



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

June 2009

Known by the Books You Read

From the Pastor's Desk

What's in a Book?

Philippians 4:8

Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover?" It is one of those deep truths that stand out in our culture and has been proven to be true more times than not. This saying teaches us that we are not to look upon someone based solely upon their immediate appearance or their station in life. That we need to look beyond the exterior and find the real person that loves, laughs, and feels. To find the worth in who they are and not how they appear.

Well, I was looking at the books around my office this week and I wondered what those books said about me. I pondered upon how people would perceive my intelligence, attitude, or ethic in regards to the various books kicking around my desk, shelves, and closet. Although we should not judge a book by its cover, we sure can tell people by the books that they have in their study, bedroom, living room, or office.

One question I would like to ask you this month is "What do your books say about you?" You might think that the question is a little odd, but you need to understand that a book and its cover say a lot about you as a person of God. It tells people what attracts you. It speaks volumes about what entices you. It screams the kind of person you are. We must understand that what one takes into his or her heart there the substance takes root, grows, and resides.

God's word tells us in Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." (NASB) The books we read reflect whether or not we are doing what is listed above. Consider that novel by your bedside, does it contain items that you would wish your children to read, is it honorable? That magazine in the bathroom, does it reflect your Christian beliefs, is it pure? That web site you constantly look at, does it have articles that God would find righteous?

What we read helps develop who we are. What we take in shapes and molds us to an image that either reflects our savior Jesus Christ and *His* character or it reflects the world

Upcoming Events and Meetings

June 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

June 9, 6:30 p.m. – Church Council

Planning church activities and events for the next several months.

June 14, Flag Day

Fly the Stars and Stripes with pride!

June 21 – Father's Day

Tell your Dad you are proud to be his son or daughter. Pray for those whose fathers have passed on.

June 21 – End of Baby Bottle Fund Drive

Bring your coin-filled bottles back to church so we can donate them to the Concord Carenet Pregnancy Center.

June 21, Noon – Christian Chicks

Women's monthly gathering for fellowship, devotions, and Bible study.

and *its* character.

Often we as Christians get sucked into a vortex of worldliness that we do not realize we are in. We get caught up in pop culture and society and inadvertently approve novels, stories, and philosophies that are contrary to God and His holiness. We tend to spend more time reading our favorite author instead of reading the greatest author of all. We read books that catch our fancy and ignore the book that is the best written of all time. When it comes to reading we are like a kid in a candy store, we often pick up the books that have the beautifully illustrated covers and put down the book that is the most beautifully illustrated on the inside, for the Bible shows us the very heart of God and there is nothing more beautiful than that.

We as Christians must also be careful not to fall into the latest self-help book or get-rich-quick idea. We need to guard ourselves from falling into those stories that are heavy in mysticism or spiritualism. We need to avoid those stories that wrongly depict God and Christ according to the latest societal winds of change. We need not endorse such people

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Pastor's Message (cont'd.)

with our time or money, but instead we need to pick up the book that changes lives in a way that is right before God. The help that many are seeking is not in some other book, written by a fallible person with an axe to grind, but instead it can be found in God's written word directed by an infallible God who wants to draw you close to Himself.

The Bible is the greatest book of all. Is it by your bedside? Is it in your office? Is it in the open where anyone who walks into your house can see that you have worn it out by reading it over and over? The Bible is the book that – when others see you reading it – people can judge that you are one with wisdom, understanding, and discernment. When someone sees God's word in a place of prominence in your personal library, that screams volumes about who you are and who you trust in.

Let me encourage you to pick up the Bible and read it more in your life. Other books will leave you wanting when you are done, but God's word, when read and taken in, will leave you fulfilled. May God bless you as you seek him in your study of His word.

✠ Pastor Jim

Wedding Bells

On Saturday June 6, Laurie Carpenter and Dennis Wasp were married. Pastor Jim performed the ceremony. Dennis looked handsome and self-assured in his black tuxedo. Laurie was beaming radiantly in a creamy orange dress and a big smile for Dennis. Pastor Jim wore a black suit and I hope someone got a photo of him. This must be the first time he was ever suited up like this at Hillside. It was quite remarkable.

A large gathering of family and friends from both sides filled most of the seats. Several Hillsideers also witnessed the happy event. Julie Russo provided piano music for the ceremony.

A little boy served as the ring bearer and a little girl spread flower petals down the aisle as the ceremony began. While standing up front, the little boy began his own ceremony as the wedding ceremony slowly progressed. Due to being bored just standing there, he started flipping the pillow (to which the rings were taped). Then he switched to oscillating back and forth like a washing machine agitator. Next he would hold it like a steering wheel and drive some imaginary raceway. Finally the rings were called for and he was done with his chore.

If you missed the ceremony, please be sure to greet Laurie and Dennis the next time you see them and wish them a long and happy life as they serve our Lord together.

Christian Chicks

The ladies are gathering for fellowship, devotions, and Bible study on June 21st right after Sunday Service. We do hope they include their fathers in their prayers since this is Father's Day.

Men's Breakfast

Last month, we had an abbreviated Men's Breakfast because the Spring Cleanup Day started that same morning.

For the summer months, with people taking trips (despite the bad economy I guess), we will forgo the first Sunday of the month breakfasts. Do plan on rejoining us in September.

Property and Space Patrol

Saturday May 16 started with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the Spring Cleanup. The air conditioners were installed in the sanctuary. Eleven (11) posts were set along the walk from the lower parking lot for a much needed handrail. This required lots of digging. The hand rail has since been installed. The flowerbed under the sign was cleaned out and planted for the summer.

The big news is that we received a \$5500 grant from the Oldham Little Church Foundation to be used to replace flooring in three downstairs classrooms, the front hall, the ladies' room, the rear stairs, the baptistry stairs, and the downstairs hall. Expect some mess as renovations take place beginning in June.

At the last business meeting it was decided to make three room swaps. The kitchen is to move upstairs to the office, the office is to move to the present library, and the library is to move downstairs to the kitchen. This move will start soon. Watch for news of further developments.

✠ Pastor Al

Prayers to the Pastor

Here are some prayer illustrations I came across recently that I thought were cute. They come from *Dear Pastor*, by Bill Adler Books, Inc, 1980. I hope you enjoy them.

✠ Pastor Jim

Dear Pastor,

I know God loves me but I wish He would give me an "A" on my report card so I could be sure.

Love,

Theresa (Age 8, Milwaukee)

Dear Pastor,

Could you say a special blessing for my Aunt Beatrice? She has been looking for a husband for 12 years and still hasn't found one.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie (Age 9, Duluth)

Dear Pastor,

Do I have to say grace before every meal? Even when I am only having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

Wesley (Age 9, Baltimore)

See Dear Pastor, see p. 3

Dear Pastor (cont'd. from p. 2)

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for your sermon on Sunday. I will write more when my mother explains to me what you said.

Yours truly,

Justin (Age 9, Westport)

Dear Pastor,

Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow.

Laurie (Age 10, New York City)

Dear Pastor,

We say grace every night before we eat dinner even when we have leftovers from the night before.

Yours truly,

Jacki (Age 9, Chicago)

Dear Pastor,

I say my prayer before I eat my supper but my mother still makes me finish my spinach and drink my milk.

Julie (Age 9, Buffalo)

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 – moved to PA
- 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
- 6/6/09 Dennis and Laurie (Carpenter) Wasp – newlyweds

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for you – whether it be for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need – contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, Dale Greenly, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership.

It will be our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus our Lord.

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 June 24. 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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