



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 7 No. 11

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

November 2008

Let God Sweep Sin from Your Life

From the Pastor's Desk

A Clean Sweep

Psalms 103:10-12

This past week at work I had the opportunity to do some sweeping. It isn't a glorious job, but it has its rewards. When done, one can look back and see a modicum degree of success only because, the moment there appears to be success, it seems it gets messy again. Also, other workers on the job appreciate a clean environment to work in because they hate working in a messy room. The boss is pleased to see cleanliness achieved on the job.

As a whole it isn't exciting, but it is something that has to be done by someone, so it might as well be done by me. And quite frankly it is pretty satisfying to look a back at twenty rooms and four hallways to see that what was a complete mess is now an area of cleanliness even if it is only for a short time.

When sweeping I can't help but notice the contents of the debris I am pushing into tiny piles for disposal. Often there are a lot of various size sheetrock screws as well as corner bead for the taper to install on corners to make clean edges. There is plaster stuck to many areas, and large globs of goo are extremely noticeable and sticky. General trash such as soda bottles, candy bar wrappers, sandwich bags, and chip bags are in abundance.

You are probably wondering why so much food garbage is on the floor. Well I do too because I leave plenty of garbage barrels out for the men to use for such items. Conduit, nuts, bolts, threaded rod, and other various ankle breakers are a normal sight in such piles. And if that wasn't enough there is dust upon dust upon dust that settles from the constant in and out, hustle and bustle traffic of workers.

Often I have to throw down a product called "Clean Sweep" which keeps dust down and helps bring about a cleaner floor after I am done the work of being a Sanitary Engineer. The crew that I am on is on constant clean duty and one of the guys I work with has nicknamed himself "General Debris" because of the great amount of disposal he has accomplished in the last several weeks.

See Clean Sweep, p. 3

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Nov. 2, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast

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

Nov. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. – Christian Chicks

Packing all the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

Nov. 9, noon – Stewardship Meeting

Final preparation of the 2009 budget to be presented at the Nov. 23rd business meeting

Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m. – Alan Frink Concert

At Loudon Freewill Baptist Church

Nov. 23, noon – Business Meeting

Preceded by a Baptist Potluck Dinner. The major topic is the 2009 budget.

The Campbells Are Coming



The Campbells are coming to town for a Christmas Concert on Saturday Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. This event blends their well-known Southern Gospel songs with music of the Christmas season. A good dose of humor rounds out their performance.

The Campbells musical legacy spans over thirty years of Gospel music. They have recorded several albums, traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada, appeared on television and on gospel singing cruises.

The newest member is Scott Brunt, host of the Saturday Night Gospel Hour on WVNH. Scott sings bass for the group, which includes Leo, and daughters Cindy and Naomi.

Admission to the concert is free and a freewill offering will be accepted. Refreshments will be served afterward. Don't miss this exciting evening of Christmas and gospel music.

✠ Michael Frascinella

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Christian Chicks

Due to a family health crisis with my Dad, I need to fly to Indiana to be with Mom and Dad. So the Christian Chicks meeting is postponed until Sunday Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The big activity of the evening will be packing all the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We collected enough supplies for a few dozen boxes so thank you Hillside. That will result in a few dozen children who will have something special on Christmas Day.

✠ Shannon Greenly

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 2nd, the morning after we turn our clocks back one hour to Eastern Standard Time. It will be amusing to see who arrives an hour early because they are still on Daylight Savings Time.

For December, there will be no Men's Breakfast so as to give you one less thing to do while you are preparing for Christmas.

Youth Bowling Challenge Wrap-up

On Oct. 18, about a dozen Hillsideers traveled to Boutwell's Bowling Center in Concord for the Youth Bowling Challenge. We had about five adults and seven youths in the group.

This was also a night featuring Glow Bowling, with loud music, rotating illuminated glass balls, black lights, and fog flowing over the alleys. As with most New England bowling centers, candlepin bowling was the style.

It was a little awkward handling the little five-pound balls and many of the youth had difficulty avoiding gutter balls. Some even tried bowling backward. Once or twice someone threw a ball completely over the gutter into the next lane.

For example, I was working on a spare and, as I watched my ball head straight for the two pins I needed to knock down, another ball came out of nowhere and hit them a second before my ball could do so. We finally raised the gutter bumpers.

Needless to say the adults held the lead over the youth. We forgot to pick up the score sheets on the way out so we can't tell you the actual scores. But everyone agreed that it was a fun night out.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Property and Space Patrol

On Saturday Oct. 25th, there was a Fall Clean Up Day. The air conditioners were removed and stored for the winter, a lot of brush was cut and collected into two big piles, and the church got an inside cleaning.

On Sunday Oct. 26th, we heard during the sermon about Pastor Jim's experiences with an uncooperative weed whacker.

The brush piles will sit until there is enough snow on the ground for safe burning.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Hillside Children Serve the Lord

In Psalms 100:2 we learn that we should serve the Lord with gladness. What a blessing it is to watch the children here at Hillside step up with glad hearts to do just that. Connor smiles when he assists with the lights during Sunday morning service, Amanda eagerly volunteers for special music, and Sarah helps with the TeamKids programs. Some of the other kids pick up communion cups, help with the fellowship meals, assist in the nursery, and make get well cards for others.

This is what service to the Lord is all about. Are you serving the Lord today?

Blessings,
✠ Laurie Carpenter

Elections 2008

With the long two-year slog of an election campaign coming to a close on Nov. 4th, we can look forward to an end to the campaign ads, the phone calls, the road signs, and the political fliers in our paper and electronic mail. But when you go to the polls to vote, look for those candidates who:

- Promote and defend Christian values like faith and hope in God
- Promote freedom to worship and pray (and not just in church)
- Believe in the sanctity of marriage as God ordained it
- Defend the value of innocent life whether born or yet to be born (with actions and not just lip service)
- Serve the needs of others without motivation by personal gain

We need to continue to support those in government who confront the shifting political winds, expose self-serving hidden agendas, and challenge government incompetence, inefficiency, or intrusiveness. Those outside of a Judeo-Christian world view know they can't win unless they discourage people like you from voting. Be an informed and motivated voter and be sure to support the candidates who most closely share your values.

✠ 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:

11/11 Dale Greenly
11/11 Jessica Morgan
11/25 Ernie Robinson
11/29 Michelle Robertson

Hillside has no members who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month, so someone hurry up and get married!

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 junodot com (punctuation spelled out on purpose).

Clean Sweep (cont'd. from p. 1)

As I was thinking about work this week I thought about sweeping and how it relates to our lives before God. Psalm 103:10-12 says "He (God) has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgression from us."

What a wonderful passage that the Lord has given us. Like the mess of that floor that I had the privilege to sweep this week, so are our lives in sin before God. Like the junk and garbage that littered the floor, our sin does the same in our hearts. Our hearts need to be swept clean of the general debris that exists within us.

So Christ comes into our lives and begins to pick up the large pieces of disappointment. He throws our shame into a bucket for proper disposal. He then throws down clean sweep called sanctification and begins to sweep up the deluge of garbage that we accumulate. With each push of his Holiness, he removes the nuggets of doubt, anguish, worry, resentment, hate, and guilt. He pushes each of our concerns, bitterness, and frustrations into a pile. He then picks the mess up with a shovel of tenderness and love in which he then throws the dirt of sin and dust of iniquity into a bucket of abyss to be remembered no more.

When we receive Christ as our Lord and Savior we do not experience the punishment our sin deserves. God does not deal with us according to our failures. His lovingkindness towards us is so great that He removes the trash in us and cleans us from within. And as far as the east is from the west, so too does He cast our transgressions from us.

God is a loving God waiting to bring into our lives a clean sweep of righteousness and love. Let us hold to this verse and let go of the constant mess our hearts harbor within us. Let us allow Christ to come into our lives and clean us up for His use. When the job is done, He will be pleased with the results and so will you, after all no one likes working in a mess, right?

✠ Pastor Jim

On the Web

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

Next Issue

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

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



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