



# Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 23 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2024

## Be Worthy of Imitation

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Imitating Others in the Faith

Hebrews 13:7

Have you ever seen a movie where a child imitates an adult? You know that movie that points out the adult just sitting at a table and when he or she looks over the young child was imitating every move. That happened to me years ago at the kitchen table.

One night a young Connor thought it funny to imitate me as much as he possibly could. If I picked my arm up off the table he would do the same. If I brought my cup to my mouth and take a sip, he would do the same. The game got more specific as it went along to the point where I either did something he could not do or he just finally got tired of copying me. Come to think of it I believe all three of the kids at one time or another copied me at the kitchen table.

It has often been stated that imitation is the highest form of flattery, which, by the very fact I am quoting it, shows that I am copying what I have been told before and thus flattering the one who originally quoted it.

There are all kinds of imitations out there. There are imitations in clothes, which are called knock-offs. Why pay the full price for a hand bag at *Saks Fifth Avenue* when you can buy a copy at a small clothing boutique for a fraction of the cost? There is imitation in music, which when performed by someone other than the original artist is called a cover band. There is even imitation in our foods, which makes you wonder if we should even eat such things. Imitation crab legs, imitation vanilla extract, and imitation bacon litter our cupboards and fridges all the while pretending to be the original.

Well there is a passage in Scripture where we are called to imitation, but not just imitate anyone; we are to positively imitate others in the faith. In Hebrews 13:7 the writer encourages us by writing, "Remember those who led, who spoke the word of God to you; and, considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."

As we consider what was said, like anything else it is important to keep the subject in context of the passage. First, the writer tells us to remember who led us. Do you remember the person who won you to Christ? Do you remember someone in your early walk with the Lord who

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 6 – D-Day: 80th Anniversary

June 14 – Flag 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

taught you, guided you, and instructed you in the way to live a Godly Christian life? The writer of Hebrews tells us to not forget such individuals who had a great impact on our lives, for their demonstration was integral to where you and I are today in our walk with Jesus.

Second, we are also called to remember those who demonstrated the written word of God in our lives through their actions. Those individuals who walked the talk, who backed up their words with action, and who followed through with what they advocated are all worthy to not only be remembered, but are called to be imitated in Christ.

Because their conduct and their actions were found to be worthy, they are then worthy to be imitated. Now I do not believe that we must imitate everyone, but we should find those who truly live out their Christian walk as well as had a direct impact on our lives to imitate. For the very fact that you can verify that they lived in the power of the Holy Spirit testifies to their worthiness to be imitated.

There is no question that such people are hard to find today. In a world where too many preachers are the ones being followed above Christ, too many Christian writers are being celebrated for riveting new ideas that do not align with Scripture, and too many charlatans are reaching the pinnacle of success and wealth, we must be more diligent than ever to be sure we imitate only those who represent Christ and His church rightly.

See *Pastor's Desk* on p. 2

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Fellowship Events | Property & Space Patrol | Political Activism | D-Day at 80 | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

### Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

As I close this article I will ask a simple yet profound question, is your walk with the Lord worthy of imitation? When I think about my example I think of being a father. Oh, how the imitation of a child at a dinner table brings to life how important it is to set a right example of the Lord in his or her eyes. I do not think that anyone would argue that we have to find and copy perfect people, for there was only one who was perfect and we are to try and imitate Him.

What is being espoused here is not copying perfection, but imitating consistency and faithfulness that is demonstrated in the lives of fellow believers. None of us are called to be perfect, for such a charge by our Lord would be impossible, but what can be achieved is consistency of faith.

Let me encourage you to be that person in someone's life so that, when they read Hebrews 13:7 years down the road, they will immediately remember you and your testimony of faith. If they remember someone who was living according to the word of God, then you can be assured they will imitate you, for you are worthy of such honor because you imitated Christ your Lord and Savior.

God Bless,

✠ Pastor Jim

### Property and Space Patrol

#### New Roof on the Church

Several weeks ago, a storm ripped off several shingles from the church roof. With a damage reimbursement from the insurance company, we were able to hire a roofing company to make the repairs.

During the week of May 19, Queen City Roofing removed the entire old layers of shingles and installed fine looking, Hickory Colored Architectural Shingles rated at 50 years.

Come back in 49 years and see how they held up!

It is amazing to consider that we were able to replace the parsonage roof in November and the church roof in May. That was indeed a pair of blessings.

Pastor Al mowed the lawn three times so far.

The air conditioners were installed by Pastor Jim.

Mary Lisa and Christi cleaned the church.

✠ Pastor Jim

### Smartphone Compassion

The following insightful commentary comes from Our Daily Bread for October 30, 2023 and was written by Sheridan Voysey. For context, read Exodus 34:1-8.

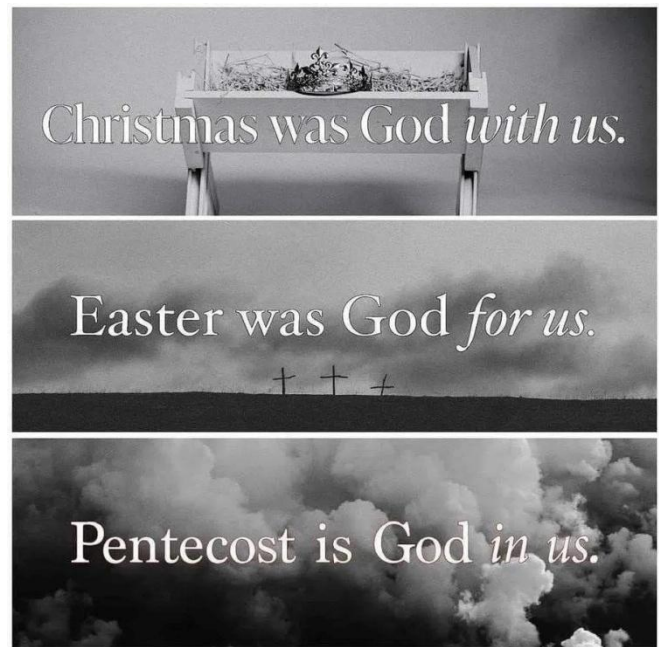
Was the driver late with your food? You can use your phone to give him a one-star rating. Did the shopkeeper treat you curtly? You can write her a critical review. While smartphones enable us to shop, keep up with friends, and more, they have also given us the power to publicly rate each other. And this can be a problem.

Rating each other this way is problematic because judgments can be made without context. The driver gets rated poorly for a late delivery due to circumstances out of his control.

The shopkeeper gets a negative review when she'd been up all night with a sick child. How can we avoid rating others unfairly like this?

By imitating God's character. In Exodus 34:6-7, God describes Himself as "compassionate and gracious"—meaning He wouldn't judge our failures without context; "slow to anger"—meaning He wouldn't post a negative review after one bad experience; "abounding in love"—meaning His correctives are for our good, not to get revenge; and "forgiving [of] sin"—meaning our lives don't have to be defined by our one-star days. Since God's character is to be the basis of ours (Matthew 6:33), we can avoid the harshness smartphones enable by using ours as He would.

In the online age, we can all rate others harshly. May the Holy Spirit empower us to bring a little compassion today.



God and Us, submitted by Tom Cairns

### Unwarranted Political Activism at Walmart

The American Family Association recently issued a notice warning that "Walmart goes all 'out' for Pride month."

The AFA message states in part that:

"On its [Instagram page](#), Walmart used the social media platform a full week ahead of Pride month to let you know that at Walmart, it's "Not just a slogan. #PrideAlways is a reminder to lead with love." It appears that Walmart will be pushing "Pride" month with inventory online and in-store LGBTQ+ displays."

Let us pray that Walmart stops espousing this spiritual poison, ceases supporting politically radical causes, and focuses its energy on its core principle of "Every Day Low Prices."

## D-Day: the 80th Anniversary



The Allied forces and the targeted beaches.



Photo showing the enormity of the battle.



Troops heading into the thick of the battle.

In his bestselling history, *D-Day*, historian Stephen Ambrose chronicled the most significant day of the 20th century. It was a day of courage and heroism, fear and determination, and what General Dwight Eisenhower called “the fury of an aroused democracy.”

Ambrose recorded that 175,000 fighting men and equipment, 50,000 vehicles, in 5,333 ships and craft, supported by almost 11,000 airplanes crossed the English Channel and attacked the German Atlantic Wall on the beaches of Normandy, France.

We are forever grateful to this “Greatest Generation” who fought against the forces of evil on the European continent.

About 60 D-Day veterans were going to Normandy this week to attend ceremonies. Sadly many are 90 to 100 years old and may be making their last pilgrimage to French soil.

Ambrose is also known for chronicling the history of Easy Company, 101st Airborne in the book, *Band of Brothers* which became a hit miniseries in 2001.

Let us pray that we will not have to face such a battle again.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

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 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.

## 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 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 Churches of New England, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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