

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

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The Power of Forgiveness

*And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
Matthew 6:12*

Forgiveness is where the rubber meets the road on our faith journey. When we get past the surface, we find that the practice of forgiveness will require us to wrestle with ourselves in order to fully embrace this truth of God. We must ask if we really believe in the forgiveness of sins? We actually mean two things when we ask this question. First, do you believe that God can forgive your sins? Second, do you believe that you can forgive others?

Accepting God's forgiveness for our sins is not easy. Guilt that moves us to repentance is a good thing, but faith that does not believe that God can forgive them, even when they turn to Christ, is destructive. Many Christians feel buried under the weight of guilt to the point of despair. Accepting God's forgiveness is a matter of trusting in God's love and the efficacy of the Cross. Without it we are hopelessly condemned. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Forgiveness of sins directly touches us with peace, healing, and freedom to live for God.

To be forgiven is one thing; to forgive others is another matter altogether. There is no greater expression of God's love that we can give repeatedly than to forgive. This is what makes the Church, as Ekklesia, so radically different than all other human bonds. It is the fellowship of those who have both been forgiven and are forgiving one another. Christ taught this practice to be partnered with daily prayer (Matthew 6:12). Forgiveness is just as necessary in our lives as food is for the body. In forgiving others we are given an opportunity for transformation and reconciliation. Thus, it is here where all other aspects of God's nature and mission shine forth from his people. To forgive those who have wronged us requires that we rely on the Holy Spirit to aid our hearts.

We live in a world of brokenness and sin. Near and far there is death, violence, abuse, hatred, neglect, and lying that surround us. People have wronged and been wronged. They desperately need to know and experience that there is something better. God has given you the very best: Jesus. He chose to forgive us our wrongs and calls us to do the same for others. Taking this step of faith brings us closer to the heart of God. By forgiving we share God's love and invite others into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Nathan Burrow

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

March 26, 2017

Worship Leader Odies Wright
Hymn Psalm 95
Welcome Shane Price

Back from the Dead

Jonah 2:2-6 D. Morrison
Luke 15:17-24 D. Morrison
Prayer Ryan Jessup

Songs of Grace & Mercy

Hymn: #112 Wonderful Grace of Jesus
Hymn We Fall Down
Hymn: #123 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn: #176 Lamb of God
Communion Meditation Justin Hatfield
Hymn Day by Day

Offering

Prayer Justin Hatfield
Hymn: #663 We Give Thee But Thine Own*
Hymn: #381 Years I Spent in Vanity
(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)

"March to Forgiveness: The Mission of God"

Message Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #791 On Bended Knee

Responses

Family News Lynn Luttrell
Hymn: #535 The Glory-Land Way
Elder Blessing Robert Marion
*(*Children's Song of the Month)*

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow

P.M. - Coy Roper - Chapel at 6 p.m. Next week the Young Professionals class will lead the chapel service.

New Members

John & Debby Hewitt

Baby Shower - Today, 2-3:30 p.m.

Honoring Jazmine & Covin Mitchell and baby boy Easton at the home of Shane & Melissa McClung. (GPS rarely works. There is a detailed map located at hillcrestonline.com/maps. Call Melissa if needed (325) 721-2597.)

Hillcrest Softball - Tomorrow, 8 p.m., Field 2

Tomorrow's game is against First Central Presbyterian.

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.

Hilltoppers Luncheon - Tues., Mar. 28, 11:30 a.m.

Brad Benham from the ACU Foundation will present "Estate Planning Red Flags: Avoiding Problems in Your Will or Trust." Lasagna roll, green beans, salad, pie

Hilltoppers to Hee Haw - Thurs., Mar. 30, 5 p.m.

A few tickets still remain for the Sagerton Hee Haw. Contact Alan Clute.

Men's Life Breakfast - Sat., Apr. 1, 8 a.m.

Join us this Saturday for pancakes, sausage, biscuits, gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit, orange juice, milk and coffee. Nathan Burrow & Ian Nickerson (preacher from Minda St. Church of Christ) will be speaking on "Man Up: Growing in Christ through the bond of brotherhood." We have invited the men of Minda to join us. If you would be willing to help cook or set up, please come at 7:20 a.m. Sign up in Bible class.

Send The Light - April 2

Each April, the Hillcrest family collects funds to support short-term mission work around the world. On April 2, Send the Light will help send 65 people to 11 efforts in 9 countries. Our financial goal is to provide half of air travel, and double support for directors and medical personnel. We also contribute toward medicine needed for the Zambia Medical Mission. Please be praying for these efforts and consider how you can contribute. In addition to the special contribution on April 2, we have made online giving available this year at hillcrestonline.com/give.

Church-wide Picnic - Sun., Apr. 2, 12 noon

Plan to come to the picnic at Nelson Park next Sunday. Bring blankets or chairs to sit on and finger foods to share. Plates, cups, napkins, forks and lemonade will be provided. We will enjoy a devotional together.

Wedding Shower - April 2, 2-4 p.m.

Honoring Kasey Morgan & Mac Leavell, son of Mark Leavell at 1517 Wildlife Trails Pkwy. Selections: Dillard's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Amazon.com.

Woman to Woman Event - April 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ladies, are you ready to be revitalized, energized, spiritualized? The women of Hillcrest (and friends) will gather to do just that! Come join us as we eat together, play together, sing and pray together and thoroughly enjoy each other's fellowship. Check out the Woman to Woman table for more information, and help our cooks by letting us know you will be there (sign the attendance sheet provided). Also, if you will be needing childcare for the evening, sign up for that service (deadline April 4). (You may also register @ www.hillcrestonline.com).

Labor for Your Neighbor - April 9

Could you or someone you know benefit from some free labor? Yardwork, hauling stuff off, helping spring clean around the house and other jobs would be considered. Sign up for a labor of love at the side of the auditorium starting Sunday, April 2. Then you can do your work on Sunday, April 9 or any other time during Passion week leading up to Easter, April 16. If you are unable to do physical work, but still want to participate, how about going to visit a shut-in? Please contact Alan Clute if you or someone you know has a job that needs to be done.

A Community Singing - April 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Come join us as we sing new and old hymns, have delightful conversation, and enjoy snacks that are shared among the participants. During the first hour or so, we will learn four new songs, take a break, and then return for a time of singing familiar hymns. Near the end of our time of singing, we will review the new songs. After our singing time, we will enjoy snacks, games, and conversations. Join us. Please RSVP to our church office (691-4200). Babysitting is available.

For the Record	
Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly648	Chapel 47
Bible Class619	
Membership883	Wed 345
Feb. Offering\$103,202	

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 - 6 p.m.

HYG - Youth

Tonight - 6 p.m. - Huddles

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Bible Class in the youth room.

Thursday - Chick-fil-A Prayer Breakfast

Retreats - SAVE the DATE

High School - March 31 - April 2 (Solid Rock camp in Eastland) We will depart Hillcrest at 6 p.m. on March 31. We will return 11:30 a.m., April 2. Sign up online at hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth/events. Link is also in the newsletter, \$30 per student (9th-12th grades, boys and girls).

Middle School - May 5-6 (Camp Butman)

Hillcrest - U

Tonight - All LIFE Groups will meet at 5 p.m. - Lifemark #3

G1 - White - (2533 Lincoln)

G2 - Whitlock - (1317 Lakeview)

G3 - Goodman - (702 Serrot Ct)

G4 - Long - (1633 Hillview Rd)

Wednesday - 7 p.m. Share YOUR Story

Thursday

11 a.m. - HillcrestU Prayer Chapel - Jacob's Dream

4-5:30 p.m. - REACH

Calendar of Events

March 28.....	Hilltoppers Luncheon
March 30.....	Hilltoppers Trip
April 1.....	Men's Life Breakfast
April 2.....	Send the Light Sunday
April 2.....	Church-wide Picnic
April 6.....	Woman to Woman
April 9.....	Labor for Your Neighbor
April 28-30	HEB Family Retreat
May 3	CajunFest LAFF

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes - Today we continue our 4-week study of the "Grace of Forgiveness" by addressing the question "does forgiveness violate justice by releasing the wrongdoer from the vengeance he deserves?"

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - March 28, 10 a.m. R's & S's—Rock, Remember, Shepherd, & Satisfied (Ps 22, 103, 51, 40, 119) - Teacher Elisa Jessup

Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 - Houston Heflin begins a series on the Gospel of Mark. He covered the first half of this gospel last fall.
- 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: Daring Faith by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

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

It Starts at Home: Learn to Confidently Teach Your Kids about God

In these busy, hectic days we take our kids to sports practices, games, music lessons, school tutoring and other activities to give our children the best opportunities for success. But what if we're missing the chance to teach them what matters most? In these six sessions, we will explore biblical and tangible ways that parents - couples, single parents, blended families and grandparents - can build a legacy of faith for their children.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Container Arrival in Ukraine

Tony Morrow of the Our House ministry reports that their shipping container has arrived, and they will begin "Our Building Business" in earnest. This first shipping container will be transformed into a Model Home. The container also is part of a plan to help the ministry continue to move toward being self-supporting. Our House is a ministry that tells orphans about the saving news of Jesus and gives on the job training for future professions. The Morrows are former members at Hillcrest and have several supporters here. Their ministry is overseen by the Central congregation in Amarillo.