



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 20 No. 12

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2021

## Celebrate a Savior

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### From the Cradle to the Grave:

#### God's Plan of Redemption through Jesus could not be Thwarted!

When you think about Christmas what traditions come to mind? What images are conjured up in the deep recesses of your memory? Are the images of yesteryear of you being a child? Maybe they are from when your kids were young children? Are they of your parents or grandparents?

When you think about Christmas what comes to the forefront of your thoughts? Did you celebrate opening presents on Christmas Eve, or did you wait till the morning? Did you go to a Christmas Eve service at church, or did you gather around as a family and sing carols? There are many traditions and even more memories to go along with those family Christmas traditions.

One of my most memorable Christmas's was the first one that Michelle and I celebrated after we had moved away to Louisville, KY for college. As a young couple who had been married four years we hadn't known a Christmas without the pressures of making it to every in-law's house on the day of Christmas, which of course all that running around doesn't make Christmas all that fun.

So there we were, away for the first time, just Michelle, myself, and little twenty-one month old Amanda. We were looking forward to what would constitute our true first family Christmas apart from all other family members.

Sounds great, right? Well we thought so. It was that year that I believe Michelle and I started the tradition of wrapping all the presents Christmas Eve while the kids were tucked away in bed fast asleep. So, because I was in the festive spirit that night I decided to order a pizza from a national pizza chain, which will remain anonymous.

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Dec. 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve**

**Dec. 25 – Christmas Day**

**Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve**

Fare thee well, 2021!

#### 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**

Will meet only on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Starting on Dec. 21, we will be on winter break.

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So there we were around midnight wrapping presents and I eating my pepperoni pizza having a good time. I must have been hungry, for it was about the fifth slice that I realized that the pepperoni toppings tasted a little off. Not really concerned at that moment I decided to just not eat any more pizza and we soon finished the wrapping of presents and went off to bed. All was well in Robertsonville that night.

It was roughly two hours later that I was abruptly awoken to what could only be described as an eruption that rivaled Mt. Vesuvius' wrath upon the ancient city of Pompeii. How do I know that, because the fallout in the bathroom proved that to be true. There I was on the first Christmas away from family, ready to enjoy just the three of us, and I was as sick as I have ever been in my life.

For the next twenty-four hours, food poisoning wreaked havoc on my system and the day of Christmas

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

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

1997 was ruined, ruined because of some bad pepperoni on my pizza, from a national pizza chain which will remain unnamed.

We have many photos of that day hanging around in boxes of pictures. There is cute little Amanda crawling around in her Christmas onesie, there is Micelle enjoying the tree, there are the presents being opened, and oh yeah, there's Jim over on the couch looking like death warmed over. Yup, what a great Christmas, a tradition by the way we have not repeated.

It was that year I realized that no matter how well you plan for something, no matter how much you want something to go right, no matter how much you will something to happen according to your design, it can be thwarted by just about any little thing. In my case it was my favorite topping on a pizza, but for others it may be that tree dried up and died over night, maybe it was the lunch prepared ahead of time went bad, or maybe expected company that day was not able to make it for whatever reason. One thing is for sure anything can happen to potentially ruin your best laid plans.

However, what is easily thwarted in our lives is not something God ever has to worry about. Why? Because He is sovereign and His plans always, and I mean always, comes to pass. The greatest aspect of His sovereign plan of course is the first Advent of His Son, Jesus who is the Christ. All one has to do is read the Old Testament and you can see the many times the coming of Jesus was opposed by Satan in which he tried to prevent the Christ from coming.

Way back in the Garden, God pronounced to Satan that one day the seed (descendant/child) of the Woman (Eve) would crush his head while he was trying strike him down. This prophetic utterance of the end for Satan was not something he liked so Satan actively and constantly tried to stop the coming of Jesus. When he incited Cain to kill Abel, he thought he might have stopped it, but Abel was not to be the one in the bloodline of Jesus, Seth was who was born after Abel's death.

Further down the road of time the Devil, who is prince of this world, incited mankind into such wickedness that rivaled the falling of the angels, he must have believed that surely God would destroy all men, including the seed that would strike him dead, but he was wrong.

God had compassion on one family and through Noah the coming of the Christ was protected. During the period of enslavement in Egypt, the Devil incited Pharaoh to kill all the male children who were born,

yet God protected the bloodline of Judah so that the Son of God would come.

Such incidents are throughout the Old Testament in which the Devil tried to prevent the coming of Jesus, but was met with utter failure. Why did he fail? Because God's sovereign plans never get thwarted. Which brings us to the one we Christians celebrate this time of year, Jesus.

If you look at the story of Jesus it is a fantastic story just within the Gospels, but if you consider all of the Old Testament and its history leading into the coming of Jesus how even more marvelous is His story of His first coming. Jesus who emptied himself, took on the form of a man, submitted to the law, and became a slave/servant to the point of death, a death on the cross for the salvation of all humanity is the greatest story ever known in the history of mankind.

Jesus' mission was a mission that would go from the cradle to the grave so that mankind would not know eternal death and separation from the Father. This was always the plan in place, from before the beginning. Before God said "let there be light," Jesus was on His way to the day He would be born in a stable and die up a hill on a tree.

Nothing stopped that plan that God had in place. No one, not even the Devil with the powers imbued upon him by God, could get in the way of Jesus' mission and glorification. What an awesome God we serve!

This Christmas what are you going to celebrate most? I know as for me I haven't had a pizza on Christmas Eve for about twenty-five years, especially from that national pizza chain which remains unnamed.

However, I do celebrate a God whose plans are never slowed, never eased, never prevented, never ever will be thwarted. I celebrate a Savior who came to die for my sins and for your sins and rose victoriously over death that we may be given the greatest gift of all, eternal life with God.

That is what I am going to celebrate most this Christmas, I pray that you do as well.

Merry Christmas,  
✠ Pastor Jim

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**

This month, the weekly study will convene on December 7 and December 14 only. Thereafter it will take a winter break.

**Property and Space Patrol**

The leaves in the yard were mulched down in a final mowing. Pastor Al fixed the light for the sign and the

See *Property & Space* on p. 3

## Property & Space, from p. 2

two flood lights on the front sides of the church. The air conditioners in the sanctuary were removed for the winter.

The parsonage basement is still under renovation, but is close to being completed.

The furnaces at the church were cleaned. The furnace at the parsonage was cleaned and some minor repairs were made.

✠ Pastor Jim

## The Birth of a Savior

### Luke 2 (NASB)

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,



14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

## 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 people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

12/16 Connor Robertson

12/21 Juliette Robertson



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

## 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. 26. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Convention of New Hampshire, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!**

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

*Modeling the truth of God's Word*



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