



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

August 2009

WHAT FILLS YOUR BALLOON?

From the Pastor's Desk

The Balloon Effect

Philippians 4:11

Balloons, are they great! They're such a simple pleasure that brings much joy to boys and girls across this world. Once they are located they have the ability to bring a smile to a child's face. A child could be sad, hurt, or even upset and a balloon presented to that child will bring about a calming effect.

The nice thing about balloons is that they are great in number, size, and style. If you go to a carnival you will see many colors and sizes. If you go to a gift shop you can find specialty types with names, greetings, and best wishes [worst are the black ones marked "40" – Editor]. You can fill them with water, helium, or with your own breath.

Remember when you were younger and you got that first balloon filled with helium? You let it stay attached to your wrist or arm all day and then when you couldn't wait any longer you went ahead and let it go. Then you watched it go up and up and up till you couldn't see it anymore. Remember the wonderment and excitement that brought?

As adults we know what happens to those balloons allowed to float into the upper stratosphere. They get hit by airplanes right? No, I know they get swallowed up by those bigger balloons that carry people. Maybe not. I got it, God collects them and puts them into the balloon heaven, right?

Simple physics tells us that what goes up must come down. Eventually the balloon's helium will begin to dissipate and then cause the balloon to come back down to earth and get caught in some tree, power line, or roof.

Those balloons resemble many Christian's lives. Like the variation of balloons, the Christian faith has great variety. We all come in different sizes, shapes, and color. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit we can bring joy to others. But all too often we are like the ones that are filled with helium that go up and then eventually go down. Some call it the mountain tops and valleys of life. What is hard to find is that middle ground called contentment. Contentment is something that is hard to reach in life. Contentment is

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Aug. 2, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Aug. 8, 10 a.m. – Youth Outing to Chuckster's

Aug. 22 – Outreach at Old Home Day

Hillside planning to do outreach at Pembroke-Allenstown Old Home Day.

Tuesday evening events are on hold until September.

something that tends to elude us like the infamous snipe during a hunt. Contentment is something that has to be God-given from within us not from the things outside of us.

When we think of contentment it deals with various areas of life. One of the hardest places is our finances. We can easily get caught up trying to achieve and gain. We as Americans can fall into the trap of commercialism and wantonness. But contentment is something we need in other areas of life as well. We need contentment in our marriages, careers, family life, choices in life, our children's choices in their lives, friends, parents, and our walk with the Lord. Often we can get too tense about the things we cannot change or affect. We get caught up in trying to control those things that are out of the reach of ability and responsibility. Like those balloons sometimes we get high with life and we rise into the upper stratosphere and we think life is so great that it will never end. If this is not grounded in a solid relationship with the Lord, we tend to fall back down to earth and we then get caught up in the tree lines or power lines or roof lines of life.

When we get deflated it is hard to come back around and get to a point of being contented in the things that God has done in your life. Too high and we are not satisfied, but at least we are having fun. Too low and we are not satisfied, but that is not our fault so it must be God's, right? Well the reality is that contentment is something we need to pray for, hope for, and constantly ask for.

Paul the Apostle wrote in Philippians 4:11, "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in." Now the context in which he wrote

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The Balloon Effect (from p. 1)

was primarily in reference to the needs of finances in life, but knowing Paul's life and what he went through, it also speaks of his place in life.

This was a man who had it all. He had money, prestige, importance, direction, and respect. When he received Christ as his Lord and Savior he lost it all and became one who was hated, hunted, despised, and poor. He knew many hardships and hazards in life, but in this passage he tells the reader that he has learned contentment. Why? Because Paul knew that God had him right where He wanted him. In His service and work here on earth.

Contentment has nothing to do with what you have, where you are at, or what you have accomplished. It has everything to do with being right with your Savior and being satisfied knowing that, whatever you do, you are doing it according to His will and purpose for your life.

Let me encourage you to take stock of your life in regards to contentment. Are you content in what God has given you? Are you content with where God has you right now? Are you content in all areas of your life? If not then start praying that God delivers contentment through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life. Pray that you do not fall prey to the "Balloon Effect" in your life. Pray that you are not like those balloons that constantly go up and down. Pray that you are filled with more than just hot air and false hope. Make a conscious decision to actively appreciate what God is doing in your life and then line your life up with what you see God doing in it.

I've known turmoil and pain, so have you. I've know disappointment and frustration, as I am sure you have. I've known what it is to fail and have others fail me, and you can also relate to that. But in all these things we can achieve contentment if we place our trust in the Lord, for He is the one who fulfills all our hopes and desires in life. May God bless you with the blessed gift of contentment.

✠ Pastor Jim

Youth Group on the Move

Outing to Chuckster's Mini-Golf on Aug. 8

This outing is always a fun time and Chuckster's has even more attractions this year. But our outing this time is focused on mini-golf. Remember the 201-foot putt and the sneaky diversion that dumps your golf ball in the brook before it gets to the hole? Those rascally rascals!

Let's meet at church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 8 and tool over to Chuckster's for some fun! And of course pray for a sunny day.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Outreach at Old Home Day

Old Home Day is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd at Memorial Field in Pembroke. Hillside will be in the merchandise area with a booth – not selling anything, but giving away cold water, Bible literature, and the good news about Jesus Christ.

Setup time is from 7-9 a.m. and the booths are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pastor Jim will be in charge of our booth and needs our help to staff it during the day. You can do shifts such as 9-1 and 1-5 if you can't stay the whole day.

Let's pitch in and make this a good day to serve the Lord and reach people with the gospel.

Christian Chicks

It's hard to believe that summer is half over and, in a month, the kids will be starting another year of school. But that means we are only a month away from restarting monthly Chicks events.

Men's Breakfast

Coffee perking, bacon and eggs in the frying pan, toast in the toaster, those are the sounds of Men's Breakfast coming soon to a kitchen near church (well, in the church). Plan on being there the first Sunday of September.

Also start thinking about what kind of study or discussion topic you might be interested in pursuing. Spiritual food is necessary to build strong Godly spirits.

Property and Space Patrol

More dust! As promised last month, the bulletin boards are finished in the front stairwell. The downstairs hall has been painted and ready for the new tile floor to be installed. With this the ladies room has been renovated to upgrade it for handicap accessibility. This includes rebuilding the entrance to the ladies' room and adjoining classroom, expanding the first stall for increased turning space, installing grab bars, and painting the room. New sinks and tile floor will be installed soon.

Thanks to Roche Pouliot for the dry wall work and tile floors, Mike Frascinella for general help, and Pastor Jim for painting. (He did the entire hall -- all 65 ft.)

Construction of the handicapped ramp for the lower level will start soon. Also, the civil engineer has surveyed the rear of the church property with a goal of increased parking for the upper level. This will make snow removal easier and of course provide the much needed parking space.

Sorry about the cold water for the baptism. The problem has been fixed and we are looking forward to an increased usage.

✠ Pastor Al Page

The Heavens Declare

The more you observe, the more you will see.

A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs on August 6 with mid-eclipse happening at 00:39 UT (8:39 p.m. EDT). The eclipse will be in progress at moonrise at 8:13 p.m. Details can be found at this NASA web page: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OHfigures/OH2009-Fig07.pdf>

The penumbra is the lighter outer ring of the Earth's shadow

and only the southern half of the Moon will enter this outer shadow. Therefore, it may not be visible to the naked eye.

But this is also the night of the Full Moon, so the fainter stars will be blotted out, making it easier to pick out constellations. So enjoy God's celestial show, watch the Moon rise, and try looking at it with binoculars.

After you regain your night vision, having been blasted by the stunning moon light, locate a star chart and see if you can identify the Summer Triangle formed by the bright stars Vega (magnitude 0.03), Deneb (1.25), and Altair (0.77). Then trace out their constellations of Lyra the Lyre, Cygnus the Swan, and Aquila the Eagle. Cygnus contains the asterism called the Northern Cross.

✝ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday this month:

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 couples who celebrate their wedding anniversaries this month:

8/12 Victor & Abi Lafa
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 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 Aug. 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.



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