



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

October 2009

ROCKS, ROOTS, and PSALMS

From the Pastor's Desk

Trials in the Mountains of Life

Psalm 23

A few weeks back a group of us from the church went on a mountain hike at Mt. Major. It started with a couple of guys getting together to work on bringing the youth out for a day to go hiking, but it ended up being much more than that. We were told that it was an easy hike up a mountain and that for the most part it would be relatively painless.

Now when someone tells you something is easy, it is important for you to ask that person to define easy in the context of "their" easy. This is something I wished I had done with one of the members of the church before we committed to going. Would it have changed my mind? Probably not, if for no other reason than that my male ego would not let me back down from such an "easy" challenge.

When we got there and started toward the trail it was all well and good till we turned the corner and looked up a nearly forty-five degree slant with ankle breaking rocks and toe busting roots from the trees. As we moved along it got easier for only about fifteen minutes till we came up to another nearly forty-five degree slope with similar conditions. As we continued the climb we eventually ran out of trail and ended up climbing straight up a smooth rock face of the mountain. After a solid hour plus we ended up conquering the mountain and we stood on top victorious looking down upon all we survey. Can I get a hardy grunt? Okay an "Amen" would be better.

It was all good till we had to go back down the mountain. To top it off we took a different trail on the way down. By the end of the day I was tired and so were the kids that went with us. It was nice and quiet when we got home that afternoon. The reason why it was quiet was because I closed the door to my room and napped.

The hike that we took had its potential problems. There were rocks to fall over and roots to trip over. There were potential slipping hazards as well as falling down the side of the mountain a great distance due to some narrow trail edges. We also faced the possibilities of people falling on us or rocks rolling down upon us. We faced hazards that were of the body and mind. Many were hurting in the knees or legs or backs and others were weary from the long walk.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

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

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

Oct. 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Oct. 11, midday – Church Council + Stewardship

Planning events and activities into the New Year. Preparing the 2010 budget for the November business meeting.

Oct. 24, 9:00 a.m. – Fall Clean Up

Getting the church and grounds ready for the opposite of summer. Br-r-r-r-r!

There were many things to stand in our way of reaching the goal that was set before us. But all in all we made it together as a group, looking out for each other along the way. People were in the front running on ahead. Some were in the back, but one in particular purposefully stayed there so as to be sure no one fell behind.

Often the group had to stop to wait for a reunion before going on ahead. We stayed as a group and we succeeded as a group. The most important thing is that we all made it safe and sound back to our cars and ultimately to our homes.

The trials in the mountains of life are similar to that walk of hazards we faced. No one knew this better than King David. In Psalm 23 he wrote about the pitfalls and trials in life:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,

For You are with me; Your rod and staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

In this psalm David recounts all that God had done on his behalf. God had given David tremendous victories in life

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Trials (from p.1)

even though many of David's problems came as a result of his own sin. Yet when life threw a rock at David, God was there to help shield him. When David tripped, God caught him. When David fell, God was there with a hand to help him back up. When he grew tired or weak, God was there to give him strength. When his body hurt, God restored him. When he grew mentally and spiritually tired, God renewed his soul.

David knew of the times God was there and he found rest in God. At the end of the psalm we find David not only taking great assurance in the fact that he will dwell in the house of the Lord, but it is also an assurance of victory in life for the Lord.

Our walk in life is very similar to that hike we took and to the life that David experienced. Life throws us rocks to knock us down. It places roots along our walking path to cause us to fall. We sometimes face things in life that seems almost on the edge of our hopes and our sanity. Sometimes people are in our way or some may actually cast a stone or two our direction, whether by accident or design. We face the hazards of growing weary and losing strength because sometimes the obstacles in our way are too great to overcome.

But through the grace of God we overcome and find victory. Like standing atop a mountain which was conquered, God helps us do the same in the hike of life. When we stand victorious on the mountain of life and look down upon our trials we realize that they are small in comparison to what God has out there for us.

May we rest in God's great strength to get us through any trial or difficulty in life and not let the trials in the mountains of life trouble us or bring us down. May His grace sustain all of you in those difficult times.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks**Fall Focus for Ladies**

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it..." Psalm 127:1

The ladies' group had a wonderful meeting after church on September 27th. Nine of us enjoyed stuffed peppers and experienced stuffed bellies!

More importantly though, our focus was on seeking Christ and His will for our ladies' ministry. Each of us will be praying about how God can use us as a group to minister to ladies who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Our Lord can do great things through us if we are willing to be used by Him. Although we are small in number, our potential in Christ is great!

A letter was given to the ladies in attendance that gave more detail about the re-focusing of our ladies' group. If you would like to receive a letter as well, please let me know.

Because November and December are busy months, the ladies voted to have another get-together in January when

life slows down a bit. However, we might be having quick, after church meetings as ministry ideas present themselves.

Please be in prayer for God's will concerning our ladies' group. If you are a Christian lady then I encourage you to prayerfully consider being a part of this church ministry.

Much Love in Christ,

✠ Michelle Robertson

Men's Breakfast

It's October, so it's time for ... Oktoberfest? No, Men's Breakfast! The weather is cooling off, the leaves are falling, and we passed the Fall Equinox (equal hours of daylight and nighttime) on Sept. 22nd.

So set your alarm clock Saturday night to get you up early on Sunday for the 7:30 a.m. breakfast. The food is always great and enjoyable with lots of fresh hot coffee to wash it down (and maybe a few eggs to keep Connor happy).

We chose the Book of Mark as our discussion subject for the next several months. Mark moves quickly through ministry of Jesus, focusing on many of His miracles. Pastor Jim commented last month that scholars think the book was actually composed by the apostle Peter and recorded under Mark's name.

Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the Word in a relaxing, congenial setting.

The Campbells Are Coming

Once again this year we will host The Campbells Christmas Concert on Saturday December 12 at 6:30 p.m. That's a little more than two months away.

This will be their only Christmas Concert in the Concord-Manchester area so mark your calendars and be sure to attend. Start talking it up with your family and friends.

Property and Space Patrol

It's been a busy month at Hillside. First, the work got put on hold while Rachel and I went to western NY to assist flood victims. The lawn got quite tall and the renovation work was at a standstill. But at the end of the month things picked up.

The downstairs hall floor has been completed and that just about wraps up the downstairs renovations. The bulk of this work needed to be done because of safety hazards (the carpet was ripped and loose) and to upgrade for handicapped accessibility.

The ladies' room is just about complete and you will notice that we now have instant hot water in all rest rooms. New bulletin boards add to the front foyer and stairwell. Overall the church has a more welcome, "we care" atmosphere. The work will continue as time and dollars are available.

Many thanks to Roche Pouliot for installing the floor tile in the lower hallway. Be sure to thank him for the new flooring that will surely hold up to the winter traffic.

The next project is the handicapped ramp for the lower front entrance. This ramp will allow visitors to access the front entrance from the upper parking lot. We hope to complete

this on the work day, Saturday October 24. Please plan to come help all day. Hours will be 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided, the coffee pot will be on, and the fellowship will be great.

✝ Pastor Al Page

Youth Group on the Move

On Sept. 19 an intrepid group of Hillsideers and friends led the youth on a hike up Mount Major in Alton Bay. We had five car loads of adults and youth and our convoy made it to the trail head in good order. It turned out to be a popular destination that day as the parking lot was jammed with cars and we had to park along Route 11.

After Pastor Jim prayed for the group, we followed the Ledge Trail and took in beautiful vistas once we reached the steep, open ledges below the summit. After about 1 1/2 hours we reached the summit and a stiff cold breeze that motivated us to eat lunch quickly, even after we huddled in the open stone hut at the top. The view was superb and we could see across Lake Winnepesaukee to Wolfeboro and the Ossipee Mountains, north to the White Mountains, south to Alton, and west toward Barnstead.

After deciding it was too cold to linger any longer, we headed south on the Boulder Trail. The middle length of the trail was true to its name as we had to descend over many huge boulders. Some of the youth in the lead kept shouting "It gets really steep here!" After about an hour of hiking, jumping, and sliding, we arrived at the parking lot safe and sound. After a prayer of thanks by Pastor Jim, we piled into our cars and headed home.

✝ Michael Frascinella

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 Oct. 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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

10/1 Al Page

10/19 Shannon Greenly



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

10/5 Warren & Charlotte Hastings

Avoid Jumping to Conclusions

When you're forming your opinions,

Do it carefully—go slow;

Hasty judgments oft are followed

By regretting—that I know. —Anon.

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.



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