



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 23 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2024

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

From the Pastor's Desk

Changes in Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

After nearly nineteen years of ministry at Hillside Baptist, this will be my final article. What parting words could I possibly give? What words of encouragement can I leave? What final lesson could I teach? What can I impart to you for one last time? After much prayer there are some that are great and profound and appropriate for such a time as this. Those words are found in the book of Ecclesiastes in chapter 3:1-8.

Solomon writes, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven – A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace." (NASB)

Now I know that there was a song from the seventies probably going through your head, because it was going through mine ["Turn, Turn, Turn" by the Byrds -- Editor]. If you didn't know where they got it from you know now. These words are truly profound in what they say. Changes in life should be expected. No life is lived in a static bubble and no life can exist in that state either. Changes are a part of life and they

Upcoming Events and Meetings

July 4 – Independence Day and Coney Island Hot Dog Eating Contest

July 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

July 15 – National Give Something Away Day

Yes we do have too much stuff.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

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

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. – TBD

cannot be avoided, but they do not have to be dreaded either.

Here at Hillside change is coming, just as change is happening in my life and the life of my family. The church is already abuzz with the next steps to take in moving forward. There is leadership in place with Tom Cairns and Pastor Al at the helm. Plans for the next several months are pretty much set in motion. The church is not only going to face those changes, but many more when the next pastor of Hillside Baptist is chosen. So my encouraging word to the flock is not to fear such changes, but instead embrace them. I say this for many reasons.

First, change can be good. Change is generally bad when we make it bad for ourselves. This comes from the anxieties of not knowing what is to come or what follows the impending change. If this

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

upcoming change in the church seems bad, please don't keep thinking it is. Change can be good and often it is good. God is leading me and my family away because He has something new for Hillside to experience. And if God is leading us away to accomplish it, then He is doing so for the good of the Church as well as the good of my family. As long as we remain in the will of the Lord then change is going to be for His good and for His glory.

Second, change is healthy. That is to say, whether I was to stay or go, changes are needed for healthy growth of the church. I don't know what is coming around the corner for Hillside any more than knowing what is going to happen to my family, but I do know this: change is healthy.

This could be the very thing that Hillside needs to advance to the next level that God wants her at. In some ways I envy what is to come for Hillside as much as I am anticipating what is to come for me in my future. I know within my heart that as long as Hillside keeps God first and His desires at the forefront of their decisions and planning, God will bring about a healthy change.

Third, change is inevitable. Just like the words King Solomon tells us, there is a time for everything. Well if that is true then change is inevitable. You cannot avoid it, you cannot hide from it, you cannot out run it, nor can you dismiss it. Change will happen. How you respond to it will tell you how it will end.

Embrace this change to come. Anticipate what God is going to do. Hope for the work of the Lord to grow. Pray that the next pastor to come will be Spirit led and Godly. Look for God's handiwork in all that takes place in the church, for He is going to do a great work here at Hillside.

As I have pondered on this passage I know that what is coming is good and healthy for the church. If it were not so God would not have lead me and my family onto different pastures of service.

The pasture of service that is Hillside is now meant for the next person to come and serve. When he comes it will be a blessing from the Lord and a work to be accomplished for His name. So with parting words I leave this: may the blessings of God be upon the faithful of Hillside. May His

love guide and direct your upcoming path. May He be with you and may His countenance rest favorably upon you. And may you know that His love will never fail you nor forsake you in this time of change.

With a Pastor's Love and Blessings,

✠ Pastor Jim

Fellowship Events**July 14 – Important Business Meeting**

After church services, we will have a Potluck Lunch and then dive into several topics. We need to elect three Trustees who can sign legal papers and contracts, and negotiate on behalf of the church with people and entities outside of the church. The bylaws for Trustees need a slight revision to define the terms of office.

Other topics will include how the church will function after Pastor Jim's departure.

July 28 – Luncheon for Pastor Jim

After over 19 years of service at Hillside, Pastor Jim was offered the position of Assistant Dean of Academics at Northeast Baptist College (NEBC) in Bennington, VT. This is the school that Mark Ballard founded in 2013 after stepping down as pastor at his Londonderry church.

Having acquired a Doctorate in Higher Education in 2005, Pastor Jim had almost given up hope of applying that training locally. As it turns out, the travel distance to Bennington precludes commuting (especially since it requires going up and down Hogback Mountain and passing many "runaway truck ramps"), so Pastor Jim and family will pull up stakes and move out the beginning of August.

We praise God for the time we had with Pastor Jim and his family and wish them God's blessings in this new ministry.

Property and Space Patrol

Mowing the lawns is happening weekly.

We're waiting on NH Timber Harvesting to finalize the paper work for their logging operation behind the parsonage.

The painter who we hired will start repainting the church exterior on July 1st.

✠ Pastor Jim

Social Media and Teen Well-Being

[The following article comes from the *Focus on the Family Magazine* for June/July 2024.]

There is a growing consensus among healthcare experts that social media can lead to adverse mental health outcomes among teenagers, including depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and even suicides.

Some might think that sounds alarmist, but the evidence is piling up. Researchers, including Dr. Jean Twenge, a San Diego State University Professor of Psychology, connect the skyrocketing rates of psychological distress among adolescents to the overuse of social media and the comparison game it perpetuates.

Constantly comparing their appearance and life experiences to the perfectly filtered photos and enviable posts of others leads to self-esteem problems among teens who believe they don't measure up. Related to that is the need for affirmation via "likes."

Without those coveted upvotes of approval, some teens experience feelings of depression. Then there is the obvious fact that staying up late texting and interacting online can lead to sleep deprivation.

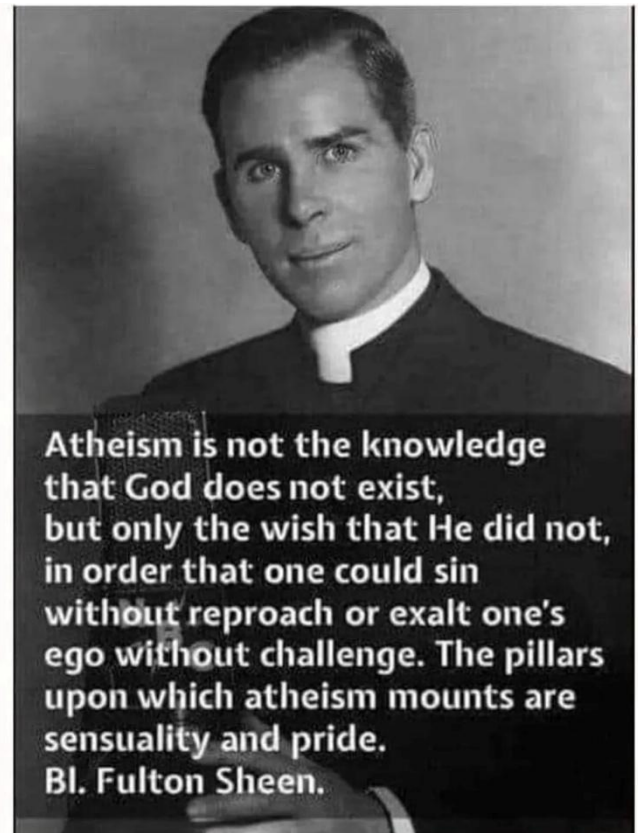
Finally, kids who spend hours interacting online are, almost always by definition, less likely to be developing relationships face to face and learning important social skills that come with that interaction.

Even though social media may be the new normal among teens, research suggests that it is coming at a significant price to our young people's mental health. That is why "Plugged In" will continue to focus on these trends and what science is saying about them. We will keep helping teens and families move toward healthy boundaries when it comes to the way technology influences our lives, values, behaviors, and relationships.

✠ Adam Holz

Adam Holz is Director of Plugged In, a Focus on the Family web site that provides reviews and ratings of movies, TV shows, games, and music from a Christian perspective.

Atheism Is Not ...

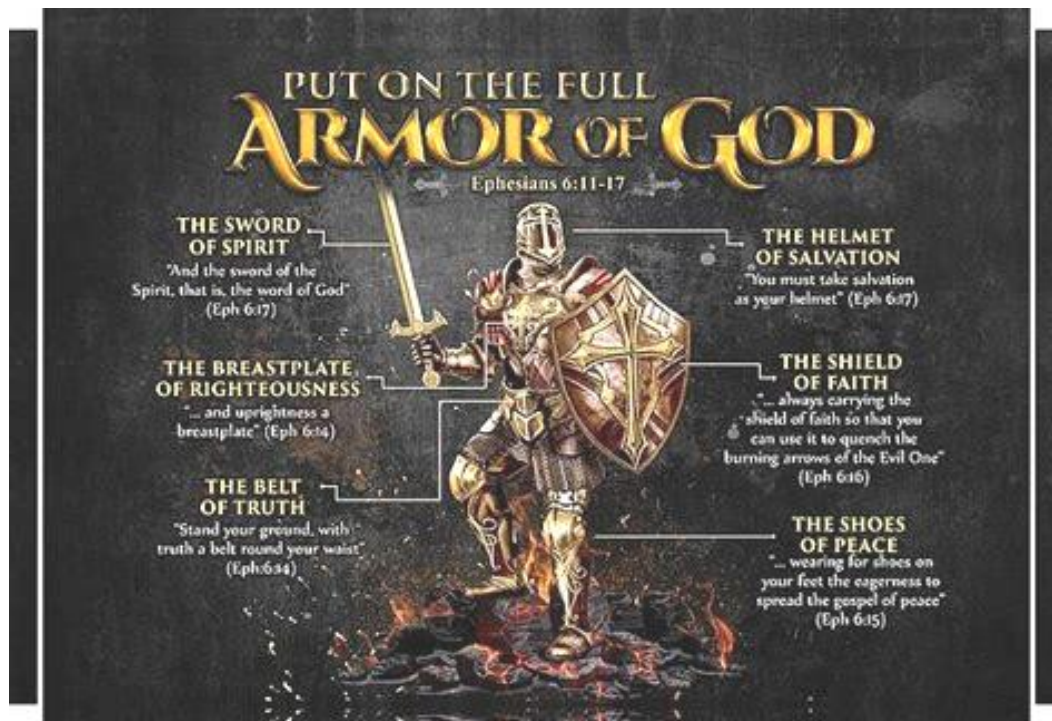


Don't Need Church?

If "I'm a Christian but I don't need the church" was a photo.



Both graphics submitted by Tom Cairns



Ephesians Chapter 6

Pastor Jim's recent sermons at the end of June dwelled on the sixth chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians, specifically on verses 11-18 in which Paul tells us to "put on the full armor of God."

During a search of the web, dozens of graphics could be found that visually depicted these verses. Some looked like parts diagrams, some had scrawny looking models, others featured soldiers with minimal text, and several showed armored figures ready for action.

The one above seemed particularly impressive since it showed a figure dressed like a Medieval soldier in shining armor at center, holding up a sword and shield, standing on what looked like hot coals, and surrounded by callouts that highlighted each piece of armor and the verse in which they are described.

For a quick reference, the following text is from Ephesians 6:10-17 (from the New American Standard Bible).

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm

against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against ^[e] flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ ^[f] in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Each item is of importance for the believer and we need to employ this defensive spiritual armor today.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

7/21 Florence Omar

7/22 Gabriel Davis



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that is you, please notify the Editor.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Al, Tom Cairns, 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

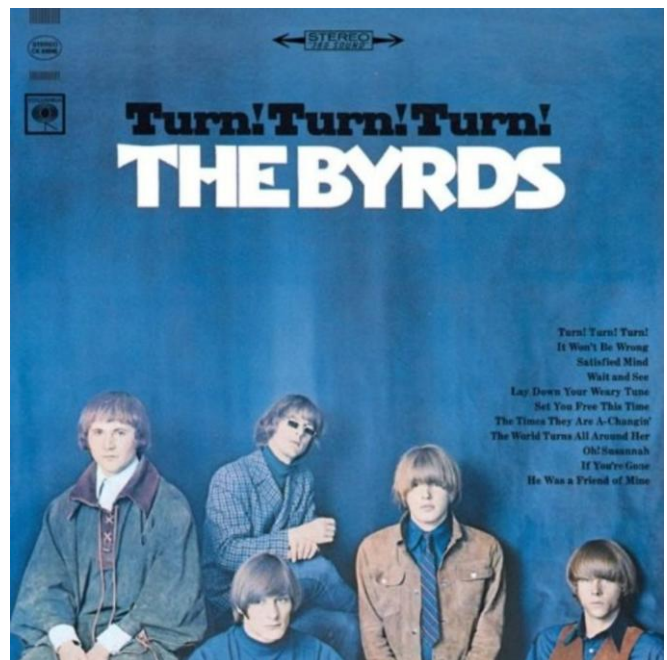
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is July 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.



The album featuring the song based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 with lyrics arranged by folk artist Pete Seeger. The song was recorded in 1965 by the American folk rock band, The Byrds.

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