



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 7 No. 12

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2008

Get Excited About the Things of God!

From the Pastor's Desk

Do You Have Childlike Excitement?

Matthew 18:3

Today it snowed. Now that might not sound too exciting to you but, to a few young children I know, those words evoke excitement. I was in the middle of my Bible study and prayer time when I was startled by the loud declaration of "Snow!" which was followed by a loud hustle and shuffling of feet on the floor above my head. This in itself is not too bad but accompanied by the barking of a dog and the screaming joyous sounds outside it became a moment of chaos.

When this happened I resigned to the fact that I was not going to accomplish much and so I got up and looked outside to see the children running around in the first sustained snow fall – but no accumulation – we had this year. They were chasing after each other and enjoying a game of tag followed by screeches of "You're it!"

Even though I was not really a participant in this game of exhaustion I could not help but get caught up in the excitement that they exuded. This excitement was brought about by a natural order set up by God, but still exciting nonetheless because, after all, it is snow.

How often do we get excited about the things of God? Are we too old and mature to allow ourselves to get caught up in a moment of wonder? May it never be! The things of the Lord should evoke in us the same kind of excitement that animates a child when the child experiences the first snow fall of the year, or when they see a beautiful sunset, or when they make play in a puddle after rain. We should get excited for the things of God even if they are just found within the natural order of earth's cycles of seasons.

God continuously pours out his grace upon us and upon this earth. He is constantly showing us His wonder and mysteries. He is always sending signs of His activity in this earth, and those things should invoke excitement in us. The best part is that this excitement is not without knowledge and understanding of Him. This excitement should come because we do know that these things are from Him.

(See **Excitement**, p. 2)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 7 – No Men's Breakfast this month

Dec. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Dec. 13, noon – Christian Chicks Christmas Luncheon

Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m. – The Campbells Christmas Concert

A concert of Christmas and Southern Gospel music.

Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

Commemorating the coming of the Light of the World.

Weds., Dec. 31, 6:00 p.m. – New Year's Eve Party

Food, fun and games as we ring in the New Year.

Campbells Christmas Concert



This is a reminder that The Campbells are coming to town for a Christmas Concert on Saturday Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. This musical 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 and also have traveled extensively, appeared on local and national television and on gospel singing cruises.

Admission to the concert is free and a freewill offering will be accepted. We hope you can be generous because The Campbells are a ministry whose sole purpose is to spread the gospel through their music. Refreshments will be served afterward. Don't miss this exciting evening of Christmas and gospel music with the Campbells.

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Christian Chicks

The Christian Chicks will be meeting on Saturday Dec. 13 at noon for their Quarterly Luncheon, which will also be a Christmas Luncheon.

Please bring a dish to share (with food on it) and a wrapped Christmas ornament for the gift exchange. Bring someone with you to share in the joy of the season.

We will be meeting at the church.

✠ Shannon Greenly

Men's Breakfast

In the interest of eliminating one activity from your pre-Christmas rush, this month's breakfast is canceled.

But we will start the New Year with a Men's Breakfast on January 4th. For a New Year's Resolution, promise yourself that you'll invite one guy to join you for breakfast.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Property and Space Patrol

The final winter preparations have been made. The leaves along the road have been mostly blown away by the wind, praise God! A supply of salt for the driveway and parking lots has been obtained and stored. And the sand barrels have been installed up and down the driveway and filled with sand and salt.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Giving THANKS

During the three Sundays before Thanksgiving Day, Pastor Jim covered numerous aspects of Christian thanksgiving using passages from several of the Apostle Paul's letters. And in his Parables for Life series (April-September 2008), he expounded on many of Jesus' parables. But one parable was skipped – the parable of the ten lepers in Luke 17.

I heard it discussed in mid-November by David Jeremiah (how's that for an Old-Testament sounding name?) on his radio show "Turning Point." His message, entitled "Gratitude Is a Choice," pointed out a unique element of the story.

Jesus did not heal the lepers when he met them on the road. He did not heal them after they showed themselves to the priest. He healed them *on the way there*. And He healed them because they made a conscious choice to obey His command, and this choice also implied an act of faith on the part of the lepers, since Jesus gave them no clue as to what going to happen to them.

In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus healed 10 lepers at a village somewhere outside Jerusalem. Although they were all cleansed of their skin disease, only one returned to praise God and thank Jesus for His graciousness. And that man was not a Jew but a Samaritan (a Clean Samaritan, not to be confused with the Good Samaritan).

In a sermon given at Hillside on November 21, 1993, former Pastor David Bezanson (who now serves as pastor of the Chichester Congregational Church) used this passage as a

basis for a message on the meaning of "thanks." Using the word THANKS as an acronym, he said there are six things that we should be thankful for:

Things – that we own, which are gifts from God, not ours by right.

Helpers – are people who lead other people to Jesus.

Adversity – is a situation allowed by God to build character and to build an attitude of gratitude.

Now – is the time to be thankful for what God has done today and yesterday. Today, we can hope for God's blessings, but we must let God take care of tomorrow.

Kindness – means acting with love and unselfishness to others and being grateful for others' kindness to us.

Salvation – is the greatest gift to be thankful for – that Jesus died on the cross for each of us.

We need to maintain an attitude of gratitude (thankfulness). Reflect on what God had done for you and say "Thank you, Lord."

✠ Michael Frascinella

Excitement

(Cont'd. from p. 1)

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus tells us "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (NASB). Jesus does not tell us that we must become a child for that is impossible, but what He does tell us is that we must become like children. That is, we must have the wonder, excitement, and enthusiasm of a child.

Often we get too sophisticated to remember what it was like to be like a child. Until you have children and see how they play and get excited over the small stuff, you might forget how to act like a child towards the things of God.

We are embarking on a new Christmas season. Are you excited? I know it is hard to be so because of all the commercialization of the season. Let us not get bogged down by such less-than-holy things in our lives, but instead find the excitement of being a child of God. Let the Lord bring about an excitement in you hearts and minds this year that permeates every part of your soul, so that you may pass that excitement on to others. Let yourself become excited for the things of God this season.

It is truly a miraculous time of the year. It is a time we celebrate the Lord's birth and a time in which we see pure displays of the human heart towards one another. This is the kind of love that only God can cause to well up within others. That is truly exciting is it not?

I hope and pray that this message touches your heart in such a way that you will allow yourself to become like a child and experience the excitement of the Lord.

God bless and Merry Christmas to all.

✠ Pastor Jim

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

- 12/15 Kayla Pouliot
- 12/16 Connor Robertson
- 12/21 Juliette Robertson
- 12/23 Barbara Yeaton
- 12/27 Sandy Pouliot

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

- 12/14 Ernie & Jalma Robinson

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).

On the Web

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

Next Issue

Deadline is Dec. 24th. 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.



Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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