



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 21 No. 12

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2022

Be Joyful for God's Blessings

From the Pastor's Desk

Blessings from God

Hebrews 12:28

There is a particular hymn that has been sung in every church I have been a member in. It is an old beloved tune called "Count Your Blessings." Many times when participating in singing that song, I have wondered how many individuals singing along really take a minute to count their blessings. It is a song that is supposed to induce a great appreciation and thankfulness for the blessings God has provided. The chorus reads, "Count your blessings, name them one by one: count your blessings see what God hath done." We as Americans have many blessings to be thankful for during this time of year when we celebrate Christmas.

We are truly blessed with great freedoms and rights in our country, such freedoms are so great that many individuals in other parts of the world could only dream of them. For instance we have the freedom to meet every week and worship our creator God and our redeemer Jesus Christ. We have the freedom to disagree with our politicians without the fear of being hauled away for our contrary convictions. We have the right of free speech (at least for the time being) to disagree with the norms of society. We have the right to rise up and bear arms in defense for these freedoms if the need arises.

We have grocery stores on many main streets, multiple super department stores to choose from, different gas stations to get fuel, and multiple restaurants to go out to eat. We can have fast food or gourmet food. We can go for a ride and cross

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Dec. 10, 2-3 p.m. – Christmas Social

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

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

Last session Dec.13; resumes in January (TBD).

different state lines without getting stopped or questioned. You and I both know that this list could go on for a mile, but I think the point is made, we are truly blessed.

We Christians have even more blessings and freedoms to be thankful for. We have the wonderful gift of the Messiah Jesus come to earth. We have a renewed relationship with our Father and creator God through the atoning work of our Savior. We have a new understanding of God's love because we now have received the salvation he has provided for us through his Son. We know we have great worth in the sight of God because he sent Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

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)

We will have a part in the resurrection and in the second coming of Christ. We will rule with Him for all eternity as royalty in the house of God. We have victory over death and an assured home in heaven forever, for we no longer stand in fear of condemnation of God's wrath. Indeed we as believers have a multitude of blessings to be thankful for, especially during this season.

In Hebrews 12:28 God tells us, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." A mark of a Christian is one who exhibits to the world that he or she is thankful for the bountiful blessings God has given them and worships God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior with reverence and awe.

I want to encourage you to walk around this Christmas season with a heart, mind, and expression of thankfulness for all to see, because Christ has given you much. While you are shopping, waiting in lines, eating out, or spending time with family please make a conscience effort to glorify Jesus during the celebration of his birth.

When others see our thankfulness being expressed, they too will want to know the reason for the joy you have this season. And if they receive the same salvation you have when they learn of the true God and Savior, they too will be able to count their blessings naming them one by one: counting their blessings in seeing what God hath done.

May you have a wonderful Christmas Season,
✠ Pastor Jim

Fellowship Events

On Saturday December 10, Tom and June Cairns are hosting a **Christmas Social** at their home. The event runs from 2-3 p.m. so come early, come late, or stay for the whole time.

They said you don't need to bring anything but to let them know you will attend. Their contact info is in the directory that Pastor Jim recently sent out.

Property and Space Patrol

The grass has gone into hibernation so thankfully the need to mow has ceased for the winter.

Pastor Al filled all the winter buckets with a sand and salt mix, and purchased a couple of new shovels.

The wind knocked down some large branches on the power lines next to the church. Eversource removed them and aided in cutting down a large suspended limb in another part of the property.

The parsonage is in need of a new roof. Shingles are strewn all over the yard exposing some sections to the upcoming winter weather.

✠ Pastor Jim

Listening Beyond the Stars

The following daily devotion appeared in Our Daily Bread for Oct. 18, 2020. It was written by Dr. James Banks, the pastor of Peace Church in Durham, North Carolina.

Please read Isaiah 55:1-7 before reading this story.

Imagine life without mobile phones, Wi-Fi, GPS, Bluetooth devices, or microwave ovens. That's the way it is in the little town of Green Bank, West Virginia, known as "the quietest town in America." It's also the location of the Green Bank Observatory, the world's largest steerable radio telescope. The telescope needs "quiet" to "listen" to naturally occurring radio waves emitted by the movement of pulsars and galaxies in deep space. It has a surface area larger than a football field and stands in the center of the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000-square-mile area established to prevent electronic interference to the telescope's extreme sensitivity.

This intentional quiet enables scientists to hear "the music of the spheres." It also reminds me of our need to quiet ourselves enough to listen to the One who created the universe. God communicated to a wayward and distracted people through the prophet Isaiah, "Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you" (Isaiah 55:3). God promises His faithful love to all who will seek Him and turn to Him for forgiveness.

We listen intentionally to God by turning from our distractions to meet Him in Scripture and in prayer. God isn't distant. He longs for us to make time for Him so He can be the priority of our daily lives and then for eternity.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Jim reported that December 13th is the last meeting this year so then we will have our winter break. Our return to the bible study is yet TBD in the new year.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 12/6 Tom Cairns
 12/16 Connor Robertson
 12/21 Juliette Robertson



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, let the editor know about so we can celebrate 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 Dec. 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.



We wish you a Merry Christmas,
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,
 And a Happy New Year!

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