

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

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Ministers

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It's the Hard Things That Define Us

Well into my 50's now, there are lots of memories to reflect on: successes, failures, good times, sad times, things to be proud of, things to be ashamed of. Looking back, what am I most proud of? And I might ask, "What are all of you most proud of?" We have common ground when we recognize that it is the hard things we've struggled through, yet endured, which seem to be our greatest mile markers: athletic, academic, or musical competitions and graduations from high school, college, or graduate school. It could be recovering from severe illness, the grief of losing a loved one, or even surviving divorce. It could be building a successful business during some lean years or seeing a project through to the end when the odds were against it ever getting off the ground. It's the whole process of figuring out what to do when we run head on into walls and obstacles that seem insurmountable.

Downtown at the Texas Star Trading Co., I love the coffee mugs that proclaim, "FIXING TO: THE STATE VERB OF TEXAS." Perhaps it is because we are made in God's image that we have this inherent need to want to fix things. There is simply an inexplicable sense of pride in being able to take that which was broken...and fix it!

And we probably all know and can relate to the helplessness of giving up in despair when we just don't have the resources to fix certain things. We know, too, those people who have had more than their share of unhappy endings at just not being able to figure out how to work their way around, under, over, or through the walls they face.

Maybe it is cliché, but it is nevertheless a poignant truth which says, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." In Matthew 26, three times Jesus went to His Father in prayer, "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Three times he asked God for some alternative way to "fix" what had to be done. In II Corinthians 12, Paul says that, "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take [a thorn in my flesh] away from me."

We are not exempt from heartache and tragedy just because we are children of God. On the contrary, it is because of our scars, our bruises, our swollen tear-filled eyes, our bloodied fingertips, and our broken hearts that we are called to ministry! It is all in the Lord's response to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness!"

Without a shadow of a doubt, the things in my life that I am most proud of are the character-defining moments. They provide the battle scars that in turn allow me to help others figure out what to do with those massive walls they face. Someone among us knows how to aid them; how to comfort them; how to minister to them. It is an oxymoron to be sure, but it gets us closer to understanding the meaning of Paul's words: "For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Keith Morgan

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

January 31, 2016

Worship Leader..... Dik Pittman
Hymn: #469..... Faith Is the Victory
Welcome..... Jack Hardcastle
Hymn..... Shout Hallelujah

Building Stronger Relationships

Hymn: #560..... Living By Faith
Joshua 24:14-18..... Don Hilton
Hebrews 12:1-3..... Shane Price
Prayer..... Rick Riddle
Hymn..... In Christ Alone

The Lord's Supper

Hymn..... Come to the Table of Mercy
Communion Meditation..... Curtis Clements

Offering

Prayer..... Curtis Clements

Hymn..... Lord, Let Your Light
Hymn: #18..... Faithful Love
Hymn: #490..... It Is Well with My Soul

Legacy Living – Building Stronger Relationships

Message..... Damon Parker
Hymn: #907..... Hark the Gentle Voice

Responses

New Life Blessing

Hillcrest News..... Randy Hancock
Hymn: #166..... He's My King
Family Blessing..... Terry Brown

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. – David Beard – Rm 10/11 at 6 p.m.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Forrest & Sadie Weaver on the loss of Sadie's mother, Patti Cox.

Baptism

Congratulations to Kayla Owens on her baptism. Parents are Ron & Cary Owens.

New Life Blessing

As part of Faith at Home Sunday, we will be having a New Life Blessing honoring babies born and those who have been baptized since the fall of 2014. The elders will present a Bible and pray over our honorees.

New Member Pictures - Today

If you are new to Hillcrest or have experienced a change in your family, please come to the side of the Worship Center and have your picture made after worship and before Bible class.

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.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Thank you all who helped with the preparation, serving, and cleaning up! We are blessed at Hillcrest with so many joyful servant hearts!

Sybil Faubus Award – Congratulations to Kyle and Amy McAlister who were awarded the Sybil Faubus Award last Sunday. Kyle and Amy have taught children and youth classes for many years, have been huddle leaders, have gone on mission trips, and are presently university small group leaders.

Survey for Hillcrest Women

The Woman to Woman Ministry has served the women of Hillcrest Church of Christ since 2005. Its co-chairs want to make the ministry as meaningful and effective as possible and ask that you help them by completing an anonymous survey. Hillcrest women will receive an email message on Monday with a link to take the survey online. We will also have paper copies available on the information tables and in ladies' classes. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

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!

End of Year Giving Statements Online

You can view and download your annual giving statement by going to 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 or call 691-4211.

Items Needed for Ukraine

Jeremiah's Hope will be shipping their 12th container of relief aid to Ukraine in late February. A list of needed items is located on the tables in the foyers. Please place items in the labeled collection bins by next Sunday, February 7

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

Calendar of Events

January 31..... Faith at Home Sunday
"Legacy Living: Building Stronger Relationships"
January 31.....New Life Blessing
February 7..... Care Group
February 28..... Ugly Tie Luncheon
March 6..... Care Group
April 2.....Hillcrest Bible Bowl
April 3.....Church-wide Picnic/Care Group
April 20..... Cajun Fest LAFF
April 29-May 1 Family Retreat at HEB Camp

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly 714	Rm 10/11 65
Classes.....688	
Membership.....900	Wed.....356
Dec. Offering\$98,089	

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #2)

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

HYG – Youth

Tonight – 6 p.m. – Huddles. Huddle locations are listed on the bulletin board in the main hallway. This is an important time to have fun and build relationships. Bring your friends!

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.

Coming Up – SOUPer Bowl Party – Feb. 7, 5 p.m. More details in class.

Hillcrest - U

Tonight – 5 p.m. – LIFE Groups Meet.

G1 and G3 – Goodman's home
G2 and G4 – Hancock's home

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 checks required.

Mark Your Calendar for February's Saturday Night Fun Times.

- Feb 6 – 7:30 p.m. – Prime Time Bowling
- Feb 7 – 5 p.m. – Super Bowl Party at Action Zone
- 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 some classes are meeting in the auditorium with the Parkers while others meet in their usual rooms. Our study of Mark resumes next Sunday.

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.

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 2 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "First Things First" – Teacher – Marty Williams.
Rm 10 – "Paul Accepted by the Apostles" – Gal. 2:1-10 – Teacher – Morene Tuttle.

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.

Faith at Home Weekend – Today

- Special Speakers – Sunday, Jan. 31 – "Legacy Living – Building Stronger Relationships" with Damon & Melody Parker.
- New Life Milestone Event – Sunday, Jan. 31 – After Bible Class. Luncheon for families who had new babies born in 2015. Damon & Melody Parker will be speaking.