

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
- Odies Wright

Chairman of the Elders

Jim Watts
wattsabilene@gmail.com

Ministers

Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*
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Cynthia Coates, *Children's*
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Taylor Cockrell, *Youth*
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Brian Davis, *Missionary*
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Jack Hardcastle, *Family*
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Justin Hatfield, *University*
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Cracker Barrel Cash Snowballs

What is the nicest thing a stranger has done for you? For me, I can recall people holding doors open, allowing me to merge onto a congested freeway, and once someone even paid for my drive thru meal anonymously. Were those acts of kindness enough to make an impact? Sadly, I would have to answer this on a day-to-day basis. I try to look for ways to bless other people on a daily basis, but I also plead the "If-Then" response....(if I have extra time to spare, then I will let someone cut in front of me.....if I have extra money in my wallet, then I will consider paying for a stranger's meal). Thank goodness Jesus didn't use the "if-then" stipulation when he chose to hang on the cross for me!

Two years ago, a story surfaced about an 8-year-old boy, who was walking into a Cracker Barrel with his family, when he found an abandoned \$20 bill in the Ohio parking lot. After thinking about buying a video game with his newly pocketed cash, Myles Eckert decided he would give the money away instead to an airman eating with his family because the soldier reminded him of his dad.

In re-telling the story to CBS news, Myles lost his own military father when he was just 4 weeks old to a roadside bomb in Iraq. Although he doesn't have any memories of his father except some pictures, dog tags, and his wedding ring, Myles tells the reporter that he imagines him as a nice person and someone who is really fun. Once the boy decided to give the money away, he took a sticky note and wrote the following message.

*Dear Soldier-
My dad was a soldier. He is in heaven now. I found this \$20 in the parking lot when we got here. We like to "Pay it Forward" in my family. It's your lucky day. Thank you for your service.
Signed Myles Eckert, a gold star kid.*

On his way out of the restaurant, he handed the money wrapped in the note to Lt. Col. Frank Dailey, who just happened to be eating lunch at just the right time to be the recipient of this random act of kindness. The lucky airman says he reads the green sticky note everyday. The kid gave something more valuable than \$20...but in his words, "a lifetime direction." In fact, the boy's gift sparked a \$1 million grant to benefit children of fallen soldiers killed in active duty through a non-profit organization called Snowball Express.

Myles asked his mom to go one more place after lunch, the cemetery, so he could visit his dad. The picture on the Internet shows one set of footprints in the snow leading to a headstone with a young child hugging the granite. The small act of kindness from this little boy was inspired by his imagination/faith that his dad was a nice person. From what we know about our Father and when we picture Him on the cross, what does He inspire us to do to bring kindness to others? How do we live out our love for God and honor others above ourself?

Expect nothing in return and your reward will be great. Lk 6:35 second half of verse.
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/boy-20-gift-soldier-sparks-1m-fund-article-1.1743580>

By Deonna Shake

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

December 6, 2015

Worship LeaderOdies Wright
Hymn Awesome God
Welcome Gary Varner

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #508A Wonderful Savior
Hymn You Are Holy
HymnMagnificat

Jesus Is the Center of Everything

Isaiah 9:6-7 Kevin Wellborn
2 Cor. 3:7-18, Hebrews 1:1-3 James Wellborn
Prayer Keith Bronson
Hymn Holy Spirt, Dwell In Me

The Lord's Supper

HymnCommunion Prayer
Communion MeditationGreg Straughn
Hymn: #382 Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?

Offering

PrayerGreg Straughn
Hymn: #287 There Is a Redeemer

Welcoming Jesus: "Jesus is the Center"

Message Phil Ware
Hymn Come to Jesus

Responses

Hillcrest News..... Yancey House
Hymn Salvation Belongs to Our God
Family Blessing Charles Perkins

(*Children's Song of the Month)

The Hillcrest family is led by the Holy Spirit to glorify God, proclaim the truth of Christ which transforms lives, and encourage one another toward faithful service and maturity.

Hillcrest Church of Christ
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Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Phil Ware
P.M. – John Fewkes

New Babies

- Congratulations to Jerred & Chaney Allread on the birth of a son, Kipton Steven Allred, on Nov. 29. Sister and brother are Payton & Easton. Grandparents are Gary & Cindy Mims.
- Congratulations to Cindy Robinson on the birth this year of a granddaughter, Hannah Wiggins. Parents are Charles & Joy Wiggins. Also a grandson, Henry Wiggins. Parents are Walter & Amy Wiggins.

Sympathy

- Sympathy to Cleddy & Pat Varner on the loss of Cleddy's sister, Faye Norman.
- Sympathy to Steve Powers on the loss of his former father-in-law, Bill McCreary.

Ladies Salad Luncheon – Tue., Dec. 8

There will be a Salad Luncheon following Ladies Bible classes at the home of Donna Wilson. (1949 Benz Dr.)

Comfort & Hope Sacks – Fri., Dec. 11

Please consider helping us prepare sacks of goodies for our families who have lost loved ones this year. Needs are:

- Homemade baked goods; small loaves of bread (banana, apricot, etc.), cookies & candies
- Please deliver to the church building Wednesday night, Thursday, or by 9 a.m. Friday.
- If you can help assemble sacks, come to the kitchen on Friday, December 11, at 10 a.m.
- Sacks will be ready for delivery by 12 p.m. They should be delivered on Friday, no later than Saturday to ensure freshness.
- The greatest need each year has been having enough help in deliveries; this year we have approximately 70 sacks.

For the past 11 years, this church family has shown comfort to our grieving families by providing this tangible expression of love. Thank you so much!

Breakfast with Santa – Sat., Dec. 12, 9-11 a.m.

Hillcrest will be hosting this community event in the MPR. Kids will be able to come in their pajamas and have their picture made with Santa! A free pancake and sausage breakfast will be provided along with Christmas craft activities. Bring a neighbor! Sign up to help in your class today!

Christmas for the Children of Cherokee Home for Children

Thank you to everyone who signed up to give a gift to children of Cherokee Home. Please get your gift to Janiece Watts by next Sun., Dec. 13. Please contact Janiece Watts at 325 -372-1970 or janiece.watts@gmail.com.

Missions & Faith Sharing

January 2016 Tanzania Trip

Phil Palmer will be serving as Hillcrest's missionary to East Africa. Phil's first trip is planned for January with the following goals:

- Hold God Bless East Africa workshops in 9 locations for a total of 200+ church leaders. These workshops are designed to encourage local churches to plant new churches using World Bible School as a tool of evangelism.
- Get commitments from at least 10 men to be area 'GBEA Facilitators'. Leadership development is key to church growth movements.
- Disseminate SBU information (Swahili WBS) and have 6 additional places submit an application to be an SBU Center.

Phil and Elaine have worked hard to provide the opportunity for many in Swahili speaking Tanzania to hear the Gospel. Let's keep this good work in our prayers!

Calendar of Events

December 8	Ladies Salad Luncheon
December 9	Elders, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, Bible Class Chairmen and Staff Meeting
December 11	Comfort & Hope Baskets/Prep
December 12	Breakfast With Santa
December 13	Care Group
December 23	Devotional in Chapel
December 25-Jan 1	Office Closed/Holiday
December 27	Worship at 10 a.m. ONLY
January 10.....	Care Group
January 17.....	Remembrance of Lives Lived
January 24.....	Teacher Appreciation Lunch
January 26.....	Hilltoppers Luncheon
January 28.....	"What You Didn't Know About Mom & Dad" Seminar, Hosted by Hilltoppers
January 31.....	Faith at Home

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1)

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

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

Bible Hour – Tonight from 6-7 p.m.

Infants up to age 3 meet in the nursery. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will begin in the MPR.

M.A.G.I. Boxes – Make A Godly Impact! Pick up a M.A.G.I. box in the children's wing to fill with items for a needy child in Namwianga, Zambia. The directions are on the box. Please deposit the box to the red receptacle no later than Sunday, December 20.

HYG – Youth

Today – Huddles meet at 6 p.m. Middle School Huddle: Last Huddle of the semester. Christmas fellowship time!

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – Class - Student-lead!! Come join us and hear from your friends! You too can help lead class on Wednesday nights!

Thursday – Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. at Chick-fil-A (north).

Friday – Southside Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. (Chick-fil-a on Southwest)

Hillcrest - U

Today - This is our last class of the semester! Dead Day is tomorrow with FINALS to follow! That means that today in class we have our Finals care packages!

Tonight – Annual Christmas Party, 6 p.m. at the NICCL (102 Cedar St)! As always we will have a DS Gift Exchange, Ugly Christmas Attire Contest and delicious food! We hope you can make it!

Monday - REACH Christmas Party! Come help us share the story of Christ's death and resurrection with the children at Canterbury Crossing apartment complex! The fun begins at 4 p.m. at 1250 Yeoman's Road! Come out and get to know these kids we'll be ministering to next semester!

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – Finals Week LIFT! Send your "What Made Me Laugh" submissions by Wednesday morning!

Have a great finals week and Christmas Break! Thank you all for a wonderful semester.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – The series on the "Spiritual Responsibilities of the Individual and the Church" continues.

Wednesday Night Large Class - Rm 10-11 – Rodney Ashlock continues his series on 1 Peter.

Wednesday Women's Bible Class – Rm 219 – Continues a study of Walking by Faith by Jennifer Rothschild. Women of all ages are invited.

Wednesday Worship in Song – Rm 16 – Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song.

Wednesday ESL – Class Rm 30 - If you have an interest in helping as a tutor, please contact Phil Palmer.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – Dec 8 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "A Call to Perseverance" Heb. 13:1-25, Teacher: Connie Adams.

Rm 10 – "Thanks for Their Gifts & Final Greetings" Phil. 4:10-23, Teacher: Gail Brown.

Preview - There will be a class on "The Christian and Homosexuality" meeting on Wednesday nights during the month of January.

Family Ministry

Wednesday Night Series – 7 p.m. – Room 14/15

The Advent Conspiracy - Are you tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This year, take a stand! Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be - a joyous celebration that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirit. This series shows you how to substitute consumption with compassion by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts. Find out how to have a Christmas worth remembering, not dreading! Christmas can still change the world when you, like Jesus, give what matters most - your presence.

Divorce Care – Wednesday Night – Rm 52

Russell & Cene' Gould facilitating.

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly.....464	Rm 10/11..... 41
Classes.....473	
Membership915	Wed 333
Nov. Offering \$117,273	