that which God has accomplished in our lives in spite of what has happened this past year. Let us focus not just on what He has already done for us in His glory, but what He will do even more through us to glorify His name and bestow His blessings.

Praise God and give thanks unto His name for He is good and His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Blessings,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

This event comes late this month, on Saturday November 7th at 8:00 a.m., so that gives you time to get used to Eastern Standard Time, which suddenly brings on sunset and darkness an hour earlier than it needs to be.

Think hard and fast about what you might bring to share at breakfast. Whatever it is, we will enjoy the variety of breakfast foods that we have to choose from.

After breakfast, we will open to the Book of Mark and continue our monthly discussion of this gospel, which has only 16 chapters. This is always a good opportunity to gain new insights into God's Word.

## Fellowship Events

There are none this month but we hope you all have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving Day. We hope you are able to safely enjoy it with those close to you.



## Property and Space Patrol

The end of October gave us our first look at snow. Fortunately it did not stick around too long. The 10-day forecast looks like we'll be back in the 60s for a while. Lawn mowing is over for the season. Time to get your snow plows and snowblowers tuned up.

✠ Pastor Al

## The Older Brother



The following story comes from Our Daily Bread and was written by Mart DeHaan.

Author Henri Nouwen recalls his visit to a museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he spent hours reflecting on Rembrandt's portrayal of the prodigal son. As the day wore on, changes in the natural lighting from a nearby window left Nouwen with the impression that he was seeing as many different paintings as there were changes of light. Each seemed to reveal something else about a father's love for his broken son.

Nouwen describes how, at about four o'clock, three figures in the painting appeared to "step forward." One was the older son who resented his father's willingness to roll out the red carpet for the homecoming of his younger brother, the prodigal. After all, hadn't he squandered so much of the family fortune, causing them pain and embarrassment in the process? (Luke 15:28-30).

The other two figures reminded Nouwen of the religious leaders who were present as Jesus told His parable. They were the ones who muttered in the background about the sinners Jesus was attracting (vv. 1-2).

Nouwen saw himself in all of them – in the wasted life of his youngest son, in the condemning older brother and religious leaders, and in a Father's heart that's big enough for anyone and everyone.

What about us? Can we see ourselves anywhere in Rembrandt's painting? In some way, every story Jesus told is about us.

## Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020

As this newsletter goes to press, The Baptist Press published an interesting story called, "Unity encouraged as election day nears." Part of the story reported on an increase in political support by pastors since 2016.

"The proportion of pastors who have endorsed a candidate for president or another office has increased in 2020, LifeWay Research reported Oct. 27. The study showed 32 percent of American Protestant pastors have personally endorsed candidates this year outside of their church role, compared to 22 percent in 2016.

"At least one Southern Baptist entity head has endorsed Trump this year. R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, announced his support for the president after refusing to vote for either Trump or Clinton in 2016."

For the complete article go to:

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/unity-encouraged-as-election-day-nears/>

## Sign of the Times



## 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/>.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

11/29 Michelle Robertson



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

11/28 Jack & Cynthia Ward

## 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 Nov. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, [mfrascinella@comcast.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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