



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 22 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2023

Stay Fixed on Christ

From the Pastor's Desk

Are You Spiritually Adrift?

Hebrews 2:1

Have you ever been deep-sea fishing? I have great memories of going out into the ocean blue catching fish with family and friends. Each year the church would have a Saturday fishing day and all who wanted to go would present themselves bright and early for the event. You would be surprised at the different personalities that made up this group of Christian fishermen.

We would all assemble early at the church and stop halfway at the Exeter McDonalds® to have breakfast. I have fond memories of devouring the big breakfast which has scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, hash brown, and a biscuit. After copious amounts of consumption we would then make our way to the Hampton marina to go out for a half day of fishing.

There would be sun, there was fun, and after a few hours on the sea our breakfast had become chum. Oh, even till this day I suffer greatly from motion sickness, but it never stopped me from going out and having a good time. When I got older, I discovered the amazing invention of Dramamine® and I believe it is a gift from God for individuals such as myself.

One of the things that would set my motion sickness off was the times the captain would stop the boat and just let it drift while we were fishing. Many things would happen as it went up and down with the ebb and flow of the beautiful tides. Fishing lines would tangle, schools of fish would pass by, the attendants would be so busy you could not get one to help, and others in the group

Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 14 – Flag Day

June 14 – Fodder's Day (in da Bronx)

June 21 – First Day of Summer

July 16 – Business Meeting & Potluck Lunch

Weekly:

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

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

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study: The Book of Revelation

would disappear into the inner cabin to lament on why they were there as they increasingly got sick.

Often that drifting would get the best of me, however I clearly remember in my sicken stupor that when the captain stopped the boat we were in one place and a short time later, because of that drifting, we were in another. It was easy to recognize this change in position, because we were along the shoreline and we had markers that helped us see that we had moved even though the engines were turned off. To this day, when I get the chance to go fishing, I am surprised how far a simple drifting pattern can move us from our starting point.

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)

Such a concept is not lost on me when I consider the potential we as Christians may experience in a spiritual drift. In the book of Hebrews the author wrote, "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it" (NASB). The author of Hebrews is encouraging Christians to not lose sight of their starting point. He teaches all Christians of all times to pay close attention to their direction in life so that they will not go astray. Like the shore line that lets us know when we have drifted from our original position in the boat, so too what we have learned regarding the Gospel can let us know if we are spiritually adrift. It is so easy to go adrift, is it not? It takes no effort to allow ourselves to go with the ebb and flow of the degrading morality of this age. It requires no paddling to go with the tide of the times of tolerance. There is no need of an engine to take us where the world would like us to go. All you have to do is pull up your oars, shut off your engines, and just ride the waves to destruction. However, if we wish to stay true to what we have learned, if we want to follow Christ and live for Him, and if we hope to live a Christian life that honors and pleases our Lord, then we must pay attention to the tendencies within ourselves that enable us to go spiritually adrift.

As the people of God, we must work hard at rowing upstream from the culture of convenience. As His chosen priesthood, we must hoist the sails if we are to go in the direction God wants us too and not in the direction of self. As the redeemed of God, we must maintain and run those spiritual engines if we are to cut across the flow of moral and spiritual liberality.

Let me encourage you to pay close attention to your walk with the Lord. Do not let yourself drift away from His presence. Do not give in to the easy beliefs and pop psychology of today. Stay true to your anchor of faith and when times get tough in fighting the waves of this world, cast that anchor out into the ocean of faith and it will prevent you from going spiritually adrift. When you feel refreshed in the Lord pull it back up, push forward in the faith, and endure the journey for Christ. As a believer in Jesus may your eyes be

ever fixed on Christ and may your faith keep you close to the shoreline of your Savior.

God Bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Fellowship Events

On Sunday July 16, we will be holding a Potluck Lunch and Business Meeting right after the Sunday Service. Everyone is encouraged to bring some food to share and to enjoy some fellowship.

Property and Space Patrol

It's mowing season and last month the grounds were mowed a few times.

The church also has running hot water again. A collection was taken up to fund the installation of a new hot water tank in the first floor pantry.

May the Lord bless you for your generous giving.

Part of the Spring Cleaning Day involved the installation of the A/C units in the Sanctuary. If Sunday dawns hot and humid, we can worship without feeling hot and sticky.

✠ Pastor Al & Pastor Jim

Guilt and Forgiveness

The following insight comes from the Our Daily Bread Devotional for May 16, 2021 and was written by Sheridan Voysey.

Read Romans 2:12-16 and then read the story.

In his book *Human Universals*, anthropologist Donald Brown lists more than four hundred behaviors that he considers common across humanity. He includes such things as toys, jokes, dances, and proverbs, wariness of snakes, and tying things with string!

Likewise, he believes all cultures have concepts of right and wrong, where generosity is praised, promises are valued, and things like meanness and murder understood to be wrong. We all have a sense of conscience, wherever we're from.

The apostle Paul made a similar point many centuries ago. While God gave the Jewish people the Ten Commandments to clarify right from wrong, Paul noted that since gentiles could do right by obeying their conscience, God's laws were evidently written on their hearts (Romans 2:14-15).

See *Forgiveness* on p. 3

Forgiveness, from p. 2

But that didn't mean people always did what was right. The gentiles rebelled against their conscience (1:32), the Jews broke the Law (2:17-24), leaving both guilty. But through faith in Jesus, God removes the death penalty from all our rule-breaking (3:23-26; 6:23).

Since God created all humans with a sense of right and wrong, each of us will likely feel some guilt over a bad thing we've done or a good thing we failed to do. When we confess those sins, God wipes away the guilt like a whiteboard wiped clean. All we have to do is ask Him—whoever we are, wherever we're from.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

- 6/4 Nanette Dawson
- 6/8 Gail Frascinella
- 6/11 June Cairns



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following people who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month:

- 6/6 Pastor Jim and Michelle Robertson

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 June 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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