



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 7 No. 6

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2008

## God Can Teach Old Dogs New Tricks

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Are You an Old Dog?

Genesis 45:7-8

This past week I had the opportunity to operate an instrument of destruction. With glancing blows it can cause walls to crumble, floors to shatter, and bricks to disintegrate. This is not an instrument for the faint of heart, but for one who can wrangle it in like that of a bucking bronco.

When operating this wicked tool, you will find that its power can turn on you and – without warning –it can take you for a ride. Without the proper ear protection the roar of this monster can pierce the ears of the unsuspecting. Its volume is so ferocious and distinct that anyone within 50 yards knows exactly what this beast is. The tail of this beast is so long and powerful that with one sway it can take down even the biggest of warriors and its teeth are so sharp that it takes large bites of choice morsels and spits out the remains with the greatest of ease.

What tool could I have been operating that demands such respect and allusion? Well I can tell you that it is not just any tool in the woodshed, basement, or toolbox. No, this tool is bigger and “badder” than your circular saw, is more vicious than your chain saw, and makes your power drill look like a little kid’s hobby toy.

The destructive tool that I used at work was none other than the Mighty Jackhammer! Mind you, this was no little chipping gun; I got to use a *sixty-five pounder*. Let us pause to give a hearty Tim “The Toolman” Taylor grunt.

Have you ever worked a tool that you were forced to repeatedly pick it up and down? This tool has to be repositioned often and lifted often in order to continue to use it. Now think about picking this sixty-five pound tool up and down a few hundred times in the course of a couple of hours. That was my lot in life this week at work.

On Thursday I had to work from Noon to 7:30 p.m. for the sake of noise, because we were working right next to the surgical ward at the VA Hospital in Manchester. Around 3:00 o’clock we were able to begin our daunting task of chipping away at the slab on the floor that lay before us. →

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

#### June 1, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast

The men share a meal, then discuss the book of Judges.

#### June 1, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

#### June 7, 9:00 a.m. – Christian Chicks Breakfast

#### June 11, 6:30 p.m. – Weds. Night Meetings

Last Weds. Night meetings until September.

#### June 16, 6:30 p.m. – Church Council

Planning church activities and events for the future.

#### June 16 – 21 – Construction Project

Farmington Baptist Conference Center, Farmington, Maine

#### June 21, 2 p.m. – Greenly Graduation Party

#### June 29, 6:30 p.m. – Singspiration Night

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

I was breaking up a good sweat trying to cause my pieces to break into large sections like the ones I did the week before, but to no avail. I kept getting really small pieces and it was pretty frustrating.

As I moved left to right I kept my attention on my partner from the corner of my eye. He was moving quite easily and the pieces he was producing were large and the area of work he attacked and conquered was far greater in size than the one I was working on. At first I thought it was just the material I was working on. The areas that have received some weather damage were more crumbly than that of other areas that did not receive such damage. Normally we could break extremely large areas and the process would move along quite easily. Well on this night that was not the case for me, but it was for my partner.

With mounting frustration and a diminishing energy level the night became a night in which I wanted to be somewhere else. After a couple of hours I looked down and discovered that the tool I was operating was defective. Now I know that it sounds like I am just trying to save face and preserve my

(See **Old Dog**, p. 3)

**In This Issue ...** Pastor's Message | Upcoming Events | Christian Chicks | Ladies Retreat | Men's Prayer Breakfast | Congrats Graduates | Sunday School | Using Your Gifts | God's Beauty | New Members | Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Christian Chicks

This month the chicks will hold their quarterly event on Saturday June 7. It will be a breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m.

We are still planning the details so contact me for further information about the menu and activities.

✠ Shannon Greenly

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Pastor Jim is cooking breakfast this time, so you can count on something tasty and satisfying. Even though it means getting up early on a Sunday, once you are here, you will be glad you came.

The food is always good, the conversation ranges from humorous to serious, and the Bible study is rewarding.

✠ Shannon Greenly

## Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to Kayla and Katie who will graduate high school on June 21, 2008. We know it has been a long time coming, and you have both worked very hard to get to this day. As you leave childhood behind and begin your adult life, remember to keep Christ first in your life. He has been right there beside you since the first time you stepped foot on the school bus and waved good bye to mom and dad, and He will be remain right by your side long after you cross the stage and receive your diploma. Know as you cross that stage that your Church family loves you and that we are proud of both of you!

*As you pursue your dreams,*

*Remember to take time to help and serve others*

*Even if doing so slows you down a little.*

*As you explore and develop your unique talents,*

*Remain humble,*

*Realizing that your special abilities*

*Are gifts from God.*

*As life hands you challenges, welcome them*

*As ways to become smarter and stronger.*

*As you acquire material things,*

*Know that your most important possessions*

*Are honesty, integrity,*

*And the desire to make a difference.*

*Congratulations, graduate.*

*May your new path take you where you want to go*

*And also bring you pleasant surprises!*

✠ Your Family at Hillside

## Ladies' Retreat in Connecticut

Laurie and I were privileged to be able to go to Connecticut the beginning of May for a weekend retreat on witnessing. Not only did it give us both a chance to learn some effective witnessing ideas but it also enabled us to get to know each other better as Christian sisters.

The whole premise behind the retreat was to teach us that we should witness through our love for Christ and not through obligation. We would like to thank Hershel Strickland, who enabled us to attend.

I know that I, for one, am not an outgoing "in your face" Christian, but I do know that I should be doing more for Christ. It is all of our responsibilities to share the love of Christ with others. One simple way to do this is offer to pray for someone. For example: When you go out to eat (which we all do, being Baptists, we love to eat!!) tell your server that you are going to be thanking God for the food and ask them if there is anything they would like for you to pray about. Some people will say no, but it will still make them think.

✠ Shannon Greenly

## Adult Sunday School and Other News

The Adult Sunday School class has transitioned into the spring quarter of our continuing study of the Book of Genesis. Come and learn how the account of Jacob's life can be applied to our lives, even today.

### Audio/Video News

We are continuing to record sermons from the pulpit. As each week goes by, we are building our library that much stronger. If you would like a copy of a particular sermon for yourself or even a friend, please just let me know and I can get it to you by the next week. All sermons are recorded on CD.

Also, Mike Frascinella has put several of them on the Hillside website (<http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>). Just click on the **Sermons** button on the left side of the home page. At the Sermons page, click on the speaker icon next to the sermon you would like to listen to. They are available for use with Internet Explorer and Firefox web browsers.

✠ Dale Greenly

## Are You Using Your Gifts to Serve the Lord?

It is very encouraging to know that several vacant positions in our church have been filled recently. Thanks to all of you who are currently using your gifts to serve here at Hillside. It is much appreciated.

If the Lord is tugging at your heart to serve in a specific area, please contact one of the following nominating committee members (Ruth Bubacz, Laurie Carpenter or Pastor Jim) and let them know. Listed below are the current open positions.

Nominating Committee Member

Youth Group Ministry

Church Secretary

Women's Ministry

Risk Management

✠ Laurie Carpenter

Nominating Committee Chair

## God's Beauty Is All Around

Have you ever just walked through your yard and enjoyed God's beauty? Yesterday, (May 25th) I had that opportunity to do just that. The sweet smell of the lilacs filled the air as the birds sang me a beautiful love song. Two yellow butterflies flew by my head, and I heard the buzzing noises from several bumble bees to my right, as they moved from one flower to another.

While I watered the grass a robin hobbled up close to me to enjoy the spray from the hose. And in that spray was a beautiful rainbow. It made me remember the many promises God has given. I felt a real closeness to my Lord that day. We have so much to be thankful for. God's beauty is all around. Take the time to notice and enjoy it. You will be truly blessed.

✠ Laurie Carpenter

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Victor and Abi Lafa of Concord! Their membership was approved at the last business meeting.

Victor and Abi are from Nigeria and have been in the U.S. since 2001. Victor works as a Mechanical Engineer in Franklin and Abi maintains house and home in Concord. Victor is a football fan and Abi enjoys reading.

You can easily identify them On Sunday – they are always sitting right next to each other near the sound booth.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

6/1	Tim Lavalley
6/8	Gail Frascinella
6/10	Mary Anne Richards
6/10	Ryan Pouliot
6/14	Jeff Labonte
6/20	Dan Russell
6/21	Alec Russell
6/23	Roche Pouliot
6/28	Justin King

Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month:

6/1	Dale and Shannon Greenly
6/6	Jim and Michelle Robertson

## Old Dog (from p.1)

pride, but unlike the proverbial fish story, it is true, my tool was defective. Really it was.

At some time earlier in the evening, the bit that was hammering into the concrete slab had broken clean off and I was hammering with a blunt object. Talk about increased frustration. Even after I took time (a half hour) to sharpen the bit it never did work the way it did when we received it from the rental facility. Well, needless to say, which means

I will say something anyway, I was glad to go home that night.

On the next day I was talking to my work partner, discussing the previous night and how it went for me. I mentioned that it was a very negative experience and I was glad it was over. He then piped up and told me that there is not negative or positive experience, but just experiences we can learn from. At that moment I disagreed with him and told him that all experiences are either negative or positive, bad or good, but what matters most is what we learn from them. Then I added that often we learn more from the negative experiences because they leave a long-lasting impression on us. At that he agreed with me.

As I was thinking about writing this month's newsletter article, I pondered upon the things we can learn from. Often the Lord brings challenges into our lives to strengthen us and they are not always pleasant. Often we would consider them a negative experience and would rather not have lived through them, but the Bible teaches us that He is trying to teach us something through the trials of our lives.

As I think of a perfect example in Bible that truly illustrates this principle, I think of Joseph and the life that he lived. His story is found in the book of Genesis chapters 37-50. His life is fraught with negative upon negative experiences in which he learned to trust in God even more.

His story starts with his brothers hating him to the point of killing him, but instead they sell him into slavery. Then, after he is sold to his Egyptian master, he is repeatedly approached by his master's wife to perform adultery. After refusing and running away he is falsely accused of attacking her and then thrown into jail.

To our surprise, he serves the jailor. In all the negative experiences he does not yell at God, nor denounce his belief in Him. Instead we see that he is steadfast in his faith and, after all those negative experiences, he is afforded the opportunity to stand before Pharaoh to interpret a dream and then gives God the credit for such an interpretation. After doing so he is made the second highest in authority in all the land. If he had remained bitter through all the negatives and if he had not learned to trust in God even greater, his heart and mind would not have been prepared to serve the Lord like he did.

It is near the end of Joseph's story that we learn the strength of his resolve in taking a negative and learning from it. It is found in chapter 45:7-8 in which Joseph says "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God." What is even more remarkable about his maturity and faith is that he says this to the very men who had betrayed him and sold him into slavery. He spoke these tender-hearted words to his brothers and he gave God the glory for sending him ahead of them to save his entire family from starvation and death during the famine.

Have you ever heard the phrase "You can't teach an old dog new tricks?" It's a pretty popular idiom in our present culture. What it means is that when one gets to a certain age (See **Old Dog**, p. 4)

**Old Dog (from p. 3)**

that person is unable to change his or her ways in spite of a positive or negative situation. The person becomes inflexible to changes in life and refuses to be moved in a direction of divine shifting fluidity. Well, we as Christians are not to be this way.

God is constantly bringing positive and negative experiences into our lives to help shape and mold us in accordance to His will. When He does this He wants us to adjust our thinking and mentality accordingly. There are many “Old Dogs” in our churches today. I don’t care if you are 20 or 70, you can still be an “Old Dog” in your thinking for this is something that is ingrained in all of us no matter the age. We must break from our molded thinking patterns and learn the “New Tricks” that the Lord wants us to learn.

For each experience in life we can see God testing us and drawing us closer to Him in reliance and dependence of His divine sovereign hand. The experiences in life that you face are not by accident, nor are they randomness is a chaotic environment. They are purposeful and intentional experiences to make you an “Old Dog” who can learn “New Tricks.”

What events recently in your life have been positive or negative? How did you handle them? Were they experiences that drew you closer to the Lord or has your faith been shaken a little? Did you even consider that God was doing something to gain your attention to His workings? Know this, He is active in your life and has a purpose for each and every encounter you experience daily. Be a faithful student of the great trainer of souls and learn some new tricks, you ole dog.

✠ 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 June 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



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