



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 11

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2022

## Let Christ Clean Up Your Life

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Experiencing A Clean Sweep

Psalm 103:10-12

I was thinking back to my days in construction. One of the most tedious jobs I was ever asked to do was to sweep large areas at the third floor expansion in the VA Hospital in Manchester, NH. Let's face it, sweeping really isn't a glorious job however it can have its rewards. One of the ways to keep the air borne particles down was to spread out a damping agent called "Clean Sweep" (moist waxy green shreds) that helped in removing all the dust and debris.

I remember that after finishing hours of sweeping I could look back and see a modicum of success. Unfortunately, do to the high traffic environment that was a construction site, the moment there appeared to be success, it was quickly undone by the immense activity. That being the case, generally other workers on the job appreciated a clean environment to work in because they hated working in a messy environment. Another benefit was that the boss was pleased to see cleanliness achieved on the job and often offered up an approval smile to a job well done.

As a whole sweeping wasn't exciting, but it was something that had to be done by someone so it might as well be done by me. And quite frankly it was pretty satisfying to look a back at twenty rooms and four hallways to see that what was a complete mess was now an area of cleanliness even if it was only for a short time.

When I was commissioned to sweep, I remember the various contents of the debris I pushed into various size piles for disposal. Often there were a

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Nov. 1 – All Saint's Day**

**Nov. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day**

**Nov. 27 – Advent starts**

#### 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**

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lot of various sizes of cut sheetrock and screws, as well as corner bead for the taper to install on corners to make clean wall edges. There was plaster stuck to the floor in many areas and large globs of goo were extremely noticeable, sticky, and hard to scrape up. General trash such as soda bottles, candy bar wrappers, sandwich bags, chip bags, etc. were in great abundance.

You probably wonder why so much food garbage was on the floors, well I did too because I left plenty of garbage barrels out for the men to throw such items away! Steel conduit, nuts, bolts, threaded rod, and other various ankle breakers were a normal sight in such piles. And if that wasn't enough, there was dust upon dust upon dust that settled from the constant in and out,

*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)

hustle and bustle traffic of workers. It was at those times that I threw down the "Clean Sweep" which brought about a much cleaner floor in my efforts to be one of the Sanitation Engineers of the jobsite.

The crew that I was on was on constant cleanup duty and one of the guys I worked with had nicknamed himself "General Debris" because of the great amount of disposal he had accomplished over the course of being on that particular jobsite.

As I reflected on doing that kind of work I thought about how sweeping can relate to our lives before God. Psalm 103:10-12 says "He (God) has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgression from us." (NASB)

What a wonderful passage that the Lord has given us. Like the mess of that floor that I had the privilege to sweep week in and week out at that job, so too is our lives in sin before God. Like the junk and garbage that littered the floor, our sin does the same in our hearts. Our hearts need to be swept clean of the debris that exists within us.

So as Christ comes into our lives, He begins to pick up the large pieces of heartache and disappointment. He throws our shame into the bucket of forgiveness for proper disposal. He then throws down His divine clean sweep called sanctification and begins to sweep up the deluge of garbage that we accumulate.

With each push of His Holiness, He removes the nuggets of doubt, anguish, worry, resentment, hate, and guilt. He then pushes each of our concerns, bitterness, and frustrations into a pile. He then picks the mess up with a shovel of tenderness and love in which He then throws the dirt of sin and dust of iniquity into the dumpster of abyss to be remembered no more.

When we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, we do not experience the punishment that our sin deserves. Why? Because God does not deal with us according to our failures. Instead His loving-

kindness towards us is so great that He removes the trash in us and cleans us from within.

When He has completed this holy cleanup within us He then casts our sin debris as far as the east is the west, for He casts our transgressions far away from Himself to be remembered no more.

This is what His holy Word teaches us, God is a loving God waiting to bring into our lives a clean sweep of righteousness and love through Jesus Christ His Son and our Savior. Let us hold to this verse and let go of the constant mess our hearts harbor within us. Let us daily allow Christ to come into our lives and clean us up for His use and His glory.

You know what? When the job is done, He will be pleased with His results and so will you. After all, who likes working in a state of messiness, right?

God bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

**Welcome New Members**

On Sunday October 30th, Hillside welcomed two new members into its congregation. At the end of the service during the Invitation Hymn, Tom and June Cairns of Concord, NH came forward and spoke with Pastor Jim.

He told the congregation that they asked to join the church based on a statement of faith. Pastor Jim asked the members if they approved the request for membership and the response was a firm "Amen."

Afterward, members went to chat with them and welcome them to Hillside.

**The Season of Advent**

The earliest dating of Advent is difficult to determine. In the early centuries of the church, Advent almost certainly arose as a result of the fixed dating of Christmas. Once December 25 became Christmas, it was the center of gravity for the latter half of the year.

Various denominations have their own dates for the Advent season but it usually spans about 30 days before Christmas. It has typically been a time of fasting, scripture reading, and frequent church attendance.

*See Advent on p. 3*

## Advent, from p. 2

Advent wreaths are often found not only in people's homes but also in churches. This circular evergreen wreath usually contains four candles (and sometimes five) and each of these candles represents one of the Sundays of Advent. Families who have this wreath at home light the candles on each Sunday and say prayers together.

It is believed that this tradition goes back to Lutherans in Germany during the 16th century. Sometimes this wreath is known as an Advent Crown.

(Excerpts from thegospelcoalition.org web site.)

## Our Heart's True Home

This fascinating story by Our Daily Bread author James Banks was the topic of the October 4th devotional. Read and contemplate on Psalm 63 and then read the story.

"Bobbie the Wonder Dog" was a collie mix separated from his family while they were on a summer vacation together more than 2,200 miles from home. The family searched everywhere for their beloved pet but returned heartbroken without him.

Six months later, toward the end of winter, a scraggly but determined Bobbie showed up at their door in Silverton, Oregon. Bobbie somehow made the long and dangerous trek, crossing rivers, desert, and snow-covered mountains to find his way home to those he loved.

Bobbie's quest inspired books, movies, and a mural in his hometown. His devotion strikes a chord within, perhaps because God has placed an even deeper longing in our hearts. Ancient theologian Augustine described it this way: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

This same longing was desperately yet eloquently expressed by David in a prayer as he hid from his pursuers in Judah's wilderness: "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1).

David praised God because His "love is better than life" (v. 3). Nothing compares with knowing Him! Through Jesus, God has sought us out and made the way for us to come home to His perfect

love—regardless of how distant we once were. As we turn to Him, we find our heart's true home.

## Property and Space Patrol

Building and grounds activities for the past month included these:

The lawn was mowed once.

The ACs were taken out of the sanctuary windows and put in storage.

Pastor Al fixed the kitchen sink at the church.

Pastor Al also repaired one sand bucket stand.

✠ Pastor Jim

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

11/29 Michelle Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If that's 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.

## 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 Nov. 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.

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