



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2008

THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

From the Pastor's Desk

As many of you know my office is in the basement of the parsonage and, like many basements in the summer, there is a dampness that resides in the air. Often that dampness has a pungent and must

y smell that would repel most anyone who would dare walk into my office. When I go down to my office I am struck by a wall of weird smells and I am uncertain of the origins of those uninviting nuggets of gaseous aroma.

I have recently learned to adapt and overcome. Now when I go into my office I strike a match and light an aromatic candle. It has a pleasant and sweet smell of apricot and mango. My favorite, MacIntosh Apple, ran out a while back and since then I have run through a few others. What is nice about these candles is that they are stronger than the residing smell in my office and often they emit a pleasant smell that wafts out into the rest of the basement. I find that for the time I am in my office the weird smell is masked by a sweet aroma, and I enjoy that over and above the usual mustiness that lingers within the basement.

As I write this article about pungent smells I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a. The NIV translates this passage, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other the fragrance of life."

Much like the candle burning in my office the smell of Christ is far sweeter than our aroma without Him. Our sin and selfishness often leaves a stench of odor that God cannot tolerate. When the smell reaches His nostrils He cannot tolerate the pungent residue of sin that resides upon our hearts and souls. With Jesus all things are sweeter and when we have Christ's atonement upon our souls we are sweeter in the eyes of the Father.

What is interesting about this passage is the result of the aroma of Christ. To those who refuse Him and resist His offer for salvation, the aroma of Christ is repulsive and is a reminder of their deadness before God. The proclamation of Christ and our witness is the "smell of death" to those who

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 3, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast

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

Aug. 3, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m. – Christian Chicks

Aug. 10, noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner

Aug. 16, noon – Youth Mini-Golf Outing

An outing to Chuckster's in Chichester. Bring at least one friend for a fun time.

are choosing to go it alone without Him. What an interesting phraseology that Paul chooses in this passage.

I have seen bodies after one dies and there is no question that, if one waits too long to have the funeral, there is a lingering smell that is totally indigenous to a decaying body. It is unmistakable to the senses. That is the smell that one has upon their soul when they purposefully refuse the message of Christ and the salvation He offers. When they smell the aroma of Christ it is the smell of death to them. Yet, to the one who readily receives the very message that an unbeliever rejects, it is the fragrance of life. It is a pleasant and clean smell. This aroma is one of life and vitality that will spring up from within for all eternity.

Another way to look at this analogy of the aroma of Christ is to consider a stagnant pool versus a lake. A stagnant pool has nothing feeding it except rain water. There is no spring that comes up from within it, no river entering into or exiting it, no supply of fresh water to replenish it. It is stagnant and thus useless and often smelly.

A lake has springs welling up from within, tributaries entering and exiting, and rain water rushing into it through the filtering of natural means. A stagnant pool has limited life, and often is dead. A lake has life teaming through it and is alive with activity. That is the difference between one who receives Christ and one who rejects him. The one who rejects is dead and has no life within him, while the one who receives Christ has life teaming through him and is alive with the sweet fragrance that reaches the senses of the Father in heaven.

(See **Pastor's Message** on p. 2)

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Pastor's Message (from p. 1)

As we read and understand this passage about the aroma of Christ, one must understand that this aroma is only effective if expressed by the believer. If a believer is busy trying to fit in with the world then the aromatic effectiveness is diminished and repressed.

In order for the aroma of Christ to waft unto others, for death or for life, we as believers must first live as Christ would have us live. We must be that witness to all who are around us. We must be believers who live according to His will and commands as laid out in his word. We have to be willing to take a stand for the truth of the message of Christ and the message of salvation. If we do not learn to live a life unto Christ we will not be the sweet aroma that the Father enjoys.

Often many do not want to offend and thus through Christ be an aroma of death. Some Christians would rather be on the sidelines and not make a stand so that they can maintain the status quo with friends and family. Some believers go purposefully out of the way not to be offensive and thus they never ever retain the fragrance of Christ on their hearts or in their lives. We must never forget that, to be a Christian is to be one who is an agent of offense. Christ is offensive to those who reject him. His fragrance is the stench of death. If this is the case, which it is because today's passage says it is, then we must be his agents and thus profess the Gospel as given to us by the word of God, which is the fragrance of life to us and an aroma of death to those who reject him.

✠ Pastor Jim Robertson

Christian Chicks

This month the Chicks will meet at Robyn King's home. This evening the plan is to make bracelets and all that you need to bring is a snack to share. The get together takes place on Sunday August 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

✠ Shannon Greenly

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The guys will meet early Sunday morning on August 3rd at 7:30 a.m. It's early but once you are there, you will have a good time of fellowship, a home-cooked meal, and an engaging Bible discussion.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Disaster Relief**In Response to the NH Tornado**

There will be Disaster Relief volunteers living in our church for the next few days. On Thursday, July, 31, 2 men arrived from Virginia to do assessment work in the tornado area. We have four families that have asked for help at this time. Six more volunteers from Florida and Virginia arrive on Friday evening August 1st and another group from the Pennsylvania - New Jersey came on Saturday evening, August 2nd.

In addition, chain saw training will be held in the church Friday evening at 6 p.m., on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. A final session will be Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Meals will be prepared for the workers in the church each day. Food is being provided by the Manchester Bread and Meat Ministry that is headed by Pastor Jim's father Gordon Robertson. We will need extra help in keeping the church clean and help is needed with food preparation.

A shower/laundry unit trailer will be placed on the hill behind the church.

Welcome our guests as they come.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Youth Group on the Move

A fun outing to Chuckster's Mini Golf is planned for Saturday August 16. Chuckster's is on Route 4 in Chichester near the Concord line. They claim to have the world's longest putt: 201 feet! Plus they have lots of water features running through the greens – good places to lose your golf ball.

This event requires each Hillside youth (let's say anyone from 12-19 years old) to bring at least one friend who does not attend any kind of church.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Keep on Swimming!

Have you ever been struggling to reach a goal and found it difficult to achieve? Have you ever become weary and discouraged because of an ongoing problem whose solution has eluded you? Just think of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament and the years they struggled against cynicism, disinterest, and hostile neighbors to get the remnant of Israel to rebuilt Jerusalem after the Israelites spent 70 years in Babylonian captivity.

When faced with these kinds of problems, don't whine and say "Lord, why me?" What you need to do is to pray for perseverance, also known as *stick-to-it-ive-ness*. If you stop trying to reach your goal or solution, well I guess you probably won't reach it, or you'll reach a less satisfying one, or you'll reach something that is not much of a goal or solution and decide that is good enough.

I used to have a poster on my office wall that said "Strive for Adequacy." It was a parody of the "Strive for Perfection" or "Strive for Your Dreams" motif of motivational posters, but some people thought it was a serious philosophy. We live in a world where there is a one class of people who thrive on obstacles and the challenge of overcoming them, but another possibly larger class of people who don't get beyond just getting by.

Perhaps the following old poem (author unknown) can be an inspiration to us all. We are here to do God's will, so when the going gets tough and we find it hard to make any headway or stay afloat on the river of life, maybe we need to keep on swimming!

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl;
The one was wise, and a cheery soul.
The other one took a gloomy view
And bade his friend a sad adieu.

Said the other frog with a merry grin,
 "I can't get out, but I won't give in;
 I'll swim around
 Till my strength is spent,
 Then I will die the more content."

And as he swam, though ever it seemed,
 His struggling began to churn the cream
 Until on top of pure butter he stopped,
 And out of the bowl he quickly hopped.
 The moral you ask? Oh, it's easily found!
 If you can't get out, keep swimming around!

✠ 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:

8/9 Nathan Frascinella
 8/14 Kathryn Greenly
 8/16 Brenda Thomas
 8/18 Don Little
 8/25 Robert LaValley

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

8/18 Don & Julia Little

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@juno.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 Aug. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella@comcast.net.

Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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