



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 7 No. 3

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

March 2008

Don't Deny It, You Know Jesus!

From the Pastor's Desk

John 18:15-18; 25-27

This year Resurrection Sunday comes earlier than it usually does. It is amazing how fast time seems to fly by – before you know it we will be celebrating Christmas again. Okay maybe that was a heart attack that did not need to be administered, but you get my point.

On this day in which we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death, we take time to worship Him with family and friends. It is a time in which many people will make the effort to come to church service. You know those two most famous Sundays of the year, right? It's Easter Sunday and the Sunday before Christmas. It is amazing how we can draw in bigger crowds on those two days. Normally throughout the year most people are a little more conservative about bringing people with them. They tend to accept the fact that on those special holidays, the family or friends will make a concession for your faith and friendship, so they'll go if they're invited.

It reminds me of a passage I came across in my daily Bible reading. I was reading John 18:15-27 in which John and Peter together followed Jesus after Jesus had been arrested. The passage tells us that John was known by the former high priest Annas and had access to the early questioning of Jesus before he was sent to Caiaphas who was the current high priest. John went into the inner chamber and, after getting permission to enter, he sent a servant girl out to get Peter. This process to John and the servant girl was as ordinary as eating cereal for breakfast. She was only doing her job and she quickly went out to escort Peter into the inner chamber to be with John.

While John was setting up the arrangements inside, Peter was left outside in the cold. He was left at the door and probably still dazed and confused by the events that just transpired back in the garden. He was left to think about the betrayal of Judas and he had time to think about how the other nine disciples had fled for their lives leaving Jesus to be handed over to the temple guards.

While Peter had time alone with his thoughts he remained outside the high priest's home, this solitude only signified

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Mar. 1, 10:00 a.m. – Christian Chicks Missions Project

Mar. 2, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast
The men share a meal, then discuss the book of Judges.

Mar. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Mar. 8, noon – Christian Chicks Luncheon

Mar. 16 – Palm Sunday

Mar. 16, noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Mar. 23 – Easter Sunday

Mar. 29, 6:00 p.m. – TeamKids Missions Dinner

Mar. 30, 6:30 p.m. – Singspiration Night

A time to sing hymns and songs to one another while praising the Lord. A quarterly event.

the loneliness that he felt inside his heart. He wasn't ready to hear the voice of the servant girl when she appeared. His mind was not prepared to hear the question that was going to be asked of him. He was feeling too guilty already for letting his master down.

In a feeble attempt to save Jesus, he needlessly cut off the ear of one of the servants. The reason why it was feeble was that, after he did that, Jesus chastised him for living by the sword and then undid the damage by healing the servant. He probably couldn't believe that Jesus would willingly go with the mob, but everything that happened earlier indicated that is what he actually did.

With Peter all disorientated, the servant girl comes to him and asks, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" The question was probably one in which she was verifying that she had the right person to escort into the inner chambers of the home. It probably wasn't one of accusation or of speculative inquiry, but instead she was probably just trying to complete the task demanded of her or that of any servant who would have been asked to let someone in.

(See **Pastor's Message** on p. 3)

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TeamKids Missions Dinner

Theme: Mexican / Western

Date: Sat., March 29, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m.

The dinner will be served buffet style and will include chili, tacos, hotdogs, baked beans, coleslaw, biscuits, and an assortment of desserts. An offering will be accepted to benefit the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Come join in the fun and support our home missionaries!

✠ Laurie Carpenter

Christian Chicks

Christian Chicks Missions Project

On Sat., March first, the Chicks will get together to work on a missions project. This involves decorating about 30 flower bud vases to be donated to local nursing homes.

Christian Chicks Luncheon

For this month's event on Sat. March 8 at noon, the Chicks invite you to their quarterly luncheon. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share and a gift for your Secret Sister.

Antrim Girls Shelter

Another mission opportunity that will engage the church ladies is collecting items for the Antrim Girls Shelter. Lutheran Social Services from Concord contacted our church with this request. A list of needed items will be put on the church bulletin board so that you will know what to bring in. The list will include craft supplies, journals, sketchbooks, school supplies, paper products, slippers, and board games. We are excited about our mission outreaches and thank God for such opportunities.

Women's Weekend Retreat

Thinking ahead to the month of April, the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) is holding a Women's Weekend Retreat. If you need to relax, have fun, laugh, and fellowship, then this is what you need. The dates are Friday-Saturday, April 18-19. If we share rooms the cost including meals will be \$70 pp. Registrations must be received by Weds, March 26th, so see Barb right away if you want to go.

Blessings,

✠ Barbara Yeaton

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast is on Sunday March 2 at 7:30 a.m. The guys have a good time of fellowship, and we enjoy sharing the first meal of the day. This time, Pastor Jim is cooking the grub. We take turns cooking the meal, so the menu always changes from month to month. Our Bible study continues in the Book of Judges. See you there!

✠ Michael Frascinella

Singspiration Night

On March 30 at 6:30 p.m., take your turn at the microphone. This is an evening during which we get to sing songs, hymns, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Practice that

song you've been wanting to try out or just come, listen, and enjoy an evening of spiritual music.

Alan Frink & Friends Concert

This **May 3rd** concert will feature several performers so we hope for a big turnout. **Alan Frink** will offer his unique blend of southern gospel, light contemporary gospel, and inspirational music. **Gary Brunt** will perform the southern gospel music for which The Brunt Family Singers are well known and appreciated. **Alan** and **Gary** will also team up for some memorable duets. **September Rain**, a six-member band whose roots stem from gospel, country, and contemporary upbringings, will present original and contemporary Christian music.

Property and Space Patrol

Snow, snow, and more snow! Praise God for Pastor Al who has been keeping the parking lots and driveways cleared. Now you all have to start praying for Springtime.

What's Cooking

Here is a recipe sent by Barbara Yeaton.

Tomato Soup Cake

Ingredients:

2 cups Flour	1 tsp Cinnamon
1 1/3 sugar	1/2 tsp ground cloves
4 tsp Baking Powder	1 can Cond. Tomato Soup
1 1/2 tsp Allspice	1/2 cup veg. shortening
1 tsp Baking Soda	2 eggs
1/4 cup water	confectioner's sugar

Mix:

- Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, allspice, baking soda, cinnamon, and cloves.
- Add soup, shortening, eggs, and water.
- Mix on low speed, scraping bowl.
- Pour into prepared pan.
- Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees in 10-inch Bundt Pan.
- Cool in pan for 10 minutes.

Sugar Glaze:

1 cup confectioner's sugar, 2 tbsp milk
Mix in bowl until smooth.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people for orbiting the sun one more time:

3/2	Natalie Carleton #75 – You go, girl!
3/13	Robyn King
3/20	Steven Sousa
3/28	Jamie Morgan
3/29	Abbey Lafa
3/30	Amanda Robertson

We can't find any couples who celebrate a wedding anniversary this month. If we missed yours, please let Barbara know.

Pastor's Message (Cont'd. from p. 1)

But that was not the way Peter interpreted her question. His mind had enough time alone in the dark and cold to conjure up fears that at the moment were unnecessary and uncalled for. Yet to begin the prophetic utterance of Christ concerning this follower, he in turn answered in fear, "I am not."

I wonder what must have been going through his mind at this point. He hadn't yet fully grasped the ramifications of his denial of being a follower of Jesus, but he was definitely on the path of failure and sinfulness. Even with this denial she had escorted him in and he entered the door and came into the front chambers of the house and that probably spiritually represented his entering into the three denials of Jesus. In regards to his fall he just came into the building and had not yet committed himself to the inner chambers of sin and denial. So he excused himself from the presence of the servant girl and went to warm himself by the fire that had been built by others. He didn't know it, but his sifting by Satan had begun.

The story breaks for a moment and focuses on Jesus being questioned and confronted by the former high priest. After a brief interlude the narrator gets back to Peter by the fire. One of the other companions at the fire glanced over at him and asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" This question was probably less accusatory as it might seem. At a quick glance it might seem to be confrontational, but it was probably a question that was based on the practical. The man saw someone he did not notice, a man who wasn't part of any known group in the inner chambers, so the inquisitor was probably deducing that Peter was with Jesus. After all who else could he have been with?

Peter was probably still reeling over the fact that he was asked once. He was still off balance from the earlier question and now, after being asked a second time, Peter responded, "I am not." The response seems simple enough, but it was packed with more than what the three words indicated. It was step two out of three to complete the fall. He was two-thirds of the way to knowing the full ramifications of his actions. He was probably shaking his head; shouldn't this person have heard the earlier question from the girl? Surely he must have heard the answer that was already given to the question repeated. Regardless, Peter denied Jesus once again.

Within moments of being asked a second time, he was asked a third time. This time the questioner was someone who was related to the man whose ear was cut off by Peter earlier in the evening. This man chimed in and said to Peter, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?"

Not only was this man questioning his affiliation with Jesus, but he was witness to Peter being in another place at the same time with Christ. Now Peter was in a real jam. Not only had he already lied twice, but now he is confronted by someone who really did recognize him. What to do now? Should he have given in? Should he have admitted it and then accepted the same fate that his Lord and Master were to receive? After all he was the one who boldly proclaimed that if all the other disciples were to fall away that he would

not. He claimed he was willing to follow Jesus all the way to his death, but there were so many people present.

There was a great amount of opposition to Jesus and He doesn't seem to care that He was going to his death. The miracle worker who had the power to feed thousands and the power to stop the waves and wind wasn't going to lift a finger. This wasn't what Peter thought was going to happen. Surely the Messiah was greater than this. Peter was faced with a difficult decision and the passage makes it look like it was something that Peter just conceded to. The passage reads, "Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow."

Peter's denial was complete. No lightning came down and struck him dead. No one hauled him off to be whipped and flogged. No one cared that he denied Jesus. After all no one wanted him anyway, they wanted the one who claimed to be God. They wanted the trouble-maker Jesus who had crowds following him. The Pharisees wanted the one who was stealing their thunder and authority. No, no one cared that Peter denied Jesus, no one except Jesus that is.

Peter realized that he had let his Savior down. He was at the end of a fulfilled prophecy. He was alone and he ran off and wept bitterly as the other Gospels tell it. Can you imagine the devastation, the despair, the totality of what he did? He denied knowing the One who was about to die for everyone's sins. He denied the one who loved him more than he loved himself. He denied knowing the God of all creation. What a feeling that must have been. Talk about being outside looking in.

We must not be too hard on him though. Many today have and still do deny knowing Jesus. That is one of the reasons for why our churches are so empty each and every Sunday morning. We interpret simple questions by friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family as being part of an inquisition, when all the while they probably just want to try and figure out what you see in this Jesus you have mentioned in the past. We get defensive and state to those around us that our faith is personal and it is no one else's business. Often when asked, we would just as soon strike up a different topic than to talk about church or our faith.

No, Peter is not alone in denying the experiential knowledge of Jesus, but instead of remaining down in the dumps about his failure, Peter was restored to prominence and then turned around and was never again ashamed to admit knowing Jesus or to be associated with Him.

Have you reached that point in your faith? I hope and pray so. With this upcoming Easter season upon us let me encourage you to be bold in your faith. Tell others about Jesus, don't get defensive about your faith, but be willing to be questioned. You just might find that someone wants to see your faith in action, not in failure. Lift your head up and boldly profess your association with your Savior, for He associates Himself with you. After all when it comes to your salvation, don't deny it, you know Jesus!

✠ Pastor Jim

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for you—whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Natalie Carleton, Hillside’s Prayer Coordinator, and she will get the word out to the membership via e-mail or by phone.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord. Contact Natalie at grammiec10 at juno dot com (punctuation spelled out on purpose).

On the Web

Go to <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about Hillside, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Next Issue

Deadline is Mar. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



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547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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