

Hillcrest Encouragement

Elders

- John Barton
- Terry Brown
- Neal Coates
- Malcolm Coco
- David Copeland
- Ray Ferguson
- Duwain Houston
- Robert Marion
- Charles Perkins
- Don Pope
- C. D. Pruett
- Jack Stewart
- Phil Vardiman
- Cleddy Varner
- Gary Varner
- Jim Watts
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Eastering

Easter \ ē-stər \ n: a church feast observed on a Sunday in March or April in commemoration of Christ's resurrection.

Well... OK, I guess. To be completely honest, this definition seems a little... I don't know... bland? It's not much to get excited about the way Webster defines it. We just celebrated Easter last week so now it's over, right? The eggs have been de-candied, the colored eggs have been properly disposed, the new clothes are in the laundry, and the seasonal shelves in the grocery stores are populated with 50% off candy. I guess that's it.

What if that's not all though? What if we could resurrect Easter? (Get it?) What if "Easter" were a verb, not a noun. As long as it's a noun Easter is confined to a date on the calendar. We celebrate Easter in a myriad of manners, then move on to the next chocolate-laden holiday.

The Victorian poet, Gerard Hopkins, wrote a poem entitled "The Wreck of the Deutschland" about a tragedy that struck during his time. A German ship with several nuns aboard sunk not far off the shore of England. Several attempts were made to save the nuns by local people, but because of a terrible storm, they were unsuccessful and all the passengers (and some of the would-be rescuers) died. Hopkins was asked to commemorate and eulogize their deaths with a poem, which he did. His poem contains the following lines:

Dame, at our door
Drowned, and among our shoals,
Remember us in the roads, the heaven-haven of the reward:
Our King back, Oh, upon English souls!
Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a
Crimson-cressed east.

In these lines, Hopkins uses "easter" not as a noun, but as a verb in which he indicates that the "reward" of the faithful is that "Our King" (Jesus) would inhabit the people of England. He ends the stanza with an earnest request that Jesus would "easter," or be resurrected, in the people of England and be a light in the darkness of their mourning and like a beautiful, red-orange sunrise (Crimson-cressed east) in our lives for all to see.

Not bad. My prayer is that Easter, the noun – the date on a calendar – won't be over for us here at Hillcrest. If you have trouble, sorrow, or pain in your life, may Jesus "easter" in you. If you have difficulties ahead of you and the future looks like dimness, may Jesus be a dayspring in you. If you are surrounded by darkness and cold of people who are harsh and unkind to you, may Jesus be a Crimson-cressed sunrise in your life for all to see.

May Jesus "easter" in you for all to see... and believe!

Happy Eastering!

James McGee

Hillcrest Today

Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here! Please fill out a Welcome Visitor card and place in the collection plate. Go by our Information Area on the right side of the Worship Center for materials that will better acquaint you with Hillcrest.

For your convenience, the staffed nursery for children 2 months to 24 months is available. Check-in is in the foyer. The parents' nursery & training area is available to parents and children. Enter at the back of the Worship Center.

Bible Classes for All Ages

Baby Bunch in Nursery

Age 2..... Room 100	Gr 1Room 121
Age 3..... Room 106	Gr 2Room 117
Age 4..... Room 107	Gr 3Room 120
Pre-K..... Room 110	Gr 4Room 213
K..... Room 118	Gr 5Room 209

Young Adult Classes

Middle School Room 204
High School Room 200
University Room 17

Adult Classes

Sonrise (all ages) (8:00) Room 14
Y/O (all ages)Room 10/11
Welcome (all ages) Room 12
Families for Christ (all ages) Room 14
Common Ground (30s & 40s) Room 16
H.O.P.E. (all ages) Room 21
Travelers (all ages) Room 30
Christ in Action (all ages) Room 52
Young Professionals (20s) Room 212
F.U.N. (all ages) Room 219
Generations (all ages) Chapel

Worship Times

Morning Worship 9 a.m.
Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 p.m.

Glorifying God

April 3, 2016

Worship Leader Odies Wright
Hymn: #913 A Wonderful Savior
Welcome Chip Whitlock

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #608 He Gave Me a Song
Hymn How Can I Keep from Singing

The Lord's Supper

Hymn Beautiful Lamb
Communion Meditation Kilnam Cha
Hymn: #764 Teach Me Lord to Wait*

Offering

Prayer Kilnam Cha
Hymn: #655 Poured Out like Wine
Hymn: #660 People Need the Lord

Send the Light Offering

Hymn: #570 A Beautiful Life

Jesus' Resurrection Guarantees Our Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 Bob Hale
Prayer Dusty Rhodes
Hymn: #647 Soldiers of Christ, Arise
(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)

"Identity: Living in Light of the Resurrection"

Message Justin Hatfield
Hymn: #276 Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
Hymn: #376 He Paid a Debt

Responses

Hillcrest News Art Green
Hymn Lord, Reign In Me
Family Blessing Ray Ferguson

(*Children's Song of the Month)

Connecting Lives to Christ

Hillcrest Church of Christ
650 E Ambler Ave - Abilene, Texas 79601 - 325-691-4200 - office@hillcrestonline.com - www.hillcrestonline.com

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Justin Hatfield

P.M. – Care Group – The Young Professionals Class will be leading the service in Rm 10/11 at 6 p.m.

Care Group – Today

A church-wide picnic is planned at noon for all the care groups to meet at Will Hair Park (101 East Ambler Ave.) Plan to come and bring lawn chairs, card tables, dominoes, softball gloves, horseshoes and finger food (sandwiches, chips, cookies, etc.) to share. Plates cups, napkins, forks, lemonade and water will be provided. A devotional will follow. Enter from either Ambler or Cedar Crest. In case of rain, we will move in to the MPR.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Jaxon & Ashton Hanson, grandchildren of Bruce and Pam Massey on their baptisms on March 25.

Men's Softball – April 4

Our game is tomorrow at 7 p.m. on field 1 against Aldersgate UMC. Come out and cheer us on.

Woman to Woman – “Showers of Blessings” – Apr. 4-8

Don't forget to show up for your spot in your hostess' home for lunch/dinner on the designated date this week. All we lack now is you! We're excited and hope you are.

A Hillcrest Singing – April 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This will be a time for learning a few new songs and reviewing songs learned in the past. Babysitting is provided. Bring a snack to share. Stay for games and conversation afterwards. RSVP to your email invitation or call the office to let us know you are coming.

Labor for Your Neighbor – April 17 - Help us connect to our community. Call or email the office to refer a neighbor (or yourself) who is in need of house or yard work.

Men's Life Breakfast – Saturday April 23

Mark your calendar for the next MLB on Saturday, April 23 at 8 a.m. Jay Sanders will be sharing, “Are you willing to die for a prayerful relationship with God? The story of Daniel.”

HEB Church Wide Retreat – Grace Wins! April 29 – May 1

We are near capacity as of 3/24/16, but we often have people drop out. We will place you on a wait list, so please go ahead and sign up. Sign up online at hillcrestonline.com/heb.

Children's Items Needed

The Children's Ministry welcomes any of the following donated items for this summer's programs: swimming pool noodles, toilet paper rolls, 2-liter plastic bottles (empty, clean, with lid). Bins for drop off are in the hall that leads to the Chapel.

Prayer Room – The search committee is very grateful for all the prayers being offered on our behalf and on behalf of our congregation. It is so exciting to see how God is working to bring His choice as we try to listen and be discerning. We know there are many ways one can pray and God hears all types of prayers in all different surroundings. In one of our recent meetings, an elder stated that he had chosen to go to our prayer room. He spent about an hour in prayer and formed some of his thoughts in one of the prayer journals that is provided. His reaction was, "We are going to do this!!" Many of us are trying to do life and are struggling to fit so many things into our schedules. We want to encourage you to take a few minutes out of your day and come and just sit. Sit and be still. Listen to His voice and learn to shut out the world for a brief moment. One friend wrote her prayer out and then copied it into the journal when she came. Many ladies have dedicated time to pray in the living room after class on Tuesdays. Our hope is to share these precious journals of offerings to the minister whom God chooses. Can you imagine how he would feel as he reads your prayers poured out to our Father? He may use them in times of discouragement or in times of thanksgiving. This is just a reminder that the room is open during office hours and anytime on Sunday and on Wednesday nights. Again, however you do it, keep on praying, keep on doing what you do best....serving and loving people and showing Christ to the lost.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Today - Send the Light Collection

This year there are 42 Hillcrest members involved in mission efforts in 16 countries. The Missions Team has set a goal of \$64,175 to help with half of the airfare for these campaigners.

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 752	Rm 10/11..... 53
Classes..... 653	Bible Hour..... 29
Membership..... 900	Wed..... 336
Mar. Offering..... \$99,374	

Calendar of Events

April 3 Send the Light Sunday
 April 3 Care Group/Church-wide Picnic
 April 4-8 Woman to Woman/Home Dinners
 April 15 (New Date) A Hillcrest Singing
 April 17 Labor for Your Neighbor
 April 20 Cajun Fest LAFF
 April 23 Men's Life Breakfast
 April 29-May 1 Family Retreat at HEB Camp

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1)

Training and Learning for Children: (Ages 2-4)

Parents may escort their child to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

Bible Bowl Practice – Meets today. All of Ruth Review. Next Bible Bowl competition: Andrews, Texas April 23.

Bible Hour – No Bible Hour tonight. Enjoy your care group.

VBS: June 19-22, Ages 4 through 5th grade. Theme: SCAR FORCE. To register online at Hillcrest's website, go to “Events” or to the Children's Ministry drop down section to find the form.

VIP Camp: July 17-20, Children who have completed 1st grade through 5th grade. Theme: Walk This Way. Registration will soon begin.

HYG – Youth

Today – Church Picnic at noon. Mumena Meeting at noon in the youth room for all campaigners and parents. No Huddles tonight.

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – Class

Thursday – Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m.

TNT! Thursday Night Together

Middle School: 6:00-7:30 p.m. High School: 7:45-9:15 p.m.

Friday – Meet at Hillcrest covered entrance at 6 p.m. to leave for HS Retreat. We will return by 12 on Sunday.

Middle Sch. Retreat - April 22-23, Sign up online ASAP! \$35

Seniors – Turn in pictures for Senior Sunday.

Hillcrest - U

Today

There will be no LIFE groups tonight. We want to encourage you to join the rest of the Hillcrest family at Will Hair park for the church wide picnic.

Wednesday: Come Share YOUR Story at 7 p.m.

Thursday: Small group chapel, 11 a.m. at Jacob's Dream

Thursday: REACH at 4 - 5:30 p.m., Canterbury Crossing Apts.

Mark Your Calendar

April 24 – Sponsor Appreciation Dinner

May 1 – Graduate Celebration

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – The “Neighboring” series continues today with a lesson on how Jesus modeled being a good neighbor.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – April 5 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – “Acceptance”: (Phil. 4:11) Teacher, Pat Varner. Rm 10 – “Life by the Spirit”: (Gal. 5:16-26) Teacher, Cris Grounds.

Wednesday Night Classes

- **Rm 10/11** – Steve Wages begins a month-long series entitled “*Sex in the Garden of Eden: Giving Spiritual Meaning to Human Sexuality.*” The class examines God's design for human sexuality as cast in holiness including how sexuality becomes a place of spiritual warfare. Steve says that “churches have historically been woefully silent on the subject of human sexuality to the point of neglect and when they have decided to speak up have often presented a negative message which fails to honor God's design.” This class seeks to provide a clear understanding of God's intent for human intimacy to be spiritually meaningful while recognizing how Satan seeks to spoil the good gift of the garden.
- **Rm 12** – Hillcrest 101: For new members or anyone interested in becoming a member of Hillcrest.
- **Rm 30 – ESL Class:** Meets every week
- **Rm 16 – Congregational Singing:** Join Odies Wright for a time of Worship in song!
- **Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class:** “*Living Stones*” by Casandra Martin. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

Wednesdays – Rm 14/15 – 7 p.m.

Relationship 101 – Begins April 6th, 7 p.m. (8-week series)

With Jack and Susan Hardcastle. Want to take your relationship to the next level? Whether you are seriously dating, engaged, or feel like you have been married forever, this class will help you understand each other in ways you never thought possible. There is no charge for the class, and it does qualify for the marriage license discount as well. You must preregister online or call 325-691-4200.



www.hillcrestonline.com/members/search