



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2022

CARPE DEUM

From the Pastor's Desk

A Short Time to Serve the Lord

James 4:14; Psalm 39:4-6

Here we are and another month is already over, but didn't this month seem to slip by quicker than usual? Oh yeah, it was February! This year it was only 28 days long as opposed to two years ago when it was a long drawn out 29 days.

Even though February is traditionally shorter than all other months of the year this particular February still seemed to go by with lightning speed. What's worse is that though the days may be getting longer, the hopeful accomplishments of the day still seem to fall short of the allotted time given.

No question that the older one gets, the faster time seems to pass by and this with the knowledge that there are still sixty seconds in a minute, sixty minutes in an hour, and twenty-four hours in a day. Oh how time does seem to fly!

Years ago when I worked construction, I remember a few of the older guys liked to talk about how fast the previous twenty years seemed to pass as quick as a snap of the fingers. Those gentlemen were all above 55 years of age and that decrepit age they represented seemed to be so far away just ten years ago, but now it is closer than ever. What appeared to be something that would take an eternity to get to now will come upon me within the next five years of my life.

I once heard someone say that when you are older, time passes quicker because there are fewer days behind than there are ahead. With a sense of foreboding I know within a short time I will be one of those men standing in the corner sipping coffee and talking about how short time has been in life and how I wished I had done more with my allotted time.

That little illustration reminds me of a couple verses in Scripture that we should take to heart. In James 4:14 we are told "Yet you do not know what your life will

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 2 – Ash Wednesday

Mar. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 13 – Daylight Savings Time

Turn them thar clocks ahead one hour.

Mar. 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Begosh and Begorrah!

Mar. 20 – First Day of Spring

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is!

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

This event restarts on March First (3/1/22).

be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." James was telling the readers to consider God in all plans for life, because unlike we who are finite in time and existence, God is infinite in time and existence.

He was encouraging those who have ears to hear to place God at the forefront of decision making and to allow oneself to be led by God and His plans. I can't help but wonder if James was considering Psalm 39 when he wrote his letter to the Diaspora.

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Property & Space Patrol | Open Heart | Mardi Gras vs. Lent | Birthdays & Anniversaries | Gospel Radio

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

In verses 4-6 of that Psalm, David declared:

"Lord, make me to know my end
 And what is the extent of my days;
 Let me know how transient I am.
 Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths,
 And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;
 Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.
 Selah.
 Surely every man walks about as a phantom;
 Surely they make an uproar for nothing;
 He amasses riches and does not know who will
 gather them." (NASB)

In this passage David wrote about how short time on this earth really is. He used words regarding his lifespan as transient, handbreadths, nothing, a mere breath, and a phantom. David understood that life on this planet is limited to a fixed short time according to God's design and sovereignty.

We are not meant to live in this temporal fallen bodily state for eternity, but eventually we who are in Christ will know a glorified state. But here's the catch, we have only a short time to give unto our Lord and to others our service, love, and attention. The ever allusive nature of time goes by quick and before we know it we will all be like those guys standing in a circle talking about how time has slipped away.

When one thinks about it, one must ask himself or herself, "What can be done?" Actually nothing can be done regarding the passing of time and growing old. What can be done is how we live in the time we have. We only have one life to live and no it shouldn't be a soap opera. Our lives should be filled with joy and contentment in the Lord. Life should be filled with serving our Master and Savior Jesus Christ, because were given life so that we may glorify God and his majesty.

Let me encourage you to take time each day to point others to Christ. Take time each and every day to show others that the Holy Spirit resides in you. Make the most of every day for time is short here on this rotating orb called Earth, because our Father who is in heaven is waiting for us at the end of our days to say "Well done good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21) Those are the words we would indeed love to hear from our God and Father on the day we stand before Him after we have lived but a short time this side of heaven and eternity.

May your heart find fulfillment in serving Him. May God's grace fall upon you and may you know the joy of the Lord in your life in all your days. May you bring

joy to the Lord with your service and love in the short time He has given you to do so.

God bless,
 † Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

On Saturday, February 12 we were greeted with no heat in the parsonage. The parsonage heating system is aging. The house was built in 1994 so it's pushing 30 years.

A blower in the exhaust stack failed and a new one was not readily available. It arrived Tuesday and heat was restored. Residents stayed warm (barely) with portable electric heaters.

As we arrived for church on Sunday February 20th it was cold. The heat was off. We had run out of oil. A call to the oil company revealed that we had been dropped out of the automatic fill cycle. Our long time oil company sold their business to another dealer along with all the accounts and somehow the church got lost in the transfer. They had the parsonage but not the church.

Pastor Jim made some quick calls and got a promise for an oil delivery right away. Brave souls huddled, (six foot social distancing) to keep warm. The oil truck arrived at 11 a.m. and we soon had heat. It was about 7 degrees that morning.

Alas!! All is well. Spring is on its way.

† Pastor Al

An Open, Generous Heart

This devotional comes from the Our Daily Bread booklet and was written by Winn Collier. Read the focal passage, 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and then read the following story.

 After Vicki's old car broke down with no option for repair, she started scraping together money for another vehicle. Chris, a frequent customer of the restaurant where Vicki works at the drive-thru window, one day heard her mention she needed a car. "I couldn't stop thinking about it," Chris said. "I [had] to do something." So he bought his son's used car (his son had just put it up for sale), shined it up, and handed Vicki the keys. Vicki was shocked. "Who . . . does that?" she said in amazement and gratitude.

The Scriptures call us to live with open hands, giving freely as we can—providing what's truly best for those in need. As Paul says: "Command [those who are rich] to do good, to be rich in good deeds" (1 Timothy 6:18). We don't merely perform a benevolent act here or

See *Open Heart* on p. 3

Open Heart, from p. 2

there, but rather live out a cheerful spirit of giving. Big-heartedness is our normal way of life. "Be generous and willing to share," we're told (v. 18).

As we live with an open, generous heart, we don't need to fear running out of what we need. Rather, the Bible tells us that in our compassionate generosity, we're taking "hold of [true] life" (v. 19). With God, genuine living means loosening our grip on what we have and giving to others freely.

Mardi Gras vs. Lent

Mardi Gras which is French for "Fat Tuesday," is considered to be the end of a festive season leading up to Lent (two customs not found in the Bible but recognized by many churches). Mardi Gras is purposely designed to commemorate frivolity, carousing, and sinfulness, but is considered in many quarters to be part of the Christian calendar. In contrast, Lent is a season, starting the day after Mardi Gras, that leads up to Easter, and is a season in which believers are to engage in fasting, repentance, prayer, and spiritual discipline.

According to historians, Mardi Gras dates back thousands of years to pagan celebrations of spring and fertility, including the raucous Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Lupercalia. When Christianity developed in Rome, religious leaders decided to incorporate these popular local traditions into the new faith, an easier task than abolishing them altogether.

Europeans brought this tradition with them to the Americas in colonial times. Nowadays, every year in New Orleans, Mardi Gras makes it into the daily news as the day before the season of Lent starts.

As a personal assignment, you should look up revelry, carouse, carousing, debauchery, and drunkenness in an online Bible or in a good concordance. You will find that God wants us to hate sin, put it away, and truly repent. Mardi Gras promotes an "enjoy sin now, repent later" attitude that is the opposite of true repentance.

After that foray into Scripture, you may realize that Mardi Gras is an act of disobedience to God, but Lent involves practices that can be conducted all year long.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

3/30 Amanda Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on any people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you,

please let the editor know about it so we can plan on celebrating it with you.

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/>.

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.

Sermons are also recorded weekly and published on the web site as podcasts in mp3 format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Mar. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella@comcast.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

Modeling the truth of God's Word



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

