

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

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Words

Henry David Thoreau said of writing, "A written word is the choicest of relics. It is something at once more intimate with us and more universal than any other work of art. It is the work of art nearest to life itself." Life itself indeed. Jesus is referred to as the Word and he might rightly be called life.

I'm in the business of words for a number of reasons, but chiefly among these reasons is that I love them. I am moved by words. I love reading and writing. Through writing I find that I can express myself in ways unlike any other. Through reading what others have written I find my emotions moved, my intellect stretched, and my reason exercised. It is through reading what others have to say that I can experience their life – their thoughts, emotions, intellect, and reason. I get a glimpse of who they are.

The back page of this bulletin is intended to encourage. But it is also intended to be a catalyst for introspective thought. It's also one way that we can get to know each other as the body of Christ. Many have been the times that I've read the words of another member at Hillcrest on this page and thought to myself, "I had no idea that she went through that" or "I didn't realize that he thought that way." As I sat there in my pew, waiting for the service to begin, I would think of that person who wrote the words and I believe that I was closer to them for having read their thoughts. We were a little closer, and that's a great blessing.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Paul implores us to "encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Good advice. Hillcrest is really good at this. I hear it in the hallway and see it in my mailbox in the form of encouraging notes. When I'm at my job or around town I constantly run into brothers and sisters from this body of Christ who love to encourage and build others up. I believe Paul would speak to us in the same way that he spoke to the church at Thessalonica. He would tell us to encourage and build up "just as in fact you are doing."

This page in the bulletin is just one more opportunity to encourage and build one another up. There are a great many people at Hillcrest who are good at that in many different ways, but I would like to suggest one more. Would you consider writing for the bulletin? I know that someone is reading this thinking, "I have thought about it before, but I could never write something like that." Well, you're wrong about that because, as Thoreau said, writing is "the work of art nearest to life itself," your life. Your life is encouraging to Hillcrest. Whether you write about a sweet, happy experience, or a painful one, or even just a thought that seems to linger in our mind, your words are a part of you to be shared to "encourage one another and build each other up." It's no accident that you are a part of the family of Hillcrest... and it's no accident that you are reading this now. It's not about guilt, but about love.

May God continue to bless the family at Hillcrest.

James McGee

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 2Room 100	Gr 1.....Room 121
Age 3Room 106	Gr 2.....Room 117
Age 4Room 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 24, 2016

Worship Leader.....Dik Pittman
Hymn: #712..... Jesus Is Coming Soon
Welcome..... Robert Kern

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #99..... In His Presence
Hymn: #100..... Holy Ground
Hymn: #101..... Holy Ground

God Welcomes Those Who are Troubled

Psalm 116:1-7, 12-13Kevin Wellborn
Matthew 11:28-30James Wellborn
Prayer.....Johnny Roberts
Hymn: #116.....God Will Make a Way

The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #701.....My Jesus, I Love Thee
Communion MeditationCleddy Varner

Offering

Prayer.....Cleddy Varner
Hymn: #742..... When Upon Life's Billows
Hymn: #490..... It Is Well with My Soul
(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)

"He Lifted Me"

MessageTerry Brown
Hymn: #943.....Do You Know My Jesus?

Responses

Hillcrest NewsCliff Barbarick
Hymn: #859..... When All of God's Singers Get Home
Family Blessing.....C.D. Pruett

Today's Speakers

A.M. – Terry Brown
P.M. – Bob Pipes

New Baby

Congratulations to Matt & Megan Steele on the birth of a son, Trig Michael Edward Steele.

New Members

- Dan & Esther Cox
- Kelly & Kathy Moore

Baptism

Congratulations to Hunter Ely on his baptism last Sunday. Hunter is the son of Lori Ely.

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

New Choice for Sunday Night Life Group

Are you a prayer warrior? Do you want to be? Come join us for Hillcrest Sunday Evening Hour of Prayer starting this Sunday night at 6 p.m. We will focus on praying for Hillcrest ministries, ministers, and the spiritual health of Hillcrest members. The focus this week will be on our preacher search and the elders as they make the decision on a new pulpit minister. Also, we will pray for the 120 people who accepted Phil's challenge last week and stated their personal ministry goals for the next ten years. We will meet in the Living Room, and if we have too many to fit in the Living Room, we will move to room 12 by the kitchen. If you have questions see Robert Cole.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Missions Update

Phil and Elaine Palmer are in East Africa through end of July. Please pray for their work and travel in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in their work with WBS leaders and students.

Send the Light Update

Most members of the Zambia Medical Mission team from Hillcrest are returning today on several flights to DFW Airport. Ellie Hamby will remain in Zambia for some weeks finishing up with the Zambian staff there who have begun their follow-up with new church plants and new Christians resulting from the Medical Mission.

The Mumena Mission Campaign group returned July 11. The conference was attended by 150 youth, and they baptized 28 people. Every campaigner was blessed by the experience, and the Mumena church leadership looks forward to their return next year.

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

Thank You Note

Dear Hillcrest Family, we want to thank you for the many acts of kindness which we received while I was in the hospital. The prayers were so appreciated. The cards and visits were day-brighteners. After we came home, you fed us with many wonderful delicious meals. We are so grateful. With all our love, Bill & Jerry Wright

Calendar of Events

July 24-30HYG Pine Springs Camp
July 31..... Faith at Home Weekend
August 3Watermelon Feast
August 14 Care Group
August 14HYG Big Event
September 5..... Labor Day, Office Closed
September 11..... Care Group
September 18-21.....ACU Summit

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #3)

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.

VIP Camp- We had sixty-two campers attend this year! Among Bible studies, swimming, worshipping, going to the zoo and splash pad, the children collected shoes for Zambia Medical Mission and decorated children's flip-flops for young patients of Hendrick Hospital. Twenty-seven of our high-schoolers were the counselors and drama actors. They did a terrific job! Many thanks to them and the eleven adults who helped with meals and shuttling.

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

HYG – Youth

Today

Youth leave for Pine Springs in Sacramento, New Mexico.

Wednesday – 7 p.m.

Class

Saturday - Youth return to Hillcrest at 4 p.m.

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Tonight – 7:30 p.m. – Movie night at the Hatfield house.

Wednesday Class – 7 p.m. - Basic: Prayer

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly586	Rm 10/1167
Classes.....527	
Membership845	Wednesday289
June Offering.....\$88,204	

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** – Ben Zickefoose will be teaching.
- **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.

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.

Faith at Home Weekend - Next Sunday, July 31

Worship Speaker - Jack Hardcastle

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 Mark Hewitt, Love and Care Ministries, during Bible Class time for those interested in knowing the status of poverty in our community. Mark has been working in the homeless community for over twenty years here in Abilene.



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