

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

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Ministers

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Yellowstone's New Forest

My family and I recently returned from a vacation in Yellowstone National Park. It was beautiful and I learned a great deal while there. In the midst of the great beauty of nature, we saw the effect of several forest fires. At first, the burned trees seemed to be a devastating contrast to the overwhelming beauty elsewhere in the park. As we drove the winding roads throughout the forest we would occasionally come upon an expanse of these burned trees as they stood, leafless, as silent sentinels for a lost forest. But as a park ranger explained, we came to understand the fire as the harbinger of new life rather than merely as destroyer of the same.

We were astonished to learn that this fire was truly needed for the forest to survive. It seems that the type of pine tree found in Yellowstone has a cone that is sealed with a kind of natural glue. This glue keeps the seed inside the cone, preventing it from germinating into a young tree. The only way for this seed to escape its piney prison and become a tree is for fire to melt away the glue. The seed is then surrounded by the rich nutrients of burned trees that once stood there and it begins to grow. Sure enough, as we drove around the park we began to notice that everywhere we saw the burned remnants of trees there were innumerable young trees growing around them: new life springing forth from the old as a direct result of fire. I was fascinated.

We are kind of like the pines of Yellowstone in two ways. I thought about how there have been times in my life when I experienced "fire" in the form of tragedy or suffering that turned out to be a time of great growth for me spiritually or otherwise. More importantly, I considered how Jesus is the seed that had to endure the crucifixion and the fire of separation from the Father. I thought about how what appeared to be a defeat was actually God's plan for my salvation. John reminds us of Jesus' words that expressed this very thought in chapter 12, verse 24:

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Clearly, Jesus was referring to himself and his death resulting in our life as he spoke these words. I couldn't help but wonder as I looked at the innumerable new trees at Yellowstone, if Jesus planned this unusual pine tree at the beginning of creation as a reminder to us of his sacrifice for us. Further, we can see that just as Jesus laid down his life for us, so also we should be ready to live sacrificially for others as we strive to imitate him.

Over the next few days the portions of the forest that had been burned began to take on a new beauty to me. Not just because it resulted in new growth, although that was a part of it, but the burned trees themselves. It was a different kind of beauty to be sure, but they were truly beautiful. God really does take our pain and suffering and make life and beauty of it. What a great God we serve!

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 2Room 100	Gr 1.....Room 121
Age 3Room 106	Gr 2.....Room 117
Age 4Room 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
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 219
Young Professionals (20s)	Room 16
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

July 17, 2016

Worship Leader.....Josh Snead
Hymn: #96..... I Stand In Awe of You
Welcome..... Dave Copeland

God's Timing

Hymn: #227..... On Zions Glorious Summit
Ecclesiastes 7:8-10, Isaiah 46:3-4 James Hunter
Romans 8:26-29 James Hunter
Prayer..... Charles Anderson

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #108..... The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #683..... I Am Mine No More
Communion Meditation Andy Little

Offering

Prayer..... Andy Little
Hymn: #683..... I Am Mine No More
Hymn..... He Is Faithful
(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)

"Macedonian Maturity: He's Still Workin' on Me!"

Message..... Phil Ware
Hymn..... Light the Fire

Responses

Hillcrest News Chris Pettijohn
Hymn: #710..... The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Family Blessing..... C.D. Pruett

Today's Speakers

A.M. – Phil Ware
P.M. – Coy Roper

Location Change for Tonight Only

The Sunday evening group will meet in the auditorium due to VIP Camp.

Shepherds & Sheep Prayer Time

The elders are prayerfully considering ways to improve shepherding the congregation. In that effort, they are opening the first Wednesday night meeting of each month for the specific purpose of praying with members. This will begin August 3. If you would like to meet and pray personally or privately with elders, please communicate with your Bible class elder, and plan to be at the elders meeting on August 3 at 8:15 p.m. The elders meet in room 30.

Job Opportunity

One head nursery attendant and one nursery helper needed for Ladies Class on Tuesday mornings beginning August 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These are paid positions. Please call the church office or e-mail tbgbtb@yahoo.com. Gail Brown

Lost & Found

If you have lost a hearing aid, please contact the office at 691-4200.

Calendar of Events

July 17-20 VIP Camp
July 24-30 HYG Pine Springs Camp
July 31 Faith at Home Weekend
August 3 Watermelon Feast
August 14 Care Group
August 14 HYG Big Event
September 5 Labor Day
September 11 Care Group
September 18-21 ACU Summit

Missions and Faith Sharing

Missions Update

Phil and Elaine Palmer are in East Africa through end of July. Please pray for their work and travel in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in their work with WBS leaders and students.

Send the Light Update

Zambia Medical Mission

The team from Hillcrest are on-site July 7-24. They are Neal & Timothy Coates, Ray Ferguson, Ellie Hamby, Jan Miller, Cindy Robinson, Jill Whitlock, and Odies and Kathie Wright. Check for updates on Facebook at "2016 Zambia Medical Mission."

Mumena Mission Campaign

This group returned July 11. The conference was attended by 150 youth, and they baptized 28 people. Every campaigner was blessed by the experience, and the Mumena church leadership looks forward to their return next year.

Report from Send the Light Recipient

Hillcrest,

I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generosity you showed me in the past Send the Light contribution. Renaissance Church of Christ in Sofia, Bulgaria, is strong and is continuing to grow and mature day by day. Please continue to pray for the members of the church and for all of the people of Bulgaria. I pray that you all never lose your generous and giving spirits. God bless you all!

-Allison Robinett

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly 571	Rm 10/11 Care Group
Classes 526	
Membership 845	Wednesday 325
June Offering \$88,204	

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #3)

Training and 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.

Bible Hour – VIP Camp Begins tonight, so there will be no Bible Hour.

Wednesday - Classes for nursery through kindergarten will meet. 1st through 5th grades will be in the MPR for the end of VIP Camp.

HYG – Youth

Today

VIP Camp begins today. Counselors please set up your rooms as soon as you can after class this morning!

Wednesday – 7 p.m.

No class due to VIP Camp

Thursday - Six Flags trip, be at the church at 7 a.m., we will return to Hillcrest at 9 p.m.

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Tonight – 7 p.m. – VIP Camp begins tonight! We will not have a movie night this week.

Wednesday – 7 p.m. - There will be no class on Wednesday due to VIP camp final program.



www.hillcrestonline.com/members/search

Prayer Room for the Preacher Search – Living Room

Open during office hours and anytime on Sunday and on Wednesday nights.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – Remember that all adult classes are studying subjects of their own choosing during the summer months. Ask your class chair for more information concerning topics and teachers.

Wednesday Night Classes

- **Rm 10/11** – Ben Zickefoose will be teaching.
- **Rm 30 – ESL Class:** No class until August 24.
- **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

Wednesday Class - Rm 14/15 - 7 p.m.

"When Helping Hurts - Empowering The Impoverished"

The challenge of helping the poor families of our community takes a certain type of care and compassion and looking within ourselves at our own brokenness. This class will reveal a new paradigm in helping the poor, based on a biblical framework on the root causes of poverty. If you'd like to be involved in a local mission effort that changes lives, then this class is for you!

Faith at Home Weekend - Sunday, July 31

Worship Speaker - Jack Hardcastle

Combined Bible Class - Mark Hewitt, Love and Care Ministries

Who are the Poor Among Us? What can we do as families to alleviate poverty? Special interview with Mark Hewitt, Love and Care Ministries, during Bible Class time for those interested in knowing the status of poverty in our community. Mark has been working in the homeless community for over twenty years here in Abilene.