

# 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  
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## Ministers

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## The Righteous: Reproached and Rewarded

The *Wisdom of Solomon* was authored anonymously in perhaps the first century before the birth of Jesus. The unknown author describes the viewpoint of an unbeliever.

They did not reason rightly and said among themselves:

“Short and sorrowful is our life.... We came into being by chance, and hereafter we shall be as though we had never existed.... Come then, let us enjoy the good things while we can.... Let us take our fill of costly wines and perfumes.”

The conduct toward others is similarly self-centered:

“Let us oppress the righteous poor man; let us show no mercy to the widow nor have any regard for the gray hairs of the aged. For us let might be right.” This unbeliever reproaches the godly person: “Let us set a trap for the righteous person, because he is inconvenient to us, and he opposes our actions and rebukes us for sins against the law.... He professes to know God and calls himself a ‘child of the Lord.’ He is a reproof to us..., because his life is unlike that of others.... Let us test him with insult and torture that we may find out how gentle he is and make trial of his forbearance.” (*Wisdom of Solomon 2:1-19*)

This sounds very contemporary with the pleasure-seeking and especially with the attitude toward those who try to live by God’s law. We live in a time when the assumptions of society are not those of Bible believers. In particular, believers are considered out-of-date, strange, and at best inconvenient to the majority of persons.

The response of the author of *Wisdom of Solomon* is appropriate for Christians.

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hope for the wages of holiness.... For God created humans for incorruption and made them in the image of his own nature.... The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.... But the ungodly will be punished as their reasoning deserves, those who disregarded the righteous and rebelled against the Lord. (*Wisdom of Solomon 2:21-3:1, 10*)

Let us not be intimidated by unbelievers or be discouraged by the cultural forces that oppose God’s ways. Most of history has seen the same circumstances, and we must consider the end: immortality or eternal punishment.

Everett Ferguson

# 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 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
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 31, 2016

Worship Leader..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #2..... We Praise Thee, O God  
Welcome..... Charles Perkins

### Be Generous with the Hungry

Isaiah 58:10-12 (The Message) ..... Andrew Clute  
Luke 12:22-24 ..... Jacob Clute  
Prayer..... Alan Clute

### Songs of Praise

Hymn: #718..... We Shall Assemble  
Hymn..... Here I Am to Worship  
Hymn..... That’s Why We Praise Him

### The Lord’s Supper

Hymn: #364..... Come, Share the Lord  
Communion Meditation ..... Wayne Williams  
Hymn: #176..... Lamb of God

### Offering

Prayer..... Wayne Williams  
Hymn: #51..... Father of Mercies\*  
Hymn: #694..... Servant Song  
*(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)*

### “Poor Choices in Church”

Message ..... Jack Hardcastle  
Hymn: #704..... Bind Us Together

### Responses

Hillcrest News ..... Lynn Luttrell  
Hymn..... There’s a Stirring  
Family Blessing..... C.D. Pruett

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. – Jack Hardcastle  
P.M. – Kevin Batten

## Faith at Home Weekend - Today

**Worship Speaker - Jack Hardcastle**

**Optional Combined Bible Class - A Representative from Love and Care Ministries - Who are the Poor Among Us?** What can we do as families to alleviate poverty? Special interview with a representative from Love and Care Ministries, during Bible Class time for those interested in knowing the status of poverty in our community. This ministry has been working in the homeless community for over twenty years here in Abilene.

## Baptism

Congratulations to Carlotta Castillo, sister-in-law of Elida Hernandez, on her baptism.

## New Member/Updated Old Member Pictures

Think your appearance hasn't changed much since the last directory pictures were taken in 2011? Take a look at Hillcrest Connect [www.hillcrest.ccbchurch.com](http://www.hillcrest.ccbchurch.com). Do you have more children or have they grown more than 8 inches? Are you pictured at all? Time for a new picture! Alan will be taking pictures at the side of the worship center today after worship.

## Sunday Evening Prayer Hour

Prayer warriors, come join us for Hillcrest Sunday Evening Hour of Prayer every Sunday night at 6 p.m. This week's prayer focus will again be the preacher search and also Hillcrest's response to Jack Hardcastle's sermon "Poor Choices in Church" and the class interview with Love and Care Ministries. We meet in the Living Room. If you have questions see Robert Cole.

## Watermelon Feast - This Wednesday night

Come to the grassy area by the children's wing after Bible class this Wednesday night and enjoy some watermelon and fellowship.

## Prayer Time with Elders

The elders are prayerfully considering ways to build and strengthen relationships with the congregation. In that effort, we are dedicating the first Wednesday night meeting of each month for the specific purpose of praying with and for members. This will begin August 3. If you would like to meet and pray personally or privately with elders, it will help us schedule our evening if you communicate in advance with your Bible class elder. We also understand that not everything can be scheduled in advance. So, please know you are welcome to join us whether or not you have mentioned it to anyone in advance. We meet at 8:15 p.m. in room 21.

We want to celebrate with you in your victories and share in your challenges. We have found that nothing draws us closer to one another than prayer. So, please come.

Malcolm Coco on behalf of the elders

## Missions and Faith Sharing

### Send the Light Update

The nine Hillcrest members participating in ZMM have returned this week. In the various medical missions held over several days during July 7-24, the team of almost 200 Americans and Zambians saw 13,606 patients and witnessed 161 baptisms. Zambian evangelists will now work with those new Christians. Over 300 congregations have been planted since 1995 through the influence of Zambia Medical Mission.

Terry Brown will be teaching during August at the South Pacific Bible College in Tauranga, New Zealand.

### Prison Ministry

There were 80 baptisms at the Middleton Unit in the month of June, bringing the total for the year to 459.

## Calendar of Events

August 3..... Watermelon Feast  
August 3..... Prayer time w/Elders  
August 14..... Care Group  
August 14..... HYG Big Event  
August 22..... Prayer for Beginning of School  
August 23..... Ladies Bible Class Begins  
August 30..... Hilltoppers Luncheon  
September 5 ..... Labor Day, Office Closed  
September 18-21.....ACU Summit

## For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 493	
Classes ..... 504	Rm 10/11 ..... 93
Membership ..... 849	
June Offering ..... \$88,204	<b>Wednesday</b> ..... 262

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

**Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #4)**

**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** – Bible Hour meets tonight from 6-7 p.m. Infants up to age 3 meet in the nursery. Children ages 4-5th grade will begin in the MPR.

**Promotion Sunday** - Promotion Sunday is August 21. Children going into kindergarten through fifth grade will promote to their new classes.

## HYG – Youth

### Today

Series wrap-ups

### Wednesday – 7 p.m.

Intern going-away party. Come join HYG as we thank Hannah, Nathan, and Bradley for everything they have done this summer. Feel free to bring a gift and a few dollars for the intern money tree. See you there!

HYG has had an amazing Summer! Thank you to everyone who has helped make it possible. We look forward to continued growth as the Summer ends and a new school year begins.

## Hillcrest - U

**Tonight** – There will be no movie night tonight.

**Wednesday Class** – 7 p.m. - Basic: Communion

### Mark your calendars!

- August 17th - Wildcat Week Block Party at 6 p.m. This is our opportunity to meet incoming freshman at ACU! Make plans to come join us at our table to welcome and serve! We will begin set up at 5:30 p.m. More details to come.
- August 21st - 6 p.m. - Welcome Back Event at Action Zone!
- August 28th - LIFE Group kick-off in the MPR

## 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** – Dr. Royce Money will begin a three-week series on "Interpreting the Bible in our Times."
- **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.
- **Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class begins again on August 23.**

## 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.



[www.hillcrestonline.com/members/search](http://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.