



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

May 2024

THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL

From the Pastor's Desk

What's in a Book?

Philippians 4:8

Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover?" It is one of those deep truths that stand out in our culture and has been proven to be true more times than not. This saying teaches us that we are not to look upon someone based solely upon their immediate appearance or their station in life. That we need to look beyond the exterior and find the real person that loves, laughs, and feels. To find their worth and who they are and not how they appear to be.

Well, I was looking at the books around my office this week and I wondered what those books said about me. I pondered upon how people would perceive my intelligence, attitude, or ethic in regards to the various books kicking around my desk, shelves, and closet. Although we should not judge a book by its cover, we sure can tell people by the books that they have in their study, bedroom, living room, or office.

One question I would like to ask you this month is "What do your books say about you?" You might think that the question is a little odd, but you need to understand that a book and its cover says a lot about you as a person of God. It tells people what attracts you. It speaks volumes to what entices you. It screams the kind of person you are. We must understand that what one takes into his or her heart there the substance takes root, grows, and resides.

God's word tells us in Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any

Upcoming Events and Meetings

May 2 – National Day of Prayer

May 5, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

May 27 – Memorial Day

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." (NASB) The books we read reflect whether or not we are doing what is listed above.

That novel by your bedside does it contain items that you would wish your children to read, is it honorable? That magazine in the bathroom, does it reflect your Christian beliefs, is it pure? That web site you constantly look at, does it have articles that God would find righteous? What we read helps develop who we are. What we take in shapes and molds us to an image that either reflects our savior Jesus Christ and His character or it reflects the world and its character.

Often we as Christians get sucked into a vortex or worldliness that we do not realize we are in. We get caught up in pop culture and society and inadvertently approve novels, stories, and philosophies that are contrary to God and His

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

holiness. We tend to spend more time reading our favorite author instead of reading the greatest author of all. We read books that catch our fancy and ignore the book that is the best written of all time.

When it comes to reading, we are like a kid in a candy store, we often pick up the books that have the beautifully illustrated covers and put down the book that is the most beautifully illustrated on the inside, for the Bible shows us the very heart of God and there is nothing more beautiful than that. We as Christians must also be careful not to fall into the latest self-help book or get rich quick idea. We need to guard ourselves from falling into those stories that are heavy in mysticism or spiritualism. We need to avoid those stories that wrongly depict God and Christ according to the latest societal winds of change. We need not endorse such people with our time or money, but instead we need to pick up the book that changes lives in a way that is right before God.

The help that many are seeking is not in some other book, written by a fallible person with an axe to grind, but instead it can be found in God's written word directed by an infallible God who wants to draw you close to Him.

The Bible is the greatest book of all. Is it by your bedside? Is it in your office? Is it in the open where anyone who walks into your house can see that you have worn it out by reading it over and over?

The Bible is the book that, when others see you reading it, can judge that you are one constantly seeking wisdom, understanding, and discernment. When someone sees God's word in a place of prominence in your personal library that screams volumes of whom you are and who you trust in.

Let me encourage you to pick up the Bible and read it more in your life. Other books will leave you wanting when you are done, but God's word when read and taken in will leave you fulfilled.

May God bless you as you seek Him in the study of His word.

✠ Pastor Jim

Property and Space Patrol

The weather has taken a turn for the better, so no more snow but there's this green stuff starting to appear all over the ground. Has mowing season started?

On April 27, several Hillsiders tackled Spring Cleaning of church and grounds. The guys went outside and tackled all branches and limbs knocked down by winter storms. Road sides needed to be raked out in the aftermath of the logging trucks that operated in the woodlot behind the parsonage. But they offered to return and spread loam on all the roadside ruts.

We filled a 16-ft. trailer with debris about two or three times and trucked it to a disposal site up the road.

Indoors the gals did incredible work cleaning, vacuuming, and washing everything in sight. You should see how bright the outside railings and doors are!

Mary Lisa went out for pizza around midday and we had a nice lunch together before packing it in for the day.

✠ Pastor Jim

Memorial Day 2024

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This year Memorial Day occurs on Monday, May 26.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.



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Memorial Day, from p. 2

Let this not be just another Monday holiday from work. In Allenstown, this marks the time when American flags are re-installed on the main roads and Hometown Hero Banners join them on display to honor town veterans.

A banner for Capt. George Gordon will be displayed near Town Hall honoring this hometown Civil War hero. He was wounded at the Battle of Bull Run, wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg, and killed in action on June 3, 1864 in Cold Harbor, Virginia.



Hostility Against Churches

The Family Research Council based in Washington, D.C., released its annual report on Hostility Against Churches. The February 20, 2024 report showed a significant rise in hostility, with 436 hostile incidents committed against churches in 2023. This number is more than double the number reported in 2022 and over eight times the number found in 2018.

The report included the following statistics:

“The types of acts identified included vandalism, arson, gun-related incidents, bomb threats, and more.

“In 2023, acts of hostility against churches took place in 48 states and the District of Columbia, with more occurring in states with larger populations. California had the most incidents, with 33. Texas had 28 incidents. Hawaii and Wyoming had none.

“Criminal acts of vandalism and destruction of church property may be symptomatic of a collapse in societal reverence and respect for houses of worship and religion.”

Farewell, Sunrise Baptist Church

This small church located on Route 28 in Allenstown has been shuttered and sold. Built in 1977, it came upon undisclosed difficulties and its members decided to sell the property and join other local churches.

The building and its 1.5 acre property along the Suncook River were purchased by Michael Donnelly of Pembroke, NH, who intends to convert it to a child care center called “It Takes a Village.” He recently received a waiver from the Allenstown Zoning Board for a change of use and a waiver from the Allenstown Planning Board of a Site Plan Review. The facility will serve about three dozen children and employ 5-6 workers.

Some of you may remember that phrase as the title of Hillary Clinton’s 1996 book. It drew scorn from Republican Presidential Candidate Bob Dole, who retorted at the Republican Convention that, “with all due respect, I am here to tell you, it does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a family to raise a child.” Criticism of the concept continued for decades from conservatives such as Rush Limbaugh.

As reported in the preceding story, it is an outrageous and evil series of events when people try to harm a church or its members, but it is also a sad commentary on today’s culture where it seems that people are more willing to seek after money, fame, and power than to seek and serve God Almighty.

More people need to read and practice Colossians 3:23. Look it up.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

- 5/21 Beverly Guzior
- 5/22 Rachel Page
- 5/26 Michael Frascinella



Hillside also wishes God’s blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that’s you, 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.

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.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is May 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 Churches of New England, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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