

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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A Guiding Altar

I was hiking in Colorado recently with two friends, one who is from Colorado and has journeyed this particular hike hundreds of times in her life. Needless to say, this friend served as our guide for the hike where we went down into a canyon and then back up onto a ridge. After a good amount of time had passed, we finally made it to the top where we could look off into the canyon that we had just ventured through. It was a surreal view looking back and seeing how far we had come to get to the top where we now stood.

The thing about hiking is that it is optional to go up, but it is not optional to come back down. So we continued making our way across the ridge and back into the canyon to come full circle from where we had started. As we passed trees and plants and rocks, I noticed a trend. Every once in a while, I would see a stack of rocks that looked like they were placed there for a specific reason. These rocks weren't just randomly piled up from some sort of coincidental happenstance. These rocks were stacked biggest to smallest, making what looked like one of those rock-a-stack baby toys in the middle of our trail. I could not help but think about a book I had read by Barbara Brown Taylor called "An Altar in the World." In this book, Taylor talks about how neat it would be if everywhere someone met God, they built an altar to serve as a reminder that someone had a divine encounter in that very spot on this earth. Each pile of rocks that we passed, I imagined a human being having an interaction with God and piling up rocks to signify this experience for everyone to know that in this very spot, they had encountered the living God.

Just then, my guide friend said, "If you were wondering, these rocks are here to point hikers in the right direction and let them know where the trail is." It was as if these divine encounters were the very thing that kept people like me (who had never hiked the trail and had no idea which direction to go) headed on the right path. All I could think of was "The Lord your God goes before you and behind you. He will be with you wherever you go." It was not two minutes later that my friends and I wandered off the trail and lost sight of all of our guiding altars. We could see a path that resembled a trail, but it was not the way that hikers were meant to go, for this path was not safe. With fewer foot holes, a bleak future, and no altars to guide the way, we were wandering aimlessly in the wilderness, and finally realized that we had wandered off the path. So, we backtracked our steps and found another altar that pointed us in the right direction. Soon enough, we were headed down the ridge and back down into the canyon to make it back to where we had started.

This is what I learned:

If you find yourself wandering off the trail and you don't see any sign of God, it is ok to backtrack and let the Lord redirect your step, especially if your path is headed nowhere good.

God has made His mark on this earth and on the people who have walked it. It is no small task to recognize a divine encounter and share it with other people—it may be the difference between someone following his path or carelessly falling off of a cliff.

So build altars for people to see, and pay attention to the altars that other people are building around you. For the contact that we make with God is what keeps us on the path of righteousness; this is the difference between life and death.

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 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
Soulful Filling (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

July 9, 2017

Worship Leader Josh Snead
Hymn: #909 There's a Fountain Free
Welcome Gary Varner

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #968 Oh, They Tell Me of a Home
Hymn A Shield About Me

The Courage to Do Right

Joshua 1:1-3, 6-9 Mike Aston
Ephesians 6:10-20 Mike Aston
Prayer Charles Small
Hymn: #552 Have Thine Own Way

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn: #318 O Sacred Head
Communion Meditation Richard Greenawalt
Hymn: #349 Ten Thousand Angels

Offering

Prayer Richard Greenawalt
Hymn: #881 Mansion over the Hilltop
Hymn: #480 Blessed Assurance
(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)

"Anchor"

Message..... Justin Hatfield
Hymn: #4 To God Be the Glory

Responses

Family News Dan Cox
Hymn: #988 I'll Be List'ning
Elder Blessing..... Dave Copeland

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Justin Hatfield

P.M. - Bible Class Fellowship - Ground Zero HS boys will lead the service in the chapel at 6 p.m.

New Members

Patsy Lee

Janice Durham

New Member/Updated Old Member Pictures

Alan will be taking pictures at the side of the worship center today after worship.

Nathan's Schedule for Summer

Nathan will not be available during July. He is on Vacation and then in Zambia for 3-4 weeks.

Sanctuary Ministries Lunch - July 16, 12 p.m., MPR

Sanctuary Ministries invites Hillcrest members to a lunch in the MPR on Sunday, July 16, for brisket sandwiches and all the trimmings. The meal is free. Sanctuary hopes you can join others and donate to help support this orphanage, evangelism, and benevolence work in India. Isaac Palaparthi from Tenali, India, will be the special guest. He is a long-time minister and evangelist, and is the director of Sanctuary Ministries in India. Isaac will speak on Wednesday, July 12, in the Room 10/11 class and July 16 in the H.O.P.E. Class. A Hillcrest family, Matt & Cheryl Merritt, are involved with the Sanctuary work.

Ground Zero Report

HYG's local mission effort started last Sunday night with youth & parents sharing a meal together and then Lance Parrish sharing thoughts about walking the walk, and the youth spending some time together. On Monday, they prayer walked the neighborhood. Throughout the week, the teams helped someone move, set up the MPR to host neighbors for ice cream, sang at Chisholm Place, hauled off limbs, did yardwork at several different houses, picked up trash along Ambler and helped Cynthia Coates in the children's ministry. During down time, extra energy was released in rousing games of dodgeball. They took Tuesday off for Independence Day and the parade. Some of the youth enjoyed celebrating their accomplishments by swimming at the Abilene Swim Club on Thursday night and going to the Rangers game on Friday. Be proud of our youth and volunteers for letting their lights shine!

July 4th Parade

Thank you to everyone who brought and/or received ice cream & cookies, set up & cleaned up the MPR. Thank you to everyone who participated in the parade or watched from the side and encouraged our neighbors as we celebrated our freedom!

Pack the Pulpit - July 30

We are looking for new and gently used backpacks for the upcoming school season. Bring them with you to Faith at Home Sunday on July 30 and let's pack the pulpit.

VIP Camp Craft Needs: This year's craft needs are plastic containers with lids, cereal boxes, old cords or wires, boxes smaller than cereal boxes, shoe boxes, and toilet rolls. Drop your items into the bins marked "VIP Camp" next to the WBS room.

Good SOIL Projects (Serving Others in Love)

The Hillcrest Family wants to help out whenever we can. We have created a list of needs on our website with a contact phone number. If you can help out, visit hillcrestonline.com/good-soil/ on the members section of our website and find out where you are needed.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Send the Light Mission Trips

- The Mumena, Zambia campaign, led by Cam Hurst and Brian Davis, returns on July 10.
- The Starfish Ministry campaign in Zimbabwe is being conducted by the Dos Santos family until July 14.
- Zambia Medical Mission is currently running and lasts until July 23.
- Phil and Elaine Palmer are participating in a WBS Campaign in Eastern Africa from July 6 - August 7.

Cebu City, Philippines

This past Sunday, it was announced that Hillcrest will oversee the new mission effort in Cebu City, Philippines, by Caleb and Vanessa Callari. They are working now to prepare and raise needed funds. Please be praying for their success.

Prison Mission

There were 102 baptisms at the Middleton unit in the month of June. The total for the year is 308.

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 623	Chapel..... 64
Bible Class 567	
Membership..... 892	Wed 267
June Offering..... \$90,954	

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #2)

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.

No Bible Hour Tonight

VIP Camp - July 23-26 (For children who have finished 1st-5th grade) Online registration forms have been emailed to our families.

HYG - Youth

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Class

July 13, 6-8 p.m. - Skate and Bowl at FBC Family Life Center.

VIP Camp - July 23-26 - Sign up with J and Keri to help.

Pine Springs - July 29-August 4, for incoming 7th graders through graduating seniors. Go to pinespringscamp.com to sign up or get brochure from J or Keri.

If you would like to receive the youth email newsletter, please sign up at hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth

Hillcrest - U

Tonight - 6:30 p.m.

Rosa's! Hope to see you there.

Wednesday - 7 p.m., Class, Crazy Love

Calendar of Events

July 9.....	Bible Class Fellowship
July 16.....	Sanctuary Ministries Lunch
July 23-26	VIP Camp
July 29.....	Pine Springs Youth Camp
July 30.....	Faith @ Home Sunday
August 13	Bible Class Fellowship
September 10.....	Bible Class Fellowship

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes - Each adult class will pursue topics of their own choosing for the summer months. Ask your class chair for information about topics and teachers

Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 - Various men will be presenting individual lessons during the month of July.
- Rm 16 - Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 30 - ESL Class
- Rm 51 - Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 - Divorce Care will resume in the fall.
- Rm 212 - Class for Young Professionals
- Rm 219 - Women's Bible Class: Various speakers through the summer. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15

A Life Long Love

Couples often settle for too little when it comes to marriage, we fail to understand how deeply God cares about our spouse. We diminish our need to not only understand what biblical love really is, but also to become a people who excel at it. We let ourselves drift apart instead of making the daily choices to grow closer together.

You will never look at worship or your spouse in the same way again, and this series will guide you through the power shifts and seasonal mine fields that blow up so many marriages so that you can grow in your love, instead of in your disappointment.

Faith at Home - Sunday, July 30, 9 a.m. - Back to School with God in Your Backpack - Guest Speaker, David Frazee

Back to School Parenting Workshop - 10:30 a.m., Worship Center. This is an optional workshop for all parents and grandparents during Bible class. We will be collecting new backpacks and supplies that day for kids in our community who cannot afford to buy their own. Watch for information in Bible classes on what you will need to bring.