



HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

December 2009

Expecting the Unexpected from God

From the Pastor's Desk

The Unexpected

Luke 2:11-14

Have you ever heard the term, "Expect the unexpected?" That is normally in reference to someone who needs to be on guard or on the alert. This is a phrase that helps you prepare for what may be coming around the corner in the course of life. Life does throw us some curve balls, does it not? Often we are caught experiencing the unexpected in life. If it wasn't for such times life might actually be a little boring or mundane. These unexpected times of interruption can be a blessing or a curse depending upon the circumstances surrounding the unexpected event.

Well, there was an unexpected event in the lives of many people two thousand years ago that should have been expected. In particular, I want to focus on the passage in the Book of Luke in which an angel appeared before the shepherds who were watching over their flock by night. When this heavenly host presented himself he commanded them to fear not, for he had a special message for them. He then went on to say, "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The passage continued: "And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.'" (NASB)

What an unusual and unexpected event. The shepherds' lives were interrupted by a great and awesome moment in history and, not only was this event unexpected, so was the sign that was given to them. The sign was that the Christ child was going to be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. What kind of sign is that? I'll tell you what, an unexpected sign. It wasn't a sign of pomp and circumstance. It wasn't one that was filled with grandeur and gold. It wasn't in a palace surrounded by servants. Nope, it was truly unexpected. Our Savior came to us in all humility and servanthood before the Father in heaven. He came to save that which was lost and draw all men unto Himself.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Dec. 6 – No Men's Breakfast or Christian Chicks

Plan on meeting in January

Dec. 6, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. – The Campbells Christmas Concert

A joyful evening of Christmas and Southern Gospel music by a well known singing group from Downeast Maine.

Dec. 15 – Bible Study and Music Practice on recess until Jan. 12th

Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service

A worship service commemorating the birth of the Savior.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

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

Bring snacks and your favorite games as we watch the old year come to a close.

There was no question that the sign was unexpected and unusual it was also obvious. For how many babies would be found in such a circumstance. The shepherds were told were to go and, when they found the baby, the one and only baby, in a manger, then they have found the Christ child. This child would be the one who would save the world. Jesus the one and only. Truly an unexpected set of circumstances.

What kind of unexpected set of circumstances have occurred in your life recently? Have things gone the way you would have liked them? Was it unwanted or wanted? God works through all our lives and He often works through those unexpected times to bring about in glory. During this upcoming Christmas season, be prepared to expect the unexpected in your life. You never know what God might do.

Maybe the one in the corner of the grocery parking lot in need is the unexpected. Maybe God will move in your life to help him. How about the one family member that has been taunting you about your faith, maybe this Christmas season she will come to you and want to know about your faith in all seriousness. Are you ready for that? How about

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On the web at <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org>

Unexpected (from p. 1)

the need to help out your neighbor who has only shown you ill will? He might come to you and ask for your help because he knows you are a Christian. Are you expecting this and are you prepared to forgive him and help him?

God works in the unexpected and often it does bring Him glory. There are many other scenarios that might fit the same kind of unexpected work God might do in your life this year. Are you ready? Do you have your spiritual antennas up? Are you expecting the unexpected? If you are then you will be greatly blessed.

In our story today we see that the shepherds were blessed when they followed through with the disruption in their lives. If you read a little further they end up finding the Christ child and then go out and praise God for all that they had seen and heard. See, God does work through the unexpected to bless you and glorify His name.

I pray that this year you will be a part of something special. Something that will mark this year as the best year you have ever had honoring Christ in Christmas. I hope that you are part of that divine work in which God will challenge you with the unexpected and that you will follow through and that you will receive a blessing because God got the glory for your faithfulness.

May each and every one of you have a blessed Christmas. And may the glory of Christ shine forth this Christmas season.

✠ Pastor Jim

Christian Chicks

Due to the Christmas season, the ladies decided to postpone their next get together until January. Watch for an announcement toward the end of December.

Men's Breakfast

For the same reason as stated for the ladies, the men decided to put off the breakfast meeting in December. Plan on attending the next Men's Breakfast on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 3rd at 7:30 a.m.

Fellowship Events

If you are attending The Campbells Concert, please plan on bringing some finger foods for the Campbells and some snacks for the rest of us. After the concert, we always have lots of people stay for the fellowship afterward.

Campbells Christmas Concert

On Saturday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m., Hillside Baptist Church will present The Campbells, New England's First Family of Gospel Music, in their only Christmas Concert in the Manchester-Concord area.

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.

Admission is free so bring your family, bring some friends. Refreshments will be served afterward.

Property and Space Patrol

Renovation continues. The downstairs hall is completed but for some touch-up painting. Ceramic tile flooring has been installed in the new upstairs kitchen by our Master Tile Installer Roch Pouliot. The rest of the kitchen plan is in progress. We are grateful for the Oldham Little Church Foundation for their generous grant for this work. We are also thankful for the continuing donations that have been designated to allow us to continue and complete the work.

Outside, the ramp has been complete next to the lower entrance allowing wheel chair access to the downstairs.

In the parsonage, we are ready to start replacing flooring in the foyer, kitchen, downstairs restroom, and the dining area. There is dry wall work to done in the office over the garage along with some painting. Pastor will be using this space as his study.

If you have some spare time, give me a call at 219-6251.

The winter plowing/sanding has been contracted out for the season. I am very thankful to be relieved of this job.

✠ Pastor Al

Welcome New Members

At the end of the Nov. 15 Worship Service, Dennis Wasp came forward asking to become a member of Hillside. At the Nov. 22 business meeting, he was happily voted into membership. Dennis is the husband of long-time member Laurie (Carpenter) Wasp.

✠ Shannon Greenly

M.O.R.E Bible in Your Life

This is from a handout from our Adult Sunday School that I think is appropriate for all Christians to remember. The Bible is God's Word and is to be treasured, studied, and obeyed. Of course the first step is to always read or hear the word. But what is the next step?

Adults need to spend time with God in His Word and allow it to impact our lives. The four actions listed below are arranged to form an acrostic: MORE. However, the MORE we have of the Bible in our lives, the MORE we will discover the order of the activities is interchangeable.

Meditate – Think about the meaning of the verses and allow God to speak to you through them.

“I will meditate on your precepts and think about your ways” (Psalm 119:15)

“Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night” (Psalm 1:2)

Obey – Apply what God teaches you to your life. Just do it!

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping your word” (Psalm 119:9)

“... but be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves....[the one who] is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts-this person will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22,25b)

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Remember – Scripture memorization means the Word is always in your heart and it allows the Holy Spirit to help you recall biblical truths when you need them.

“I have treasured your Word in my heart so that I may not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11)

Examine – Study and analyze the Word to go deeper in understanding.

“The people here were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, since they welcomed the message with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (Acts 17:11)

Faithfully submitted,
✠ Dale Greenly

New Christian Radio Station

Peter Stohrer, President of New Hampshire Gospel Radio (NHGR), made the following announcement recently.

"After an application period of ten years, the FCC has granted New Hampshire Gospel Radio a license for a brand-new class A FM station at 1,700 watts in Meredith, New Hampshire. The new station, with call letters WANH, is located at 91.5 FM.

"WANH cost nearly \$60,000 to build and by good stewardship was paid for from savings the Lord has provided over the past decade. Now, due to the increase in operating expenses and a decrease in giving due to the current economic trend, there is a temporary financial strain on NHGR resources and the station's savings and emergency funds are about depleted. Thus, we are presently in need of support from listeners and friends who know how important it is to get the Word out through Christian radio."

Hillside Baptist Church supports WVNH. We ask that you prayerfully consider the foregoing information, knowing that the Lord would have you support your local church before considering additional charitable giving.

The Heavens Declare

Apollo Astronauts on the Moon

As we head toward Full Moon on Dec. 2nd, look up and marvel at the celestial body that the Lord has given us for a companion. Also realize that the NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) is still pursuing its mission to map the Moon in hopes of finding suitable landing sites for future human exploration. LRO's low polar orbit is currently only 30 miles above the surface. NASA expects to photograph the entire Moon at 100-meter resolution (about 100-yard resolution) and map about 10% at an astounding 0.5 meter resolution (about 20 inches!).

While LRO has been taking all these photos, NASA has released some photos of the Apollo landing sites taken with the LRO's high-resolution camera. (Take that, you conspiracy theorists.) Especially interesting is the image of the Apollo 11 landing site, showing the Lunar Lander's descent stage, the instrument packages that the astronauts set up, and irregular dark lines, which are the footprints of Neil

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in the lunar dust, footprints that extent a few hundred feet to nearby West crater.

All these details remain essentially unchanged in the 40 years since that first human landing took place, unchanged because there is no atmosphere, no wind, and no water to erode them over time. Those of us old enough to have witnessed the Apollo 11 landing on TV remember how we watched in awe and fascination as the events unfolded on the Moon.

To view and examine these images of the Apollo explorations from the comfort and convenience of your personal computer, go to the article on this web page: <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/skyblog/newsblog/70099067.html>

The article includes information about the LRO mission as well as links to photos of the Apollo 11 site and a video created from photos of the Apollo 17 landing site.

The heavens continue to declare the glory of God.

By the way, Dec. 31 is a Blue Moon, a somewhat rare time when there are two Full Moons in one month. Look at <http://www.obliquity.com/astro/bluemoon.html>.

✠ Michael Frascinella

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



12/15 Kayla Pouliot
12/16 Connor Robertson
12/21 Juliette Robertson
12/23 Barbara Yeaton (in Rochester, NH again)
12/27 Sandy Pouliot

Hillside also wishes God's blessing on the following couple who celebrates a wedding anniversary 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 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 Dec. 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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