

HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 8 No. 1

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2009

2009: Time for a New Start

From the Pastor's Desk

A New Year, A New Start

Hebrews 12:1-2

Here we are again. Another year seemed to zip right by us and when we blinked it was over. The year that was called 2008 was filled with its ups and downs. Many of us experienced great joy and happiness and others were not so fortunate this year. How was the year for you? Did you have more joys than sorrows? I hope and pray that you did.

With the year 2009 standing before us, what can we expect from the Lord? We can expect His hand of protection and love to be upon us. We can expect that He will continue to work in this world for His glory. We can anticipate many coming to Christ for salvation. We can have the faith that He will continue to watch over our family and finances. The Lord God Almighty is going to do great things in this upcoming year.

What are you going to do this upcoming year? What resolutions or changes are you willing to make in your life? Many will decide to lose weight. Some will set their minds to saving more money. Others will devote themselves to spend more time with their families. All of these are good and necessary, but what kind of decisions or resolutions have you made in regards to your walk with the Lord? Have you made a decision to be less angry with others? Have you decided to be more generous and forgiving with those who make you impatient? Are you going to be more of an encourager for your spouse and children? Are you going to commit yourself to spending more time with your Lord and Savior?

Hebrews 12:1-2 says "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 4, 7:30 a.m. – Men's First Prayer Breakfast

The men share a meal, then delve into a Bible study.

Jan. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 17 – Annual March for Life, Concord, NH

Jan. 18 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

The annual event honoring the right to life especially for the unborn child.

Jan. 18, noon – Sledding Party

After church, get your sled or snow tube and have fun on the hillside. We'll have hot dogs and snacks to keep you going.

Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. – Tuesday Events Resume

Adult Bible Study, TeamKids, at 6:30 p.m., and music practice at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 25, noon – Business Meeting

Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. – Christian Chicks

I quote this passage because, when it comes to making new resolutions, what we need to do is look back on our lives and determine what sins so easily entangle us. We must be honest with ourselves and recognize every encumbrance that brings us down. We must take our focus off such sins and place it upon our Lord and Christ. We must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author of our salvation and perfecter of our faith. What sins have caused you to continually stumble this past year? What sins trip you up? What sins constantly bring you down? Those are the sins that are constantly putting a wall up between you and the Lord. It is time to recognize those sins for what they are and give them over to the Lord. Throw those sins off your back and place them at the feet of Christ and seek His strength for overcoming them. It isn't until you lean on Christ and receive His strength that you will know how to fulfill the resolutions of the New Year. Until you go to the foot of the cross and bend low before the Master, you will continue to fall short of new spiritual goals

(See Pastor's Message on p. 2)

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Pastor’s Message (from p. 1)

in your life. We are to draw strength from Him, for in our weaknesses will we find the strength of Christ to give us the strength for victory.

With this New Year comes a new start: the start to live for Christ more fully in your life, the start to walk more righteously before God the Father in the strength of Christ, the new start that will bring release from those things that enslave you. A new start sounds good, doesn’t it? What better time to make a commitment to grow closer to your Savior than with a New Year’s Resolution.

With this New Year upon us, may God’s grace go with you. May His love overshadow you. May His joy fill your souls. May you know His presence in your life more fully. May your walk with Him be more fulfilling.

God Bless,
✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

The Christian Chicks will meet for the first time this year on Sunday Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend.

✠ Shannon Greenly

Men’s Breakfast

Carpe Diem!

The first Men’s Breakfast of the New Year will be on Jan. 4 at 7:30 a.m., so rise and shine and make a New Year’s Resolution to be an active participant so that your faith will grow and that you not snooze away valuable time.

Yours truly will provide the hot breakfast, which will be an Italian favorite. Molto bene!

After breakfast, we will resume our exploration of the Book of Judges and discuss what we would like to study as a follow up topic.

✠ Michael Frascinella

The Truth Project

The Tuesday night Bible study has been delayed until Jan. 20 due to a delay in receipt of the study materials. What we are doing is called The Truth Project, an ambitious and powerful offering from Focus on the Family. This 12 lesson, DVD-based study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life. See you there.

Campbells Concert Wrapup

We spent another wonderful evening with our musical friends, The Campbells on Dec. 13th, but the sanctuary was not as full as in past years.

On Thursday Dec. 11, an ice storm blew through New England and hit New Hampshire particularly hard. By Friday morning, over 400,000 customers (including many Hillsideers) had lost power, mostly across the southern part of the state. Predictions of days or weeks without power sent

many people scurrying to the home centers buying up all the portable generators they could find.

Hillside lost power on Friday night due to a transformer failure at the pole. PSNH said it would take days to fix. We left a message with the Campbells on Friday night. Early on Saturday morning, praise the Lord, power was restored, so we told the Campbells the concert was back on schedule.

Although the concert went over very well, lasting one and a half hours, with a guest performance by Scott and Gary Brunt, many members and friends who were absent later told stories about how they had wanted to attend but were struggling with problems at their own homes due to the power outage.

For next December, let’s remember to pray for no snow and for no power outages!

✠ Michael Frascinella

Property and Space Patrol

Salt and snow and bitter cold! Winter came quickly with three storms, with two of them major in the first week. The cost to the church was \$225 and 650 pounds of salt. Fortunately most of the snow is gone but the prediction is for more for New Year’s Eve and the weekend.

We have some major projects that need to be completed in 2009. The top item is to replace the carpets in the entrance foyers, downstairs hall, rear stairs, and the fellowship room. All these carpets were installed over 20 years ago and have worn spots that could become safety hazards. Dollars to accomplish this will come through the offering plate.

A Note of Interest: From over 250 New England churches, Hillside was in the Top Ten of per capita giving to Missions through the Cooperative Program.

✠ Pastor Al Page

Welcome New Members

Hillside was blessed with a few new members the end of last year. They were voted in during a recent business meeting.

Welcome to Warren and Charlotte Hastings. They live on Branch Turnpike in Concord. Also welcome to Mary Richards, who just happens to be Bob LaValley’s mom. It’s encouraging when extended families worship together.

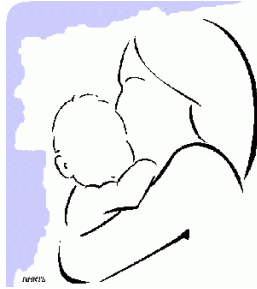
Now don’t all rush to ask these new members to join your committee or ministry. We all need to serve the Lord but each must find his or her own gifts or talents and figure out how to use them within the body of believers.

March for Life

Saturday, January 17, 2009, Concord, NH

The following information was gleaned from the NH Right to Life web site (<http://www.nhrtl.org>). If you are able to walk, then dress for the cold and join NHRTL for at least the rally and the march down Main St. Don't support the abortion industry with apathy.

Join us for all or part of the Annual March for Life as we remember the decision that led to the killing of tens of millions of babies, the wounding as many moms, and the degrading of the right to life for all Americans.



(See March for Life on p. 3)

March for Life (from p. 2)

Bring your own signs or use one of ours!

9 a.m., Memorial Service for the babies dumped at the Concord Landfill on Old Turnpike Rd.

10 a.m., Catholic Mass at St. John the Evangelist, 72 So. Main St., Concord

11:15 a.m., Rally at the Gold-Domed State House Steps with Operation Outcry

11:45 a.m., March For Life from the Rally past Concord Ferminist Health Center

Then on to Concord High School at 170 Warren St. for some carry-in, by-donation lunch in the cafeteria.

2 p.m., Concord High School Auditorium, speaker and author Shauna Amick delivers a passionate as well as practical message upholding the sanctity of human life by connecting God's Word to today's culture through her speaking and writing ministry, but most powerfully through her own personal testimony. Shauna is the author of "Learning to Live Happily Ever After."

For more information about NHRTL, call 626-7950, send e-mail to life@nhrtl.org, or point your web browser to <http://www.nhrtl.org>.

Time to Grow

God has blessed me with many gifts and has allowed me to use them for His glory. I've watched many come to know the Lord and grow spiritually in the past few years, but just recently realized that I too have some growing to do.

I will be stepping down from the TeamKids Leader position to allow time for me to focus on my own spiritual growth. The children have been a true blessing to work with, but I feel that God may be calling me to a new direction.

Perhaps God is calling you to work with the children. Please prayerfully consider!

Blessings,
✠ Laurie Carpenter

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

- 1/1 Jalma Robinson
- 1/5 Sarah Greenly
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson
- 1/12 Chris Frascinella
- 1/27 Cathy Labonte

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

- 1/4 Justin & Robyn King
- 1/5 Robert & Ann LaValley

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).

From the Editor

With this issue the Hillside Monthly Dispatch begins its 8th year of operation. Thank you for your support and your interest.

With January being the time for New Year's Resolutions and reflection on the past year, please take a moment and think about this newsletter, what you have found useful, and what you have found lacking.

Since this is a group effort by many contributors, we try to keep the membership up to date about what is happening in our fellowship. Maybe there is a topic or feature that you think should be added. Prayer requests are not included since those are time dependent and covered in the weekly bulletin, and local news is not printed since that is covered better in the local media.

Let me know if there is something you like to see, and maybe if you'd like to write about it!

✠ Michael Frascinella

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 Jan. 24. 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.





Hillside Baptist Church
547 Pembroke St.
Pembroke, NH 03275

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