

# 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

Charles Perkins  
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## Ministers

Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*  
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Cynthia Coates, *Children's*  
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Justin Hatfield, *University*  
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## Connecting to the Community and One Another (Part 1)

The Sunday morning assembly was no different than any other. The deacons passed down the isles to collect the cards which had been completed by the visitors. The preacher took his traditional position in the back of the auditorium to "shake out" the members and thank the visitors for their participation. When most everyone had departed for their Sunday afternoon appointed activities, one of the deacons who had collected the attendance cards pointed out one card which had a short statement written on it. "I have AIDS and I would like to see the minister or one of the elders," is all the note said. The young man was contacted that same afternoon. His need and the response to the community of believers would change the lives of hundreds of people.

"I have AIDS and I'm dying. I don't know how your church will take this. I don't want to be any trouble and I will never come back if you think my problem will cause trouble. But, I am dying and I need a group of Christians who will help me and my family make it through the next several months. I'll come in late and sit in the back. I'll leave early so no one will have to touch me. If you think best, we can keep this secret and I'll stop coming when the lesions begin to show. Or...we can tell the entire church...I don't care. I just want a safe place to die."

David (not his real name) had come from a conservative church of Christ background. He was in the military which provided a large military hospital for the base located near the small congregation. He believed he had contracted the disease through homosexual activity a few years earlier. His parents lived out of state but would be coming soon to stay with him. He knew people with AIDS were considered "modern day lepers" by most of the public and especially by conservative religious people in the south. He was right.

How would a church respond? First there was prayer for God's guidance. Then the question "How would Jesus respond" was discussed. The local church in this place had encountered death before, but never in this form. There was little, if any, understanding about the disease. Added to the threat of diseases was the stigma of homosexuality. One thing conservative religious people DO understand is how other people of the same mind will respond to them when untraditional actions are taken. There was a dilemma in the minds of the elders and preacher who first encountered David. David understood this. His willingness to drop out of sight made his understanding evident. But then...what would Jesus do?

The first response was to share with David the vulnerability and inability felt by the very people to whom he had come for help. The church did not understand how to respond. When their feeling of inadequacy was shared with David, it in no way troubled him. The expression of inadequacy seemed to be comforting to David rather than put him off. The shepherds agreed, David was told he was welcome at every assembly.

What remained was how to incorporate him and his family into the community of believers!

(Continued next week!)

Charlie D. Pruett

# 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 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

February 7, 2016

Worship Leader..... Lynn Luttrell  
Hymn: #869..... We're Marching to Zion  
Welcome..... Yancey House  
Hymn: #570..... A Beautiful Life

### Scripture Leads Us to Jesus

Jeremiah 31:31-34..... Ryan Woods  
Galatians 3:21-29..... Brent Bell  
Hymn: #221..... Jesus, Name Above All Names\*  
Prayer..... Judd White

### The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #364..... Come, Share the Lord  
Communion Meditation..... Brian Burton  
Hymn: #709..... How Sweet, How Heavenly

### Offering

Prayer..... Brian Burton

### Songs

Hymn: #719..... Love One Another  
Hymn: #446..... Hear, O Israel  
Hymn: #448..... The Greatest Commands

### "God's Main Thing Must Be Our Main Thing"

Message..... Phil Ware  
Hymn: #315..... When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

### Responses

Hillcrest News..... J. R. Foster  
Hymn: #957..... This World Is Not My Home  
Family Blessing..... Dave Copeland

(\*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.

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# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speaker

A.M. – Phil Ware  
P.M. – Care Group – The p.m. service will be led by Rm 14/15 class – Rm 10/11 at 6 p.m.

## Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Kay Tally & Doris Caffey on the loss of their mother, Gertrude Bahlman.

## Baby Shower – Saturday, February 13, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Honoring Sean & Amy Smith's baby girl at the home of Laura Copeland, 1451 Tanglewood Rd. Selections at Target and Amazon.com.

## Moms to Moms

Young moms, be sure to check the sign-up sheet in Bible class for a unique MOMS to Moms Valentine opportunity!

## Ugly Tie Contest – Sunday, February 28

We are asking our Single Seniors to serve as judges for the Ugly Tie Contest. Sign up at the side of the Worship Center and wear a judges' lanyard. Men and male youth are encouraged to "bribe" the judges with hugs, calls, visits, acts of service or kindness. The purpose is to connect our lives to one another (fellowship) in a fun way. Everyone is invited to watch the tie judging and enjoy a free meal at a luncheon in the MPR. Guys with ties: Get busy bribing! Not sure who to bribe? Contact the office for a list of single seniors.

## Looking for a Way to Serve?

If you would be willing to serve as a parking lot monitor in the safety ministry, contact Robert Cole at 201-6321 or rcole1985@gmail.com. If you would be willing to serve in the unlock & lock-up team, contact Lee Lambert leelambert@juno.com or 280-9941. If you would be willing to respond to a medical emergency during worship or Bible class, please sign the red list in Bible class.

## End of Year Giving Statements Online

You can view and download your annual giving statement by going to [www.hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect](http://www.hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect). To log in to Hillcrest Connect for step by step instructions, click on the link to View or Print Your Giving Statement beside the login box. If you have never logged in, choose the Sign Up option at the bottom of the login box to create your account. We are happy to help you do this. You may also request an email or printed copy. Just email [admin@hillcrestonline.com](mailto:admin@hillcrestonline.com) or call 691-4211.

Everett Ferguson's lessons on Colossians were recorded. Contact Alan Clute to get links to listen.

## Missions and Faith Sharing

### Send the Light

Winter time is a busy time for persons at Hillcrest who are working with foreign missions. Besides the regular World Bible School courses that are being graded and mailed to a number of countries, we are finishing working with the applications of the almost 50 persons who are planning short-term mission efforts this calendar year—the Send the Light special collection will be April 3, and it looks like trips to about 13 countries will be involved. Last Saturday about 40 persons, including ACU students and members of the Eastland Church of Christ, loaded a 40 ft. container for Zambia Medical Mission—it takes almost three months for the "large box" of supplies and Bibles, etc. to travel to Zambia ahead of the group. Early in February, Larry Sullivan from the Leipzig, Germany mission point will be stopping by Hillcrest. Missionary Phil Palmer just returned from a two-week WBS campaign in Tanzania. Andrew Kelly is organizing a container to take humanitarian goods to Ukraine in late February, there is a list of things that Hillcrest members can donate. Finally, on Feb. 21 Hillcrest will have a special speaker, John Reese, who will remind us of special calling for evangelism around the world.

### Prison Ministry

In January there were 95 baptisms at the Middleton Unit.

## For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly ..... 649	Rm 10/11 ..... 76
Classes ..... 519	
Membership ..... 900	Wed ..... 380
Jan. Offering..... \$117,604	

## Calendar of Events

February 7.....	Care Group
February 23.....	Hilltoppers Luncheon
February 28.....	Ugly Tie Luncheon
March 23.....	New Member Dinner
March 23.....	Hillcrest 101 Begins
April 2.....	Hillcrest Bible Bowl
April 3.....	Send the Light Sunday
April 3.....	Church-wide Picnic/Care Group
April 20.....	Cajun Fest LAFF
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 children to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

**Bible Hour – 6 p.m.** – No Bible Hour tonight. Enjoy your Care Group.

## HYG – Youth

**Tonight – 6 p.m.** – SOUPer Bowl party! The fun begins upstairs in the youth area at 5p.m. Please bring a soup or chili! Huddles will NOT meet. Go to the SOUPer Bowl Party!

**Wednesday – 7 p.m.** – Come share your story! Our story is God's gift to us. Happy and joyful or painful and sad, our story can be used to encourage and bless others.

**Thursday – 7 a.m.** - Prayer Breakfast at Chick-fil-A North.

**TNT! Thursday Nights Together! – 7:30-9 p.m.**

**Sign-up** is now available online or through the link in our Newsletter for the HYG Spring Break Trip! March 12-15. \$75.

## Hillcrest - U

### Tonight – 5 p.m. – Super Bowl Party!

The fun begins at 5 p.m. at Action Zone, 1609 Cottonwood (off Treadaway). Your sponsors are bringing soup and chili; we ask that you bring a dessert or drink to share! Hope to see you there!

### Wednesday – 7 p.m. – LIFT – Come Share Your Story

### Thursday - Prayer Chapel - ACU's campus, 11 a.m.

Weather permitting at Jacob's Dream. Otherwise, in the Bible building room 112.

**REACH Ministry! – Thursday, 4-5:30 p.m. – Canterbury Crossing Apartments** – Come join us as we minister to these wonderful children! See Justin, Kaylie or Savannah for more details. Background check required.

### Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 27 – 7:30 p.m. – Desserts & Movie at the Hatfield House
- Mar 4-6 – Spring Retreat

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes** – Today's lesson is based on Mark chapters 5-6.

**Wednesday Night Class - Rm 10/11** – Terry Brown will be the speaker.

**Wednesday Night Class – Rm 12** – During the month of February, the newly released "Gospel of John" will be shown. This reenactment uses the word-for-word reading of the Gospel as its script and is informed by the latest historical and archaeological research. This week is John chapters 6-10.

**Wednesday Night Class – Rm 30** – ESL Class.

**Wednesday Night Class – Rm 16** – Join Odies Wright for a time of Worship in song!

**Wednesday Night Women's Class – Rm 219** – "Walking by Faith" by Jennifer Rothschild. Women of all ages are invited.

### Tuesday Women's Bible Study – February 9 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "Keep an Open Mind" – Teacher – Donna Wilson.  
Rm 10 – "Paul Opposes Peter" – Gal. 2:11-21 – Teacher – Donna Gee.

## Family Ministry

### Wednesdays – Rm 14/15 – 7 p.m.

*Future Family: You Have A Choice In The Matter* - When it comes to family, what does a preferred future look like? What exactly are we aiming for? Whether you are starting a new family or leaving an old one, this class will help you decide what you want your family's future to look like, and help you plan to get there.



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