

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
- Odies Wright

Chairman of the Elders

Ray Ferguson
Ray.Ferguson@condley.com

Ministers

Nathan Burrow, *Preacher*
nathan@hillcrestonline.com

Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*
aclute@hillcrestonline.com
691-4217

Cynthia Coates, *Children*
cynthia@hillcrestonline.com

Jack Hardcastle, *Family*
familyman@hillcrestonline.com

Justin Hatfield, *University*
justinhat@gmail.com

Lance Parrish, *Youth*
lance@hillcrestonline.com

A Renewed Call for an Old Command

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:43-45a

I lived in Waco in 2015 when a mass shooting took place just one mile from the church where I ministered. The shootout was between rival biker gangs in which nine people were killed. It happened on a Sunday. Heather and I had just finished eating a quick lunch at a nearby restaurant when a policeman came speeding through the parking lot of the shopping center. It was not till later that day when news had spread that we realized what had happened. Waco is a nice Texas community a lot like Abilene. It is highly educated with good schools and Universities. There are many good churches and kind people. As we go about our daily lives it is easy to forget that there is a real battle going on. It is hard to see because it is happening below the surface. When acts of violence and hatred result in loss of life and murder, we know something is wrong. They are reminders of the reality of sin and evil in our world.

Last weekend, Charlottesville was the latest example of the destruction that hatred breeds. Racism and prejudice are wreaking havoc in our country. What is the appropriate response for a Christian? Jesus calls us to respond with radical love and prayer. We need to remember that we are in a spiritual battle everyday. Our behaviors, attitudes, and language need to be daily renewed in the love of Christ. Jesus told his disciples that love is to be the ultimate identity marker of the church (John 13:34-35). It is easy to love those who think, look, and act like we do. What makes our love unique is that we offer it to everyone the same. God's kindness is offered to everyone impartially. The love of Christ reaches beyond all lines that our culture places on us.

One of the keys to keeping this command of Jesus is empathy. Be willing to look at things from someone else's perspective. This takes practice and self-examination. We must admit our own faults and biases in order to see and understand others. Make this a part of your daily prayer life. Ask God to help open your eyes. Pray that you be aware of your own struggles towards others. Where there is sin in your heart, repent so that your life may be in step with the Spirit. Finally, pray regularly for those around you who are difficult and who have hurt you. It is often through our devotion to prayer for others that God transforms us.

Nathan Burrow

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

Nursery 2-24 mo.
Age 2 Room 100 Gr 1 Room 121
Age 3 Room 106 Gr 2 Room 117
Age 4 Room 107 Gr 3 Room 120
Pre-K Room 110 Gr 4 Room 213
K Room 118 Gr 5 Room 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
Soulful Filling (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

August 20, 2017

Worship Leader Odies Wright
Hymn Reign In Me
Welcome Justin Hatfield
Hymn New Doxology

Hope and a Future

Jeremiah 29:11-13 James Wellborn
Acts 9:1-5 Kevin Wellborn
Prayer Keith Bronson

Songs of Praise

Hymn One Thing Remains
Hymn The River Is Here
Hymn: #538 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn Communion Prayer
Communion Meditation Johnny Roberts
Hymn: #64 I Worship You, Almighty God

Offering

Prayer Johnny Roberts
Hymn: #467 We Have an Anchor

Children's Bible Bag

Hymn Firm Foundation
(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)

"Hope for the Hater"

Message Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #180 Jesus Is Lord

Responses

Family News Tillman Houston
Hymn Salvation Belongs to Our God
Elder Blessing Duwain Houston

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow
P.M. - Coy Roper in the chapel.

Sympathy

Sympathy to Shirley Scribner on the loss of her grandson, Curtis Whitt. Also Shannon Conley's nephew.

New Members

Welcome to new members Bobby & Angela McGlothlin, Avery & Bryce.

Reception - Today

Join us in the MPR this morning following Bible class to welcome our new Youth Minister, Lance Parrish, his wife Taylor, and daughters, Avery and Emberly.

Hillcrest Singers

Come and join the chorus as we prepare a selection of the Story of our Faith: songs, hymns, and spirituals that tell of the mystery of the gospel. We will present our program at Senior Living Centers throughout late September and October. Then, join us in November as we prepare for our Christmas program in December. We meet Wednesday nights in the Chapel at 7:p.m. Contact Greg Straughn (gregory.straughn@acu.edu) for more info.

Prayer for Beginning of School - August 28, 8:45 a.m.

Join us for a prayer time in the chapel for all of the students and teachers for the school year. Write the name of students, teachers and administrators that you would like to pray for on an encouragement card and place it in the collection plate.

Men's Softball

The season will start Mon., Sept. 11. Games will be at 7, 8 or 9 p.m. on Monday nights. The first practice will be Mon., Aug. 28, from 8 to 10 p.m. The cost will be \$25. Contact Alan Clute if you are interested in playing.

LAFF (church-wide meal) - August 30, 5:30 p.m., MPR

The menu is parmesan crusted chicken, rice, green beans, salad bar, rolls, and banana pudding. Sign up in Bible class to help cook, serve or clean up the kitchen and MPR afterwards.

Bakers for Bread for the Journey

Are you willing to bake small loaves of breads once a month to bless our guests? Sign up at the side of the worship center. We will begin handing out bread next Sunday.

Hillcrest 101 & New Member Lunch - Sun., Sept. 17

If you are a new member or considering making Hillcrest your church family, you are invited to attend the Hillcrest 101 class. This class begins Sun., Sept. 17, at 10:30 a.m. in the MPR. The first morning we will have a New Member Lunch following class. RSVP to Kay in the office 691-4200.

Babysitters Needed for Ladies Bible Class

We are looking for a head sitter and two assistants to take care of children on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting Aug. 29 to May 1 (excluding weeks that school is out for vacations). These are paid positions. Please contact Linda Huff at 575-390-8818.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Send the Light Mission Trips

Phil and Paula Sullivan have just returned after working with refugees at the Omonia Church of Christ in Athens, Greece. They taught the Bible with Let's Start Talking.

Brian Davis helped lead the 2017 Leadership Conference on Evangelism of the Congregations of Southern Congo, in the city of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in August. His report is attached to the Missions bulletin board. Churches in the DRC began from limited contact with Christians from South Africa who worked in the mines of DRC and carried out Bible studies after work. The church in Geneva, Switzerland, continued follow-up with French World Bible School. Today their contact with the Brotherhood outside of DRC is very limited due to political instability. As a result of a Community Study also held during the conference, three local pastors were baptized.

Caleb and Vanessa Callari, along with Terry Brown and Brian Davis, are making a site visit Sept. 2-9 to Cebu City, Philippines, where the Callaris will begin their ministry in January, 2018.

Send the Light reports will be presented on Wednesday nights during September in Rms. 10-11. On Sept. 6, reports will be heard from the Mumena Mission Campaign in Zambia and the Let's Start Talking campaign for refugees in Athens, Greece.

Calendar of Events

Today..... Reception for Lance & Taylor Parrish
August 26 ESL Tea
August 28 Prayer Time for First Day of School
August 28 ACU & AISD First Day of School
August 29 Ladies Bible Class Begins
August 30 Divorce Care Class Begins
August 30 ESL Begins
August 30 Loaves and Fishes Fellowship (LAFF)
September 4 Labor Day/Office Closed
September 5 Hilltoppers Luncheon
September 10 Bible Class Fellowship

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #3)

Training & Learning for Children (Children's Church ages 2-4) Parents may escort their child to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

Promotion Sunday - Today - Children going into kindergarten through 5th grade will go to their new classrooms for this coming school year. Children who are four or who will be turning four this fall will go to the Pre-K classroom.

HYG - Youth

Today - Starting today the youth ministry will be studying Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. This will be a six-week study aimed at helping us be better followers of Jesus. Bring your Bibles!

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - This Wednesday, join us in the HS Youth room for a fun game and devotional! Bring a friend and we'll see you there!

Parent Meeting - August 27 - All youth ministry parents are invited to save the date for a two-part parent meeting. The first will be Sunday August 27th and the follow up meeting will be Sunday September 24th. The meetings will take place at Hillcrest in Room 10/11. More details to come this week via email.

Save the Date

Sept. 3, Huddles Kick off Party
Sept. 10, First Huddles Meeting
Sept. 24, Parent Meeting Follow-Up

HillcrestU

Tonight - 7:30 p.m.

Movie night at the Hatfield house, 2434 Independence Blvd. Bring snacks to share.

Tuesday - ACU Move in Day - Come help freshmen move in and invite them to HillcrestU.

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Wildcat Week Block Party - Help me set up and man an information booth at this meet and greet event in downtown Abilene. We will have the opportunity to meet a lot of freshmen.

Thursday - HSU Church Fair - 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

We will have a table on HSU's campus near the pond outside of Moody Center. Come help me meet some HSU freshmen and pass out drinks and desserts!

Adult Education Corner

New Sunday Morning Adult Classes begin Sept. 3

During the fall semester, all Adult Sunday morning classes will be studying materials related to the theme of Connecting to our Community through hospitality. The semester begins with a study of the "transformed life" as described in Romans 12, followed by a series on Ruth. The second half of the semester focuses on how Jesus showed hospitality and welcome to marginalized groups in his culture and an examination of how we can live out Jesus' example today in our own community.

Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 - Various men will be presenting individual lessons during the month of August.
- Rm 16 - Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 30 - ESL Class - Will resume August 30.
- Rm 51 - Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 - Divorce Care will resume August 30.
- Rm 219 - Women's Bible Class: Various speakers through the summer. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

New Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15

You Make Me Crazy!

We all have relationships that drive us crazy, especially within our families. This series will help bring sanity to your relationships so you can do more than just co-exist with boy/girl friends, spouses, kids, siblings, co-workers, and even those crazy relatives you see once a year. Don't miss this chance to learn better ways to handle the crazy people in your life!

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 698	Chapel 68
Bible Class..... 659	
Membership 892	Wed 301
July Offering \$113,801	