

# 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

Taylor Cockrell, *Youth*  
taylor@hillcrestonline.com

Jack Hardcastle, *Family*  
familyman@hillcrestonline.com

Justin Hatfield, *University*  
justinhat@gmail.com

## The Dark, Bumpy Side Trail

I'm not a runner, but I've gotten into running since the end of last semester. Since it is hot for most of the year in Abilene, sometimes, I end up running in the dark. Abilene does not have the best lighting, but the roads are nicely paved and I can usually tell where there are cracks or dips. But to be honest, my speculation tends to slow down when I'm running in the dark - partly because my night vision is not equal to that of a feline, partly because I am very cautious of my "bad" knee, and partly because I know what falling while running in the dark looks like, and it's bloody and painful and not fun.

The other night, I was running around ACU, which is under construction for a new stadium, so part of the Lunsford Trail is blocked off. SO, they have made a little bumpy side trail to bypass the construction. This side trail is lined with two wire metal fences. I'm assuming the reason for this is because the trail is next to the construction, but also next to a road where cars pass by walkers and runners going nearly 50 mph. I was running the opposite way of traffic on the unlit, bumpy side trail, and the only way I was able to see the path in front of me was when a car would zoom by going the opposite direction. It was kind of scary, I'll admit, especially when I realized there was another person running straight toward me who, had I not seen him, probably would have trampled right over me. Neither of us would have seen it coming.

I don't tell this story to complain about the lighting or construction or bumpy side trail. I tell this story because as I was running on that dark, bumpy side trail, all I could think was, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." And my path was being lit by speeding cars going the opposite direction. I can't help but feel as if I have been living this same way. And this is no way to live.

How can I see when my steps are guided by a mere flicker of light? How can I see the dips and cracks that I need to avoid when all I am getting is a flash of light every 15 seconds? How can I see the person running toward me so that I can dodge having a painful, unnecessary collision when the only light I am relying on is that of uncertainty and inconsistency?

The answer is I can't. I can't see my path. But the problem is that I convince myself that I can see because for just a second, I am able to. For a hot, unforeseen second, I can see where I am going and what is ahead. But that second is fleeting and as soon as it is gone, there is darkness.

And with darkness comes uncertainty.  
And with uncertainty comes doubt.  
And with doubt comes fear, fear of the unknown.  
And there is no place for fear in the Spirit of God.

And for this reason, I need a lamp. I need a line of lampposts. I need consistency. I need devotion. Not just a fling. Not just a spark that fizzles out. Not just a quick, second glimpse at inspiration and divinity. I want the whole thing.

So here's to walking by God's word fully and confidently, that I will stop depending on the unpredictable passing light and start carrying my own lamp so I will always have a light to shine on the path ahead. The side trail is narrow and bumpy; but the reward is full and well worth running for. So keep your lamp lit, my friends.

Peace, Callie Houston

# 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
Age 3 .....	Room 106
Age 4 .....	Room 107
Pre-K.....	Room 110
K.....	Room 118
Gr 1.....	Room 121
Gr 2.....	Room 117
Gr 3.....	Room 120
Gr 4.....	Room 213
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

January 29, 2017

Worship Leader ..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #432 ..... How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?  
Welcome ..... Nathan Burrow

### Good News to Those Who Mourn

Isaiah 61:1-3 ..... Tyler Burton  
Matthew 11:1-6..... Tyler Burton  
Prayer ..... Judd White

### Songs of Praise

Hymn ..... Awesome God  
Hymn ..... Blue Skies and Rainbows  
Hymn ..... One Thing Remains  
Hymn: #83 ..... God Is So Good

### "Be the Match"

Introduction of Speaker..... Jack Hardcastle  
Message..... Earl Young  
Hymn: #904 ..... Have You Been to Jesus?

### Responses

### We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn: #287 ..... There Is a Redeemer  
Communion Meditation ..... Collin Pittman  
Hymn: #745 ..... Humble Yourself

### Offering

Prayer ..... Collin Pittman  
Hymn: #567..... Restore My Soul\*

Family News ..... David Carter  
Hymn: #903 ..... There Is Power in the Blood  
Elder Blessing..... Odies Wright

(Children's Song of the Month\*)

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. - Earl Young  
P.M. - Dan Cox - Chapel at 6 p.m.

## Faith at Home - Today - "Be a Match"

Speaker: Earl Young, Olympic Gold Medalist and Cancer Survivor - Earl will share his testimony of the healing power of God during worship, and how we can heal others with a very simple test.

We will have a blood marrow donor drive immediately after the special workshop that will happen during Bible Class in the worship center, and Jack will demonstrate on stage how simple the marrow donor process is. In various locations throughout the auditorium, volunteers will leave a simple throat swab that can save someone's life (blood marrow tests only take a few minutes and add you to a national registry). We are also asking Bible classes to bring underwear and socks for our homeless teen population here in Abilene (or you can bring Wal Mart gift cards, as well). A box is available at the entrance to the worship center by the foyer.

## Sympathy

Sympathy to Kay Istre and family on the loss of Elvis.  
Sympathy to Alan & Jennifer Clute and family on the loss of Alan's aunt, Sandra Bussard in MO.

## New Grandbaby

Congratulations to Nathan and Linda Huff on the birth of a granddaughter, Meredith.

## New Members

Patrick & Brandon'a Garcia, Sophia, Sabastian  
Ernie Adams

## Get to Know Nathan

If you haven't had a chance to meet or visit with Nathan, feel free to drop by the office any Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. His door will be open.

## Giving Statements Now Available

To view or print your annual giving statement on Hillcrest Connect, go to [hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect/](http://hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect/) statement for instructions. If you have never logged in to Hillcrest Connect, choose the Sign Up option. You may also request an email at [admin@hillcrestonline.com](mailto:admin@hillcrestonline.com) or call 691-4200 for a printed copy.

## Hilltoppers Luncheon - this Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.

Kay Talley will speak about her book "Beyond the Rain" dealing with recovering from grief. For the menu, see the Sign up sheet in Bible class.

## New Wednesday Night Ladies Discussion Class begins February 8.

The class will study "Daring Faith" by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor, a book that focuses on meeting Jesus as He is presented in the Gospel of John. Women looking for an opportunity to grow spiritually while developing a deeper relationship with other sisters in Christ are invited to attend. This class meets in Room 219. If you have any questions about the class, contact Marty Williams.

## Hillcrest 101 & New Member Dinner February 15

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 Wed., February 15, at 7 p.m. room 12. The first night we will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a New Member Dinner in the MPR. Terry Brown & Alan Clute will facilitate. RSVP to Kay in the Office 691-4200.

## Life Group

If you would like to join a Life Group, please call Alan Clute.

## Prayer Team Life Group

Join the Hillcrest Prayer Team in praying for all things Hillcrest such as ministers, ministries, special needs, and the spiritual health of Hillcrest. Weekly email prayer focus and monthly potluck/group prayer time. Email Robert Cole for more info. [rlcole1985@gmail.com](mailto:rlcole1985@gmail.com)

## Missions and Faith Sharing

## Zambia Medical Mission

There are two ZMM containers leaving from Abilene this winter. The first was loaded yesterday. The second will be loaded on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. at Bontke.

**Phil Palmer** is in East Africa and South Sudan for World Bible School. Janiece Watts and Traci Kennen are at Neema Village near Arusha, Tanzania, working at an orphanage associated with a church plant.

## Calendar of Events

January 29 .....Faith at Home Sunday  
January 31 .....Hilltoppers Luncheon  
February 1 ..... Farewell Reception for Taylor & Chelsea  
February 5 .....Bible Class Fellowship  
February 15 .....New Member Dinner  
February 15 - March 8.....Hillcrest 101

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

**Nursery: 2-24 Months** (TEAM #2, 5th Sunday)

**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 will begin in the MPR.

## HYG – Youth

**Tonight - 6 p.m.** - Huddles

**Wednesday – 7 p.m.** - Taylor and Chelsea's last Wed! Reception in MPR following class.

## Thursday

No Prayer Breakfast

No TNT

**HYG Spring Retreat** will be March 31-April 2. Sign-up online. Link in Newsletter.

## Hillcrest - U

**Tonight - 5 p.m., All LIFE Groups meet - Wonderlife Intro**

G1 – Jessup – (2533 Lincoln Dr)  
G2 – Hancock - (1841 Marathon Ct)  
G3 – McAlister – (2573 Lincoln Dr)  
G4 – Hatfield – (5333 CR 103N)

**Wednesday - 7 p.m.** - Share YOUR Story.

**Thursday - 11 a.m.** - HillcrestU Prayer Chapel at Jacob's Dream. If the weather is poor we will meet in BSB 121.

**REACH** - This week we are just handing out flyers. We will start in earnest next week!

**Mark Your Calendar** - Spring Retreat will be March 3-5. at Solid Rock in Eastland! Cost will be \$35.

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes – Adult Classes will meet in the Worship Center today during class time.**

**Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - January 24, 10 a.m.** B's & C's - Big God, Believe, Creator & Clay, Psalm, 139, 33, 104,119. Teacher: Pat Varner.

## Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 – February's teacher is Kevin Batten.
- Rm 30 – ESL Class
- Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals
- Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class: Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Women of all ages are invited.
- Rm 51 – Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 – Divorce Care, new session began last week.

## Family Ministry

**New Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15**  
**The Fig Leaf Conspiracy**

Did you know that sex is the covenant sign and seal for marriage, and this unique feature of marriage created by God is a major cornerstone of intimacy between a married man and woman? This is the reason why Satan hates it so much! From the moment Satan told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that they were naked, he has tried to corrupt human sexuality.

In this timely teaching tying in with the sermons this month, we will disclose Satan's lies and attacks on human sexuality and his intention to distort God's perfect design for marriage. Join us Wednesday nights.

## For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly ..... 729	Chapel .....40
Bible Class ..... 649	
Membership ..... 883	Wed.....397
Dec. Offering.....\$136,086	