



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 24 No. 5

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

April 2025

## GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### What are we up to?

On April 5-6, we'll be hosting Alex Musard as a candidate to become our new pastor. This would be a good time for us to ask ourselves: What are we up to? Why do we even bother?

Of course, we are living out Jesus' final command for his followers: **Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** Matthew 28:18-20

We have had our lives changed profoundly, for the better and for eternity because of our faith in Jesus Christ. So, naturally, we want to share that with others, hoping their lives will be marvelously changed too. Are we, the 15-20 of us who are active at Hillside, out of our minds?! Do we think we can have that kind of impact on others? Well, yes and no.

God does the changing of lives as his Spirit changes those who put their faith in him. We don't change anybody. God does. However, every single person who puts their faith in Jesus Christ and is forever changed did that because one or more ordinary people told them about Jesus, shared how he changed their lives, and explained how a person repents of their sin and surrenders to God. So, God is in the business of changing lives, but he uses ordinary people like us to get the job done. That's amazing!

### Upcoming Events & Meetings

**Apr. 1 – April Fool's Day**

**Apr. 2, 9:00 a.m. – Pastor Search Committee**

**Apr. 5, midday – Lunch with Alex Musard**

**Apr. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Preaching by Alex Musard, Lord's Supper, Business Mtg.**

**Apr. 13 – Palm Sunday**

**Apr. 15 – Federal Taxes due**

**Apr. 18 – Good Friday**

**Apr. 20 – Resurrection Day; He lives!**

#### Weekly:

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

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

**Thurs., 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Bible Study in Concord**

But we still have to ask ourselves, "Are we overextending ourselves? Are we being too ambitious? Maybe it would be better for us to leave all this life-changing work to churches that are bigger than ours and have more resources to call upon."

That would be a terrible misunderstanding about how the Kingdom of God reaches new people.

*See Pastor's Desk on p. 2*

**In This Issue:** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Easter | Pastoral Candidate | Property & Space Patrol | Babies | Legacy of Love | Men vs Women | Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

A recent statistical study of our Southern Baptist Convention revealed that 43% of all SBC churches have an average Sunday worship attendance of less than 50 people. We're in that group. Churches with an average attendance of 50-99 make up another 27% of our denomination. So 70% of our churches nationwide average less than 100 on Sunday mornings.

The surprising fact is that most new Christians are baptized in those churches that average less than 100 people. There are many reasons why that is true, but one of the most important is that, in a smaller church, it's easier to get to know people. It's easier for an unbelieving person to make friends with Christians and learn by listening and watching why and how to become a Christian.

We're only 15-20 people, but we're just the right size to reach new people and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ. When a person visits our church there's no way to be overlooked or neglected or forgotten, unlike in a church of 100-500.

Here's another interesting fact. Out of the various sections of the country where our SBC churches are working, only in New England did our churches report growth in membership in the last year. We grew by 10%. All the other regions of the country reported losses in church membership.

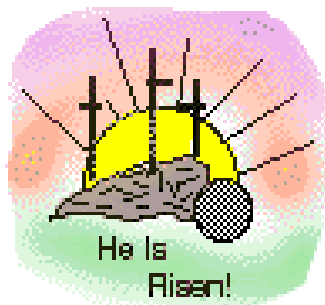
We're just the right size to accomplish God's will and we're located in New England where our sister churches are growing along with us.

Sounds like Good News to me!

✝ Pastor Tom

**Easter Season is Late This Year**

Due to whatever weird formula was developed over the centuries, the date for Resurrection Sunday (aka Easter) varies from year to year being sometimes in March, sometimes in April. It seems that March 21st, the Full Moon, and Sunday all figure into the calculation.



This year Palm Sunday is April 13 and Easter is April 20. The tulips and daffodils will already be blooming!

Easter may be late but we are eternally grateful that He is risen!

**Introducing the Pastoral Candidate**

**April 5:** We are having lunch at the church at 12:00 noon on Saturday April 5 to meet candidate Alex Musard and get to know him.

**April 6:** Alex will preach in our service on April 6 and after the service we will discuss his candidacy and take a vote among church members for or against Alex.

We urge you all to attend both meetings and participate fully. You can even bring a friend or two to the worship service. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do ask one of us on the committee. We are eager to keep you fully informed.

✝ Pastor Tom and the Pastor Search Committee

**Property and Space Patrol**

March was not too bad for weather events until March 24th when we had about ½ inch of snow followed by rain. Heading into April, temps may warm up or cool down with rain or snow showers.

Down by the street, two dead trees were cut down to remove the danger of them falling onto the road. Tom and June Cairns took a little of the wood for their firewood supply. The rest was advertised on the internet as free firewood and was picked up in 48 hours.

Two new thermostats were installed to replace the failing old ones.

With the Robertson family moving to Vermont in the next two weeks, we will be losing our reliable Lawnmower Man.

At the March 30th business meeting, the church will vote on whether to hire a landscaping company to keep the lawn mowed all season. There will also be a vote at that meeting on whether replace the old rusty A/C units with new window A/C units for the sanctuary. A final item is to negotiate with a local home school to rent classroom space to them.

✝ Pastor Tom

## Where Are the Babies?

The efforts are well known of organizations trying to save the unborn from the horror of abortion. These include local groups like the Care Women's Center right here in Concord, NH and national organizations like Focus on the Family (<https://www.family.org>), the American Center for Law & Justice (<https://aclj.org/>), and Preborn (<https://preborn.com/>).

In a March 28 interview with Bret Baier on Fox News, Elon Musk was asked what keeps him up at night. After a long pause he said, "Well, there's a lot of things that I suppose that I worry about. And some of these things will seem esoteric to people. The birth rate is very low in almost every country, and unless that changes, civilization will disappear."

Musk pointed to declining birth rates in the U.S. and Korea, warning that "nothing seems to be turning that around. Humanity is dying."

The Macrotrends.net web site reported "The current U.S. birth rate in 2025 is 11.994 births per 1,000 people, a 0.12% decline from 2024.

"The current U.S. fertility rate in 2025 is 1.787 births per woman, a 0.06% increase from 2024."

The key number of 2.1 births per woman means the population is replacing itself. Anything less means fewer people in future generations.

In Genesis 1:28, God said, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it." This directive emphasizes the importance of procreation and stewardship of the earth.

In sum, encourage your children and grandchildren to not give in to the doomsayers but heed God's call to have families and bring more children into the world.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Legacy of Love in Jesus

A recent topic in the Our Daily Bread Devotionals made me stop and think about how we spend time accumulating stuff. It reminded of a lyric in that Randy Travis song, "Three Wooden Crosses," The key phrase was "It's not what you take / when you leave this world behind you. / It's what you leave behind you / when you go."

First read John 13:31-36 and then read this essay by ODB writer Kenneth Petersen.

In Sweden, there's a concept known as *döstädning*. It literally means "death cleaning." The idea is that as we grow older, we should stop accumulating "stuff" and begin to cut out the clutter we have amassed throughout our lives.

"Swedish death cleaning" is actually a gift of love to children and friends, for it simplifies for them the task of wading through what we leave behind.

As believers in Jesus, at a certain age we think about our legacy—what survives us. This is often framed in terms of money, inheritance, or charitable giving—and there's much to be said for that. But it might be helpful to look at Jesus in His final hours with His disciples: "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later" (John 13:36). In two verses (vv. 34-35), He uses the word love or loved four times—His legacy was love. He told them: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (v. 34).

It may be good to do some "Swedish death cleaning" in our lives, removing clutter to leave behind only the most important things. But it really isn't about things or money. The most important legacy you can leave behind is your love for Jesus.

When children and friends remember you as one who loved Jesus, that's the best gift of all. It gives new meaning to the phrase "left behind."

## More Men Attending Than Women

By Diana Chandler, posted March 25, 2025 in "Churches and Ministry" on the Baptist Press.

BOULDER, Colo. (BP) — Men have outpaced women in church attendance the past three years, reversing a longstanding trend of more women in the pews that narrowed in 2016, Barna said in its 2025 State of the Church release, created in partnership with Gloo.

Women had outpaced men in attendance since 2000, then at 47 percent to 38 percent, before men began outpacing women in 2022, at 35 percent to 30 percent. In 2024, 30 percent of men were attending weekly, compared to 27 percent of women.

*See Church Attendance on p. 3*

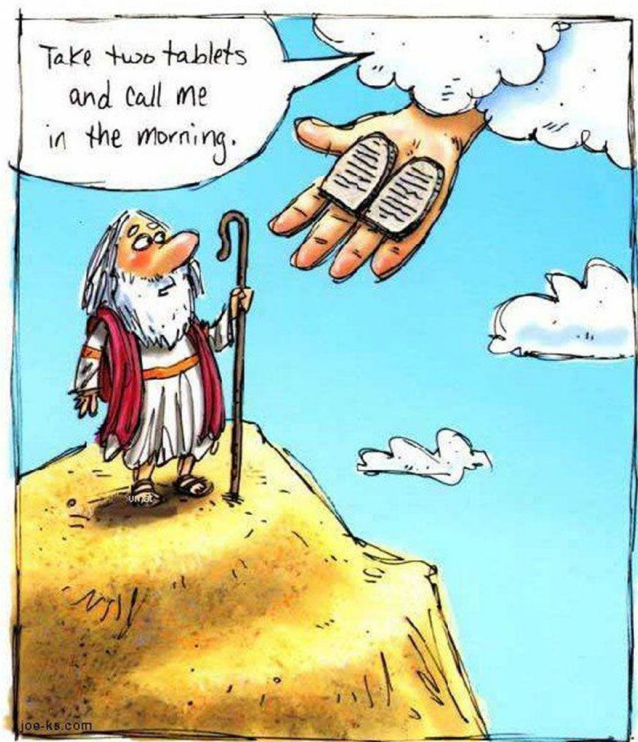
## Church Attendance, from p. 2

“As a leader,” researchers said, “consider how your church is reaching and connecting with women, who have traditionally been more engaged but now waver.”

For the rest of the story, go to

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/state-of-the-church-more-men-attending-than-women-volunteering-rebounding/>

## The Best Medicine



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 Apr. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy birthday to anyone who celebrates another orbit around the Sun.



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

4/28 Pastor Al & Rachel Page

## 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



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



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