



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 10

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2022

It's Free

From the Pastor's Desk

The Greatest Gift is Free

Romans 6:23

Have you ever heard the saying, "Nothing in life is free"? I know that saying because I had often heard my dad tell me that when I was growing up, generally in reference to me asking for something from him. However, as a general rule for the most part, that colloquialism is true if for no other reason than the meaning behind the saying implies that the gift being given free comes with some strings attached.

Yet with that in mind I got my annual free gift in the mail this past week. It is something that comes to me at this time each year in the hopes that it will snag my appreciation and attention so that I would indeed make a large purchase accordingly. No, it is not the Sears catalogue (that was for you older folks out there). No, it wasn't Publisher's Clearinghouse either, nor was it a free weekend getaway to Florida to look at time shares.

So what is that special annual gift I got? A free pen. Yup, that's right, I look forward to getting my free promotional pen each and every year. I know exactly what the package looks like, I know its size, feel, content, and expectations. Yet I gladly receive my free pen each year and never purchase any in return, but they keep sending it anyway.

This year it was a nice purple and silver push pen with silver writing spelling out Hillside Baptist Church, 547 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, NH 03275. It has a clip on it so that it fits wonderfully into any genius' pocket protector or can slip stealthily into the suit jacket of one who is debonair.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Oct. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. – Alan Frink Concert

Oct. 6 – Bring Your Bible to School Day

Oct. 10 – Columbus Day

Weekly:

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

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

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

This generously given free pen has a greater than average gripper and a bit of texture so that it does not slide out the individual's hand, and it writes in a beautiful easy flowing black ink that is just the right size and fluidity that properly enhances one's penmanship at least three levels above the average junk pen that others send out. So I must ask you, have I sold you on buying one?

When I think about this pen, one thing does stay in the back of my mind and it is this, I know that if the church ever grew in size and pushed to purchase promotional pens, I would in turn advocate for this company's product to be used. Why? Because they give me a free pen every year probably knowing that I will not place order, but hoping for that one day when I need pens that I will think of them.

See Pastor's Desk on p. 2

In This Issue: Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Tues. Night Bible Study | Alan Frink Concert | Property & Space Patrol | Daily Citizen | Friday Connection | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

So there it is I get a free pen every year, so I am left pondering the notion is anything in life truly free? For I recognize that I am hooked now into what some may say is an unspoken expectation of reciprocation when the time arises to do so.

Well the answer to the pondered question is yes, there is something in life that is truly free with no strings attached and we can read about this gift in only one place: God's word. In Romans 6:23 Paul writes, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Why does he make such an assertion? Because he just finished explaining that before we came to Christ we were slaves to our sin, but now we are free from the bondage of sin and now have the benefit of sanctification through our Savior. The outcome of such sanctification is eternal life, thus he makes this contrasting statement in verse 23 to emphasize his point.

Notice how he words that which we receive from God is a free gift. That means it costs you nothing, but it does cost Him His Son. It is free to you, but a heavy price was paid by God to offer that free gift of eternal life.

You can do nothing but simply receive it from His hand. When it comes to salvation you cannot purchase it, you cannot earn it, you cannot bargain for it, you cannot capture it, and you cannot beg for some else other than God to give it to you. It is nontransferable, but it totally available for you individually and personally to be received and shared. It is the Greatest Gift in the world and it is 100% totally free to you!

What's even more amazing is that the more it is shared and received it never diminishes in power, importance, impact, and affect. Instead it grows even more welcoming everyone and anyone who wants to accept it.

What may be the strangest result of all of this is that many individuals in our world today will not accept this free gift. In fact there are countless individuals throughout the last two thousand years who have been offered this greatest free gift and when presented with it simply turn around and walk away. Others have been hostile to the notion that such a gift was even offered to them. And

there are those who grow embittered towards God because of this gift that clearly shows one cannot earn their way into eternal life with Him.

The question that must be asked is this – have you accepted His incredible gift of salvation through the blood atoning work of His Son Jesus Christ? When presented with it did you gladly receive it as the wonderful gift it is, or did you wholeheartedly reject it and now have grown angry with God over what it truly means? My prayer is that this gift of salvation to you is something you truly want and will truly receive for it is the greatest gift in the world and it is free for you.

God bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

Alan Frink in Concert

On Saturday
October 8 at
6:30 p.m.
Hillside Baptist
Church will
present a FREE
event:

Alan Frink in Concert

Alan's music
brings together
Southern and
Light

Contemporary Gospel styles. With Alan's unique style, every song is different.

If you could help us with advertising, please post [this concert flyer](#) in your local stores or nearby local church to let people know about it.

For samples of Alan's music, you can visit his [Music Store](#).

New Tuesday Night Bible Study Series

A new Tuesday Night Bible Study Series began on Sept. 20, 2022.

Pastor Al Page is leading a study and discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. Written by a man of the same name, this author was a former tax collector for the hated Roman occupiers.



Matthew's purpose was to prove to the Jews that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. This gospel includes Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7.

Come to learn; leave enlightened.

Property and Space Patrol

Mowing was done on the front and rear lawns. Pastor Al and I trimmed some limbs off trees and removed all brush from the yard.

All three furnaces were cleaned for the winter season (two at the church, and one at the parsonage).

If you can donate some kitchen or bathroom supplies, that would be a blessing. Ask Pastor Jim how you can help.

✝ Pastor Jim

Daily Citizen

The following news note is from the *Focus on the Family Magazine* for Oct./Nov. 2022.

How do you keep up with concerns regarding the sanctity of life, God's design for humans sexuality, parental authority, and religious freedom in today's culture? Daily Citizen covers key social, cultural, and policy-oriented issues from a biblical worldview.

This free resource helps busy Christians stay in the know through a weekly newsletter, morning headlines, daily articles, analysis, and more.

<https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/>

The Friday Connection

This encouraging story by Athenia Angion from *Focus on the Family Magazine* shows how one couple promotes meaningful times in their busy weekly schedules.

Regardless of our busy schedules, my husband and I find time to connect each week. Since I work out of town and my husband has Fridays off, he rides with me to work so we can spend that time together. He and I have made this a weekly tradition. While driving we listen to and discuss radio programs, plan weekend activities, and make dinner plans.

Once my husband drops me off, he'll find a quiet place in town to catch up on tasks from his two jobs as pastor and university president.

When my shift is over, my husband picks me up, and we go out to eat. Other times, my husband and I share the high and low moments of our days at dinner.

No matter our schedules, we look for opportunities to transform our routines into meaningful moments in our marriage.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to these people who celebrate another orbit around the Sun:

10/1 Pastor Al Page



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you, please let the editor know so we can celebrate it with you.

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.

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. In the wee hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings, if you can't sleep, tune in to Praise & Worship music.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly. In the evenings catch the latest episode of "Adventures in Odyssey."

Learn more at <http://www.nhgr.org/>.

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 Oct. 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

Modeling the truth of God's Word



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

