



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2022

RESOLVED: GROW CLOSER TO THE LORD

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 2021 was filled with its ups and downs. Many of us experienced great joy and happiness and others were not so fortunate this year. We experienced the crisis on the southern border, increased crime in the cities, rising inflation, the pull out of Afghanistan, and COVID-19 infections that almost doubled from 2020 to 2021. How was the year for you? Did you have more joys than sorrows? I hope and pray that you did.

With the year 2021 standing before us, what can we expect from the Lord in 2022? 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 to spend 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)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 15, 11:00 a.m. – March for Life Rally at Concord State House

Jan. 15, Noon – March down Main St.

Weekly:

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

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

Tuesday Night Bible Study

On winter break

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 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, we will find the strength of Christ to give us the strength for victory.

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)

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 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.

✠ Pastor Jim

Annual March for Life, January 15

The New Hampshire Right to Life organization has announced its event for 2022. The rally takes place on Saturday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m. at the steps of the State Capitol on North Main St.

Guest speakers will inform us of the latest pro-life vs. abortion cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts.

The March begins around noon and attendees will head down Main St. to Christ the King Hall on South Main St. where refreshments are usually served prior to the conference with a guest speaker at 1:00 p.m.

Mid-January is always cold so dress warmly including winter hats, gloves, and boots.

For details, go to <https://nhrtl.org/mfl2022/>

Property and Space Patrol

With winter comes snow storms. All the wiring for the snow plow on Pastor Al's truck had to be replaced due to corrosion from years of salting the church driveway and parking lots.

That was done in time for the two snowfalls we had in December. Both happened on Saturday nights, requiring plowing on Sunday morning so people could attend church services.

Work on the parsonage basement is progressing slowly, but nearly done.

The light on the street sign facing north was replaced.

The flood lights on both sides of the front of the church have been fixed for better nighttime visibility.

All brush debris on the property was collected and taken away to the Dirt Doctor's brush drop off site.

✠ Pastor Al and Pastor Jim

One Day Closer to Christmas

The following seasonal article comes from the "Our Daily Bread Devotional" for December 31st. First read Philippians 3:15-21 and then read the article, written by ODB staff writer, Adam R. Holz.

"I can't believe Christmas is over," my dejected daughter said.

I know how she feels: The aftermath of Christmas can feel dreary. Presents have been opened. The tree and lights must come down. Listless January—and, for many, the need to shed holiday pounds—awaits. Christmas—and the breathless anticipation that comes with it—suddenly feels eons away.

A few years ago, as we were putting Christmas stuff away, I realized: no matter what the calendar says, we're always one day closer to the next Christmas. It's become something I say frequently.

But far more important than our temporal celebration of Christmas is the spiritual reality behind it: the salvation Jesus brought into our world and our hope for His return. Scripture talks repeatedly about watching, waiting, and longing for Christ's second coming.

I love what Paul says in Philippians 3:15–21. He contrasts the world's way of living – with "mind[s] set on earthly things" (v. 19) – with a lifestyle shaped by hope in Jesus' return: "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 20).

The reality that our "citizenship is in heaven" changes everything, including what we hope for and how we live. That hope is fortified by the knowledge that with every passing day, we're indeed one day closer to Jesus' return.

January Bringing More Daylight

The shortest period of daylight was back at the Winter Solstice on December 21st. Now we begin again the annual climb out of the darkness of winter.

Here is what you have to look forward to.

Jan. 1 sunrise : 7:16 a.m. sunset 4:23 p.m.

Jan. 15 sunrise : 7:13 a.m. sunset 4:37 p.m.

Jan. 31 sunrise : 7:00 a.m. sunset 4:58 p.m.

On Jan. 1, daylight last 9 hours 7 minutes.

On Jan. 15, daylight lasts 9 hours 24 minutes.

By Jan. 31, daylight lasts 9 hours 58 minutes -- almost 10 hours. So over the whole month, that is a gain of 16 minutes in the morning and 35 minutes in the evening for a total gain of 51 minutes more daylight.

January Thaw

The other event to hope for is the January Thaw which arrives mid to late January. During the January Thaw, which usually lasts for about a week, temperatures rise sometimes into the 60s or even 70s, then drop back down in time for February's arrival.

Although it's called a thaw, it doesn't necessarily melt away snow and ice during its stay. But there was one thaw in New England in the late 1970s that caused forsythias to bloom. Imagine that.

Hymn Writer Philip Paul Bliss

This story was submitted by Pastor Al. It was first published in 2007 on Christianity.com.



Paper! Paper! Read all about it! Deadly train wreck in Ohio!

On December 29, 1876, shortly after 7 p.m., a train pulling out of Ashtabula, Ohio puffed its way across a trestle. Suddenly the

passengers heard a terrible cracking sound. The trestle snapped and eleven rail cars plunged seventy feet down into a watery ravine. Even before the wooden cars slammed into the bottom, they were aflame, set afire by kerosene heaters.

Of the 159 passengers in those cars, 92 were killed and most of the rest suffered serious injuries. Snuffed out by the wreck was a young couple whose bodies were never found. But you will almost certainly find the man's name in the hymn book in the pew in front of you. It was Philip Paul Bliss.

Bliss had a superb voice. One day he attended one of Dwight L. Moody's revival services. The song leader was absent and the music was weak. Bliss's voice stood out in the congregational singing. As the crowd was leaving, Moody shook hands, including the Blisses'. Bliss said, "as I came to him he had my name and history in about two minutes, and a promise that when I was in Chicago Sunday evenings, I would come and help in the singing at the theater meetings."

Bliss had already written Christian songs. As part of the Moody team, he now wrote even more. Among the familiar hymns he authored were "Almost Persuaded," "Hallelujah! What a Savior!" and "Jesus Loves Even Me." He also wrote the music to "It Is Well with My Soul."

Ironically, the night before his death, P.P. Bliss had sung "I'm going home tomorrow" while he spent "the happiest Christmas he had ever known" with family. Philip and Lucy left their children with a sister and set off on their doomed journey. Had the children been with them, the disaster would have been worse.

Moody was among those who mourned the loss of Bliss. "In my estimate, he was the most highly honored of God, of any man of his time, as a writer and singer of gospel songs, and with all his gifts he was the most humble man I ever knew. I loved him as a brother, and shall cherish his memory ..."

Moody arranged for school children to donate pennies to erect a monument to Bliss in Rome, Pennsylvania, the singer's hometown.

After Bliss's death, those who opened his surviving luggage found words of a new song he had written. James McGranahan set this to music and it remains another favorite of the remarkable songwriter:

"I will sing of my redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free."

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 mornings at 6:30 a.m., enjoy "The Brinkman Adventures," a lively well-done radio drama. 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:

1/10 Peter Jenkins

1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone celebrating a wedding anniversary this month. If that is 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.



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

Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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