



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 24 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2025

"Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign"

From the Pastor's Desk

Thinking of Signs

If you're old enough you probably remember in 1971 when a rock group called the "Five Man Electrical Band" came out with a song entitled "Sign, sign, everywhere a sign." The song complained about how many signs there were in life that restricted people and took the fun out of things. The chorus of the song went like this, "*Sign, sign, everywhere a sign. Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind. Do this; don't do that; can't you read the sign?*" The song made it to #3 on the US Top 100, but that was their only "hit." So maybe you don't remember.

Anyway, I've been thinking of signs and my mind has gone to funny ones instead of the restricting, annoying ones. My daughter lives in very rural Iowa and she says people in Iowa joke that the highways coming in to Iowa should have signs to warn travelers how rural they are, "Welcome To Iowa: We hope you brought something to do." In 1991 at the height of the crack cocaine-fueled crime wave in Philadelphia, the City decided that was a good time to ask the public to help them come up with a new slogan to promote tourism. There were a lot of suggestions, but the one that appealed to my dark sense of humor was, "Welcome to Philadelphia: Lock and Load!" I think it got the most public support but the City chose a different one, for some reason.

God revealed to John what it is going to be like when Jesus returns. In Revelation 21:1-5 he describes the triumphant moment:

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Mar. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 9, 2 a.m. – Daylight Savings Time

Mar. 16 – Rev. Sam Taylor preaching

Mar. 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 20 – First Day of Spring

Weekly:

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

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

Weds, 9:00 a.m. – Pastor Search Committee

Thurs, 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study

passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God." He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

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

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

The resurrected, eternal Jesus Christ told John to write down the announcement because it was trustworthy and true. I think it would be a good idea to have a sign ready for that moment (at least a sign we see in our minds as we look to the future). So imagine this sign with letters of gold leaf. What a glorious sign!

“God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.’ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

✠ Pastor Tom

Pastor Search Committee

The committee has interviewed the two leading candidates and interviewed the references for one. After hearing from those references, the committee asked for at least two more references and some additional information. Instead of providing that information the candidate withdrew from consideration.

The committee is now interviewing the references for the other top candidate about whom they are very positive.

Pastor Tom said they are still praying for the Lord to lead us to the right candidate. Please pray with us.

Meetings are Weds. 9 a.m. at the Cairns home, 187 East Side Drive, Concord.

Property and Space Patrol

This has been a difficult month for maintaining the church and even for *getting* to the church. We lost two Sundays because of snowstorms that lasted from Saturday night into Sunday, leaving no time to clean up in time for Sunday Services.

BCNE News

In his March newsletter, Terry Dorsett, BCNE Executive Director, wrote:

“A few months ago, I was having lunch with Dr. Paul Kim. Dr. Kim has been a friend for many years and I am always blessed by the wisdom he shares with me. During our lunch, one of the

things he said was that every leader should be a disciple and should be a discipler.

“Another way to put it would be that every leader needs a mentor to teach him and every leader needs to be a mentor teaching someone else. Dr. Kim has definitely modeled this in his own life and ministry. I hope our BCNE pastors and church leaders will receive his wisdom with the same joy that I have.

“But I also want to caution pastors not to look for too many mentors. While we definitely need to get different perspectives on how to do ministry in order to be effective, if we get too many voices in our head, we might be bouncing around like a ping-pong ball instead of being the focused leader we need to be.”

...

He concluded with this question:

“Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?”

Musical Inspiration

When James Milton Black came home, his wife saw at once that he was deeply troubled. Tears filled his eyes as he entered his gate. Now he sat down at his piano and in a few minutes wrote the words and composed a song that is familiar to most American church-goers: "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder."

James Milton Black was born on August 19, 1856 in South Hill, New York. He acquired an early musical education in singing and organ playing and knew such famous songsters of his day as Daniel Towner and John Howard.

Around 1881, he moved to Williamsport, Pennsylvania where he carried on Christian work through a local church. Teaching music during the week, he was a song leader, Sunday school teacher and youth leader in his spare hours. In addition to all this work, he edited hymnals.

He loved young people and tried to win them for Christ. One day, as he passed through an alley, he met a ragged 14-year-old girl, the daughter of an alcoholic. He invited her to his Sunday school and youth group and she began to attend.

One day when he took roll call, the girl did not respond. Each child had to say a Scripture verse

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Inspiration, from p. 2

when his or her name was called. James saw a lesson in her silence. "I spoke of what a sad thing it would be when our names are called from the Lamb's Book of Life, if one of us should be absent."

He was not the kind of man to let the matter die with a moral lesson. After Sunday school, he went to his pupil's home to find out why she had not showed up for class. He found her dangerously ill and sent for his own doctor -- they still made house calls then. The doctor said that she had pneumonia. Since that was before the days of antibiotics, death was highly likely.

James returned home. He tried to find a song to fit the thought of a heavenly roll call but could not locate one. An inner voice seemed to say, "Why don't you write one." And that is what he did:

"When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,

And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

When the roll, is called up yonder,

When the roll, is called up yonder,

When the roll, is called up yonder,

When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there."

"I played the music just as it is found today in the hymn-books, note for note, and I have never dared to change a single word or a note of the song," he said.

A few days later, he had the sad opportunity of explaining in public how he came to write the song when it was sung at the funeral of the girl, whose absence at roll call had inspired it.

Submitted by Pastor Al Page

A New Beginning with God

Our Daily Bread devotional writer James Banks wrote an interesting essay about Dutch painter Rembrandt and his painting about the Crucifixion. Before going there, read the verses in Romans 5:6-11 and then read the following essay.

"Did your sin also put Jesus on the cross?" That's the question Dutch painter Rembrandt seems to be

asking in his 1633 masterpiece, *The Raising of the Cross*.

Jesus appears in the center of the picture as His cross is lifted and put in place. Four men are doing the lifting, but one stands out in the light surrounding Jesus. His clothing is different; he's dressed in the style of Rembrandt's day, wearing a cap the painter often wore. A closer look at his face reveals that Rembrandt has put himself into the painting, as if to say, "My sins had a part in Jesus' death."

But there's another who also stands out. He's on horseback, looking directly out of the painting. Some see this as a second self-portrait by Rembrandt, engaging all who observe with a knowing glance that seems to ask, "Aren't you here too?"

Paul saw himself there, and we may also, because Jesus suffered and died for us as well. In Romans 5:10, he refers to himself and us as "God's enemies." But even though our sins caused Jesus' death, His death reconciles us to God: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (v. 8).

We stand with both Rembrandt and Paul: sinners in need of forgiveness. Through His cross, Jesus offers us what we could never do for ourselves and meets our deepest need: a new beginning with God.

Decline in U.S. Christian Population May Be Leveling Off

In the *Baptist Press News* for Feb. 26, 2025:

The number of Americans who identify as Christian has declined steadily for years, but that drop shows signs of slowing, according to a new survey Wednesday from the Pew Research Center. The Religious Landscape Study finds 62 percent of U.S. adults call themselves Christians. While a significant dip from 2007, when 78 percent of Americans identified as Christian, Pew found the Christian share of the population has remained relatively stable since 2019.

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/pew-study-shows-decline-in-u-s-christian-population-may-be-leveling-off/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to this person who celebrates another orbit around the Sun:

3/30 Amanda Robertson



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

3/4 Pastor Tom & June Cairns

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Tom Cairns, Pastor Al Page, 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 Music for Saturday & Sunday and Sunday Praise & Worship.

During the week, tune into well known speakers such as Greg Laurie, Alistair Begg, Chuck Swindoll, Dr. David Jeremiah, and Dr. Jim Daly. In the evenings at 8 p.m., 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 Mar. 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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