



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

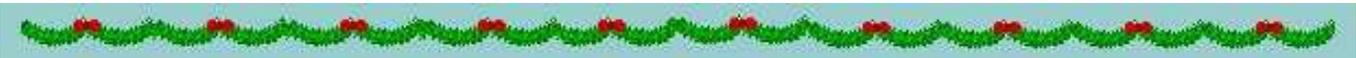
Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2023

Give Joy and Praise to Our Lord



From the Pastor's Desk

A Season of Expectation and Hope

John 1:29

This time of year always conjures up that old time feeling of nostalgia and familiarity. I'm not sure why, but it does. Maybe it is the smell of winter in the air, or it is the shelves in the stores fully stocked with Christmas related items, or it might be the festive music I hear everywhere I go.

There is just something about this time of year that reminds me of when I was a child. For me this season always has had that feeling of expectation and hope. The expectation of presents, parties, family, food, and fun. As for the hope, it was placed in the idea that I would get what I asked for from my parents with all the little hints I had been dropping to them over the previous four months.

As I consider what this time of year means now versus when I was younger, it is far different. My hopes and expectations are not what they once were. I look forward less to receiving presents and more to give them. I hope to see a spirit of goodwill wherever I go and the work of charity to the many that are in need.

My expectations are not in what others may do for me, but it what God may do in man. The times have changed, but the fact that this season seems to bring a sense of expectation and hope have not. As I think about hope and expectation there was a time in history where there was an immense expectation and hope in what God would soon do.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Dec. 10, midday – Hillside Christmas Dinner

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 – Hello 2024!

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 Stud: Book of Revelation

It was in the time between the two testaments of Scripture, you know that break of silence between the Old and the New Testaments. It was a time in which there was an immense oppression of the Jews by the Romans, which was tremendous and difficult. They were in pain and they knew what it was to be beaten down. Because of the pain there was at that time a great hope and expectation that was unparalleled in history.

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

It wasn't until John the Baptist broke onto the scene that this expectation and hope actually had a chance to be fulfilled. He came preaching and teaching in the power of the Holy Spirit. He came to call the Israelites back to God and offered them hope through a baptism of repentance that the Jews had never known. The more he preached the more people believed him to be the coming Messiah, the fulfillment of their expectations and hope.

Of course we know today that John the Baptist was not the Messiah, but can you imagine their disappointment when he emphatically declared to the crowd that he was not the long awaited Messiah. Their hopes and expectations of that season in life must have been crushed. Their hearts must have been squashed. They must have felt deflated in what would be misplaced hope and expectations.

That is true for any of us in this day and age, for when we wrongly place our expectations and hopes in someone other than God, we feel defeated and deflated. We get angry and upset. We get despondent and depressed because what we expected was not realized the way we thought they would be in the person we felt would fulfill them.

Fortunately for them, John the Baptist did not leave them hanging high and dry to sulk in their pity and despair. He would go on to tell them that there was One who was coming after him, the One who would follow him. It was for this One that he was sent to prepare the way. Such a statement was received in a mixed way by all his hearers.

Those who did not want to accept that statement went on to ask further if it was him in whom he was speaking about. Others went on to ask who it was, but in each case at that time he did not know for who he was clearing the path, but he did know that the One in whom he served was coming soon.

We see that fulfillment in the Gospel of John in chapter 1 verse 29. It states, "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

See *Pastor's Message* on p. 3

Christmas Dinner

On December 10th after Sunday Service, there will be a Christmas Dinner for one and all. This will be a pot luck style meal. At a recent Sunday Service, there was talk about having lasagna as the main entrée.

Celebrate the Birth of the Messiah



Property and Space Patrol

At the November 5th Business Meeting, members approved the bid from Queen City Roofing to replace the parsonage and garage roofs. On November 16th, a team from that company stripped the old roofing and installed new 50-year architectural shingles.

They completed the project in one day using ladders instead of scaffolding! Amazing!

Also the roofers said that, though a lot of shingles were broken, there was no sign of water damage to the plywood roof deck. Praise the Lord for that!

So we can come back in 49 years to make sure the roof is holding up. Yeh, right!

The Family Foundations home school group met for the last time on Nov. 30th. They disbanded and will no longer be using the facilities.

With the colder weather and darker days, utilities for the church have gone up and will continue to increase through the new year.

Pastor Al donated his truck and plow to the church. After all these years, he will no longer be plowing the church property.

Thank you, Pastor Al!

Saint Nick

The legend of Saint Nick started with a real person. This story, written by Winn Collier for the Our Daily Bread devotional, uses Matthew 1:18-25 as the focal passage.

The person we know as Saint Nicholas (Saint Nick) was born around AD 270 to a wealthy Grecian family. Tragically, his parents died when he was a boy, and he lived with his uncle who loved him and taught him to follow God.

When Nicholas was a young man, legend says that he heard of three sisters who didn't have a dowry for marriage and would soon be destitute. Wanting to follow Jesus' teaching about giving to those in need, he took his inheritance and gave each sister a bag of gold coins.

Over the years, Nicholas gave the rest of his money away feeding the poor and caring for others. In the following centuries, Nicholas was honored for his lavish generosity, and he inspired the character we know as Santa Claus.

While the glitz and advertising of the season may threaten our celebrations, the gift-giving tradition connects to Nicholas. And his generosity was based on his devotion to Jesus. Nicholas knew that Christ enacted unimagined generosity, bringing the most profound gift: *God*. Jesus is "God with us" ([Matthew 1:23](#)). And He brought us the gift of life. In a world of death, He "save[s] his people from their sins" (v. 21).

When we believe in Jesus, sacrificial generosity unfolds. We tend to others' needs, and we joyfully provide for them as God provides for us. This is Saint Nick's story; but far more, this is God's story.

Pastor's Message, from p. 2

What a delight that must have been for John. He had been working, he had been toiling, he had been tilling, and he had been preparing the people for the coming Messiah and then all of a sudden it dawned on him who it was. It was none other than his own relative, Jesus of Nazareth.

John's testimony was the fulfillment of all the expectations and hopes that the people had been expressing to him for the entire time he had been preaching. What they hoped in him was going to be realized in Jesus. This must have been a great

joy and blessing for John to be forever linked with the Messiah, for we know that in John's eyes all his expectations and hopes were finally realized and fulfilled. Even though he was to decrease in popularity, even though he was to be imprisoned, and even though he knew he would die he found his hope and expectation in Christ Jesus who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

How about you? Is your expectations and hope fulfilled around this time each year? Do you feel as if you have been filled with joy and comfort? Do you hope in some random individual and what he or she can do only to find disappointment? Then you no longer need to end you season this way if you know Christ Jesus the one who takes away your sins and bestows upon you His love and grace. When you receive the salvation in Christ, you receive the greatest gift of all, His very righteousness that brings healing and fulfills all your longings.

This time of year is truly wondrous and great. It is the time of year in which we can find the spark of grace in the eyes and lips of many. It is the time of year in which we can witness the good that man can do for his fellow man. It is this season of the year that many wait the whole year through only to relive that old time feeling that is conjured up by sights, sounds, and smells.

But for us Christians it is more than just those things, it is a time where we reflect in joy and praise that our Lord and Savior God Jesus Christ has fulfilled our deepest longings and greatest needs. It is He who has given us the fulfillment of our expectations and hopes and we no longer look past Him, for we find our all and all in Him. May you know the pleasure of your Lord and the love He gives to you, not just in this season, but also the whole year through.

Merry Christmas,

✠ Pastor Jim

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to these people:

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 is you, let the Editor know.

Defeat Your Demons



Submitted by Tom Cairns.

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@comcast.net.



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SBC

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



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Modeling the truth of God's Word



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