



# HILLSIDE MONTHLY DISPATCH

Newsletter of Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

Volume 9 No. 7

Modeling the Truth of God's Word

July 2010

## BE AN IMITATOR OF CHRIST

### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Who Do You Imitate?

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

A few months ago I started a reading regime so that I would grow in areas that I felt I lacked. In this reading program I've been engaging in a full range of books from history to philosophy to spiritual growth. In the area of spiritual growth I picked up a book that I have had for a long time but never got around to reading. The book is "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas A Kempis. This book is considered one of the most sought after works in regards to spiritual growth.

Have you ever heard of the saying that "imitation is the highest form of flattery?" The idea behind that saying is that often when we find someone worthy of imitating, that person has great morally refined characteristics that are worthy of imitation. That is the overall premise of this book. In it he brings out the various facets of the Christian walk that should be steeped in the likeness of Christ. From areas of prayer to trusting God to becoming more spiritually in tune with Christ.

Now, if we are honest with ourselves, each of us could benefit from a little tutoring and growth in these areas and more. Thomas A Kempis truly implores one to be an imitator of Christ.

Who in life are you imitating? Is it your father or mother? Is it a favorite relative such as an aunt or uncle? Is it an older or younger sibling? How about a mentor or close friend? Maybe you have not had much of any of these influences in your life and so you look to a celebrity in the various areas of entertainment.

The reality is that many of us, whether we know or not, tend to imitate someone else at some level either consciously or subconsciously. We cannot help it for it is just part of the human condition in which we are molded and shaped by the outside environment that surrounds us.

I can remember a few years back the star status that many gained in public life. At one point in the 1980s, Madonna was the most influential woman in the USA and possibly the world. The way she dressed and acted defined an entire generation of girls and the way guys think of girls.

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**July 3 – No Men's Breakfast this month**

**July 4, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper**

**July 4, 6 p.m. – Independence Day Cookout**

At the parsonage. Bring a side dish and a beverage.

**July 9-14 – Florida Work Crew**

Volunteers coming to help with church projects.

**July 17, noon – Pool Party**

At the Pouliot home. Bring food to share and plan on getting wet.

**July 31, 9 a.m.-12 noon – Car Wash**

An outreach to the community.

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Unfortunately this Madonna is not the traditional model of Mary the mother of Jesus. Then a decade or so later Oprah became the most influential woman in the world and to some extent still is. Not only does her influence span far and wide, so does her immense wealth.

It is hard to pinpoint certain men who fit this profile, but certainly Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, Roosevelt (both Teddy and Franklin), and many other presidents have been influential in our society. Most recently we have had men in acting, music, and sports who seem to shape the world around us. In each case, boys and young men aspire to be like those who have impacted the society around them.

With each successive generation come men and women of influence for whom many try to imitate them for good or for bad. Again this is just part of the human makeup in which a person is just trying to find a way of defining oneself in the light of others' success. Yet with all those who have had tremendous influence throughout our history, only one truly surpasses them all and of course it is Jesus Christ. Much like many who are trying to imitate their favorite flavor of the month in entertainment, are you trying to be an imitator of Him?

In Ephesians we are told to be an imitator of God. In Ephesians 4:17-29, Paul writes an encouraging passage in

*See Pastor's Message, p. 2*

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

## Pastor's Message (from p. 1)

which he implores the church in Ephesus to walk the Christian walk. He tells them to put aside all the vices that they once lived out in their lives and to pursue the nature of Christ. As he encouraged them to put off the old self and put on the new, he gave a list of things they should leave behind. It is quite an extensive list that many should take the time to read and meditate on. Many of the socially acceptable sins are spoken against in this passage and any modern-day Christian would grow from that reading.

Then in 4:30-5:2 he writes, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." (NASB)

We see here in this passage that we are called to be imitators of God in Christ. Paul is clearly telling us to put on the likeness of God and be the imitators of our Lord by loving one another as Christ has loved us. Now there is no question that this is easier said than done, but anything worth doing is generally difficult. And just because it is hard doesn't mean we are excused from following the command.

Let me encourage you to take up your cross and follow Christ by being an imitator of Him. The world has plenty of imitators following after the latest popular person and all too often there is a line of Christians doing the same. We are commanded to put off the old self and put on the new. To forsake the world in which we live in and become imitators of Christ. So take the time to know your Savior and follow after Him, for when it is all said and done He will be the one who has the greatest name of all (Philippians 2:9) and because of that He is the most worthy to be imitated.

God bless,  
✠ Pastor Jim

## Men's Breakfast

There will not be a Men's Breakfast this month or in August. We will resume this event in September.

## Fellowship Events

### Pool Party at the Pouliot Home



Roch and Sandy have invited us to a pool party at their home on Saturday, July 17. The party starts around noon. Sandy will provide directions to all those who need them.

This will be a casual affair and people can come and go as their schedule permits. And of course be prepared to get wet. Please bring a dessert or salad plus a beverage to share. The Pouliots will provide hotdogs and hamburgers.

## Infant-Toddler Volunteers Needed

The Infant-Toddler Room is in need of volunteers to care for the little ones during the Worship Service. If you would like to help with the care of the next generation of believers, please contact Sandy Pouliot. This will be a blessing to you as well as to the children and their parents.

## Property and Space Patrol

There is always something that needs doing if you own property. At Hillside we own a church building, a parsonage, and four acres of grounds that connect it all. Mowing has been about once each week. Everything needs maintenance.

During July there will be a small group coming to help from the Holmes Baptist Association located in the panhandle of Florida. They will be in NH from July 9-17. The entire team of 70 will be housed in the Nashua area and sponsored by Nashua Baptist Church. They will spread out each day all over New Hampshire to serve the churches of the New Hampshire Baptist Association.

We hope to paint the south side of the church, paint the kitchen, move the nursery to the adjacent room, and finish and paint several other areas.

If you happen to be coming by the church during this time, stop by and say hello. They would like to meet some of our church folks.

✠ Pastor Al Page

## Welcome New Members

At the June 27th Worship Service, Kevin and Joanne Moore and Cynthia Ward answered the altar call and expressed the desire to become members of our fellowship.

Pastor Jim said that, even though we need to wait until the next business meeting to formally vote on their membership, it was a formality, and he urged us to welcome them into our congregation.

## Old Home Day

The Pembroke-Allenstown Old Home Day will take place at Memorial Field in Pembroke on Saturday, August 28. Hillside will again be there to hand out bottles of cold water and Bible tracts to hot and thirsty visitors.

Please help us spread the gospel by volunteering for a morning or afternoon time slot at our booth. More details will follow in the August newsletter.

## Family Outing to Chuckster's Mini-Golf

On June 19, we met at Chuckster's shortly after 10 a.m. for a morning round of mini-golf. Ten members (adults and kids) attended and, after a brief prayer, we divided into three groups. It was a fine sunny day with a light breeze and the course was already filling up with golfers.

Several members succeeded in dunking their golf balls in the streams and pools along the course, and several other times you could see our golf balls ricocheting off the rocks and

*See Mini-Golf, p. 3*

## Mini-Golf (from p.2)

boulders. But everyone made it through the entire course.

The ladies group finished off its 18th hole – deftly missing the water hazard in the middle of the putting green – to the “gallery applause” of the men.

After tallying up all the scores, we discovered that Sandy and Shannon tied for the lowest score of the day – 49. Roch led the men with 53 and the other guys trailed with 57, 59, and 60. Par for the course was 44, so we’ll need to go again to get some more practice.

✠ Michael Frascinella

## Sign of the Times

This sign incorporates an old church sign saying with a new high tech warning. Because of the length of the message, you just might have an accident while trying to read the entire statement.



## Is God an Oil Painter?

I was looking at our view from the hilltop this morning and the cloud formations reminded me of an oil painting. There were splotches, dabs, and strokes layered upon sweeping clouds in a unique pattern right over the misty mountains.

I wish I could show you a picture, but my friend Mr. Nikon decided to take a permanent vacation. (Sigh and pouty lip!)

Every morning for the past five years we have lived here, there has never been one sky scene during the day or a sunset at night that has been replicated. God's creativity is infinite and as much as I marvel that His mercies are new every morning, I also stand in awe that **He continually paints new sky pictures with nothing more than a word!**

But what kind of painter is He?! I would say that He is an oil painter! Using oil paints require much patience, time, and careful skill, but when the masterpiece is done, its depth and richness is unequalled by any other medium!

Every one of us is created in the image of God, and yet, imperfect because it is skewed by sin. That is much like the blurry, basic shapes that an oil painter lays down when beginning a painting.

When we become believers in Christ, He takes the sin-marred image and begins to transform us into the likeness of Christ.

Layer by layer.

Sometimes it seems like this process takes forever! After all, canvas is often a stubborn thing to work with! It seems to have a mind of its own. It buckles when the artist needs it to stand firm and can be quite uncooperative.

Canvas is easily influenced by the elements around it!

The artist must be in control and be able to subdue the imperfections and nuances of the canvas, lest it be rendered useless.

This isn't a passive process, though. The canvas must be willing to work with and accept the Artist's brushes. Each one has a different purpose.

Perhaps some of His tools look a little formidable:



But He is a Master Artist who desires unequalled richness, depth and, ultimately, perfection. Would we have it any other way?

"For our citizenship is in heaven, for which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even subject all things to Himself." Philippians 3:20-21 NASB

✠ Michelle Robertson

## The Shooting Panda

In her amusing book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, Lynne Truss bemoans the problem of poor punctuation in today's world. To illustrate, she tells the funny story of a panda who enters a café, orders a sandwich, eats it, and then pulls out a gun and starts shooting. When a waiter asks him to explain his behavior, the panda hands him a poorly punctuated wildlife guide and asks him to look up the description of a panda. It reads: "Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats, shoots, and leaves."

Having commas after the words "eats" and "shoots" are errors that change the whole meaning of the last sentence. The words "shoots" and "leaves" become actions, instead of plants to eat.

This idea of being careful with language is important in Bible study as well. Paul described this process as "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). The phrase

*See Panda, p. 4*

### Panda, (from p. 3)

translated "rightly dividing" was used of a skilled craftsman cutting something straight. In the context of Bible study, it means taking the time for diligent and careful study, while prayerfully asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance. It means teaching the truth directly and correctly. Accurately discerning and passing on God's truth must be the priority of every conscientious believer.

Dennis Fisher, Our Daily Bread, RBC Ministries

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### Birthdays and Anniversaries



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

- 7/21 Florence Omar
- 7/22 Charles Thomas
- 7/22 Robert Thomas



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

- 7/9 Leon & Ruth Bubacz

### Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray 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

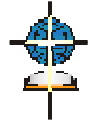
Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillsidebaptistnh.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

#### Next Issue

Deadline is July 25. 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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