



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 4

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

April 2022

## Make Sunday Worship a Priority

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Honor Him First This Summer

Hebrews 10:19-25

Ah, springtime has come and with it the warmer weather and, although the rain has been considerable, there are signs of life all around us. The flowers are beginning to bud and bloom, the trees are doing the same, and wildlife is making more and more visible appearances.

Just the other day I was surprised to see out the kitchen window some creatures that have been missing for months during the winter. What were they you ask? They were too small to be deer or moose, but too big to be the little birds that I see constantly flying around.

The several creatures pecking the ground were large wild turkeys. No sooner than I had opened the kitchen door to take a closer look than they bolted towards the woods to take cover. Yes, signs of spring and summer are upon us.

This time of year is when we spend more time with the family and unlike those turkeys we come out from under our covers and we want to stay out in the open in the warm sunlight. Outdoor activities abound and there is much more to do in the good weather of New Hampshire than in the cold winter months, at least that true for me. Swimming, fishing, hiking, walking, and camping are all favorites for many families this time of year.

We as humans have the internal need to go outside and take in the rays of sunshine and, when we do that, we tend to spend extra time with the family too.

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Apr. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Apr. 10 – Palm Sunday**

**Apr. 17 – Resurrection Sunday**

#### 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**

Continuing the study of verse 3:16 in each Bible book.

Unfortunately with all these activities we often see a decreased attendance in the church as well. What happens is that many of us tend to plan events and commit to activities that draw us away from assembling together on Sunday mornings. Too often we sacrifice the time that we are to give unto the Lord on our day of rest for that which seems more enjoyable.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we are not to forsake the assembly of the believers. There are two major reasons why we are given this command. The first reason why God has this in His word is that the coming together in corporate worship gives us strength to continue in the perseverance of our faith. The second reason is that He knows the human nature and that we need a command to come together because we may find a multitude of excuses for not doing so.

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

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

Let me encourage every one of you to plan to put God first in all your spring and summer activities. If you remain in the area, instead of going to another state for outdoor activities, let me encourage you to come to worship service first, then go on with the beautiful day you have planned. If you are not in the area and on vacation then let me encourage you to go to a local worship service before engaging in your planned activities for the day.

When we put worshipping our Lord and Savior before our recreational activities, we show our spouses, children, families, and the world that we first honor God and then we honor His creation by enjoying time together in outdoor activities.

We were created to worship our heavenly Creator and Redeemer, so let us honor Him first before we honor anyone or anything else in our lives. May all who are found in Christ enjoy this upcoming season of fun and happiness; and may your families grow closer together as you worship the Lord and find pleasure in outdoor activities with one another.

God Bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Tuesday Night Bible Study

The weekly study which has been examining verse 3:16 in each succeeding book of the Bible will continue until the end of April.

Pastor Al is planning a new study series to be announced soon.

## Holy Week



This year Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is late in the season, falling on April 17th with Palm Sunday the week before.

The triumphal entry of Jesus on a donkey on Palm Sunday

was celebrated by the throngs who came to Jerusalem for the Passover.

Knowing that the cross was ahead, Jesus told the disciples He would be with them only a little while longer. At one point Judas slipped away to make a deal with the priests to betray Jesus.

Jesus and the disciples held a Passover Supper on Thursday night, but afterward, while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Jews came with Judas to arrest Jesus.

Being forbidden by the Romans from executing Him, they got the Romans to do their dirty work on Good Friday, hanging Jesus on a cross, the cruelest form of execution ever invented.

Buried in a borrowed grave, He arose from the dead on Sunday morning, to the joy of His followers and the astonishment of the world.

Some sources state that Easter was first celebrated by early Christians in the second century, with remembrance of Good Friday starting earlier than that. Unfortunately over the centuries, pagan practices dealing with fertility rites (like Easter bunnies and Easter eggs) have become mingled with Christian practices.

Beware the deceptions of the devil.

## Property and Space Patrol

Lawn cleanup has begun. A big load of tree limbs was taken to the Dirt Doctor on Route 106 for disposal. The maples along the street are dying, resulting in lots of ongoing cleanup.

There are two serious needs: 1) replacing the parsonage roof and 2) painting the church exterior. We may get some labor and funds this spring or summer from mission teams via the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Please pray for that.

✠ Pastor Al

## Ronald Reagan Commentary on the Bible

The following transcript is one of Ronald Reagan's famous 1,000 radio addresses written and delivered between 1975 and 1979. He entered this new career after he had served two terms as Governor of California from 1967 to 1975.

Most of the radio addresses discussed foreign and domestic policy, specific arguments, grand philosophy, and personal stories. They helped formulate his political vision by which he successfully ran his 1980 presidential campaign.

In this address (which aired September 6, 1977), Ronald Reagan, the great orator, eloquently gives

See *Reagan* on p. 3

## Reagan, from p. 2

his thoughts on the Good News Bible (also called the Good News for Modern Man and Today's English Version) in comparison to the Authorized Version or the King James Bible.

We might forgive him for not writing another essay comparing the King James Bible to the New American Standard Bible which was an up and coming translation.

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What would you say if someone decided Shakespeare's plays, Charles Dickens' novels, or the music of Beethoven could be rewritten and improved?

I'll be right back . . .

[commercial]

Writing in the journal "The Alternative," Richard Hanser, author of *The Law & the Prophets* and *Jesus: What Manner of Man Is This?*, has called attention to something that is more than a little mind boggling. It is my understanding that the Bible (both the Old and New Testaments) has been the best-selling book in the entire history of printing.

Now another attempt has been made to improve it. I say another because there have been several fairly recent efforts to quote "make the Bible more readable and understandable" unquote. But as Mr. Hanser so eloquently says, "For more than 3 1/2 centuries, its language and its images, have penetrated more deeply into the general culture of the English speaking world, and been more dearly treasured, than anything else ever put on paper." He then quotes the irreverent H. L. Mencken, who spoke of it as purely a literary work and said it was, "probably the most beautiful piece of writing in any language."

They were, of course, speaking of The Authorized Version, which came into being when the England of King James was scoured for translators and scholars. It was a time when the English language had reached its peak of richness and beauty.

Now we are to have The Good News Bible which will be in, "the natural English of everyday adult conversation." I'm sure the scholars and clergymen supervised by the American Bible Society were sincerely imbued with the thought

that they were taking religion to the people with their Good News Bible, but I can't help feeling we should instead be taking the people to religion and lifting them with the beauty of language that has outlived the centuries.

Mr. Hanser has quoted from both the St. James Version and the Good News Bible some well known passages for us to compare. A few thousand years ago, Job said "How forcible are right words!" [Job 6:25] The new translators have him saying "Honest words are convincing." That's only for openers.

There is the passage [Eccl. 1:18], "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." Is it really an improvement to say instead: "The wiser you are, the more worries you have; the more you know the more it hurts."

In the New Testament, in Matthew, we read "The voice of the one crying in the wilderness. Prepare ye the way." [Matthew 3:3] The Good News version translates that, "Someone is shouting in the desert. Get the road ready." It sounds like a straw boss announcing lunch hour is over.

The hauntingly beautiful 23rd Psalm is the same in both versions, for a few words, "The Lord is my shepherd" but instead of continuing "I shall not want" we are supposed to say "I have everything I need."

The Christmas story has undergone some modernizing but one can hardly call it improved. The wondrous words "Fear not: for; behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy" has become, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you."

The sponsors of the Good News version boast that their Bible is as readable as the daily paper and so it is. But do readers of the daily news find themselves moved to wonder, "at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth?"

Mr. Hanser suggests that sadly the "tinkering and general horsing around with the sacred texts will no doubt continue" as pious drudges try to get it right. "It will not dawn on them that it has already been gotten right."

This is Ronald Reagan. Thanks for listening.

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## Remembering the Titanic



The following story comes from the Our Daily Bread devotional for August 2021 and was written by James Banks. It is presented this month because it harkens back to the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912. First read Psalm 85 and then continue with the story that follows.

As an aside, consider watching "A Night to Remember," a 1958 film that chronicled that ill-fated voyage. The Assistant Wireless Operator was played by David McCallum, later to become famous as Ilya Kuryakin in the 1960s TV series "The Man from Uncle."

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### Listening Matters

"Come at once. We have struck a berg." Those were the first words Harold Cottam, the wireless operator on the RMS Carpathia, received from the sinking RMS Titanic at 12:25 a.m. on April 15, 1912. The Carpathia would be the first ship to the disaster scene, saving 706 lives.

In the US Senate hearings days later, the Carpathia's captain, Arthur Rostron, testified, "The whole thing was absolutely providential. ... The wireless operator was in his cabin at the time, not on official business at all, but just simply listening as he was undressing. . . . In ten minutes maybe he would have been in bed, and we would not have heard the message."

Listening matters—especially listening to God. The writers of Psalm 85, the sons of Korah, urged attentive obedience when they wrote, "I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not

turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him" (vv. 8–9). Their admonition is especially poignant because their ancestor Korah had rebelled against God and had perished in the wilderness (Numbers 16:1–35).

The night the Titanic sank, another ship was much closer, but its wireless operator had gone to bed. Had he heard the distress signal, perhaps more lives would have been saved. When we listen to God by obeying His teaching, He'll help us navigate even life's most troubled waters.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to anyone who is celebrating another orbit around the Sun. If that is you, let the editor know about it.



Hillside wishes God's blessing on these people who celebrate a wedding anniversary at the end of this month:

4/28 Pastor Al & Rachel Page

4/28 Peter & Julie Jenkins

### 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 Apr. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.

Unsigned articles were written by the Editor.



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

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