

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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A Few Concluding Words About Mark

For the past eight weeks our church has worked its way through the gospel of Mark as part of our adult education program. As the series comes to an end, what final concluding words can we offer from this short, enigmatic gospel?

It occurs to me that one of the overriding features of the trial scene near the end of Mark's account seems to be the fixation on the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. The high priest asks him directly: "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus answers just as directly, and the first two words out of his mouth are as pregnant with meaning as any response to any question in the entire Bible: "I am....," he begins, and this response sets in motion the final chain of events leading to his execution. (Mark 14:61-62). Religious leaders who rely on their own status and closed system of truth cannot handle that kind of challenge to their authority.

The trial continues in front of Pilate, who also has questions about the identity of this strange man who the local leaders have brought to his attention. "Aren't you the King of the Jews?" he asks. This time Jesus avoids a direct response, but rather turns the question back to the imperial governor, "You say so." (15:2). Pilate continues his interrogation, yet still receives no answer. Mark paints a picture of Pilate as being unsure of how to process the identity of Jesus, and given his uncertainty, he simply capitulates to the masses. Those in power who fear the crowd cannot handle uncertainty; they must assert control somehow, sometimes by handing over the savior in their midst.

Then a chance encounter gives us Mark's version of what must have been an extraordinary event: Simon, from north Africa, is pressed into service to carry Jesus' cross up the hill. Consider the scene. An ordinary passer-by carries the burden for a condemned man. (15:21). Perhaps he thought to himself, *Why must I bear this criminal's cross? Why do I have to suffer for his weakness?* It has always struck me that the only person by Jesus' side during the hours leading up to his crucifixion was an unwilling bystander who wanted nothing to do with the immense weight literally placed upon his shoulders.

Our minds are drawn to Simon from north Africa because he could have been any one of us. The careful follower of the text—who to this point has been hearing Mark's version of the inquisition with a focus on Jesus—is now tempted to drift off and think about Simon. Who is this man? Why are his sons, Alexander and Rufus, mentioned? Rufus in particular sounds familiar—where have I heard that name before? Is he the same Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13? The mind begins to whirl as we place ourselves in that agonizing moment, carrying the cross of the broken, forsaken, condemned man from Galilee. As our minds snap back to the present, we slowly realize that Jesus still needs us. For Jesus takes many forms. It is true that he is victor over death, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. But it is also true that he is the poor, the downtrodden, the marginalized, the imprisoned, the abandoned, and the utterly alone. The identity of Jesus remains a paradox, and Mark calls us into a cross-bearing life of discipleship and service.

Andy Little

Connecting Lives to Christ

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 Nurserv

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

March 6, 2016

Worship Leader Lynn Luttrell
Hymn: #470 Victory in Jesus
Welcome..... Charles Perkins
Hymn: #870 Beyond This Land of Parting

Why Did My Prayer Not Get Answered?

Psalm 88:6-14 Jerry Hayes
Romans 8:18-25..... Jerry Hayes
Prayer..... Shane McClung
Hymn: #538 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #287 There Is a Redeemer
Communion Meditation Jarrell Edwards
Hymn: #273 More Precious than Silver
Hymn: #275 O Lord, You're Beautiful*

Offering

Prayer..... Jarrell Edwards

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #479 Peace, Perfect Peace
Hymn: #777 Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer
Hymn Shine On Us
(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)

"Broken on Unkept Promises (Psalm 13:1-6)"

Message..... Phil Ware
Hymn: #490 It Is Well with My Soul

Responses

Hillcrest News..... Charles Anderson
Hymn: #716 Sing to Me of Heaven
Family Blessing..... Neal Coates

(*Children's Song of the Month)

Hillcrest Church of Christ

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Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Phil Ware

P.M. – Care Group: The Sunrise class will be leading the service. – Rm 10/11 at 6 p.m.

Daily Bible Reading Plan for Spring

Extra copies of the plan for Feb - March are on the tables in the foyers. We are moving into Ephesians and the Pastorals (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus).

New Grandbaby

Congratulations to Kent & Denise Barnett on the birth of a new granddaughter, Avery Elizabeth Emerson. Parents are Eric & Katie Emerson, big brother, Parker. Great Grandparents are Jay & Kay Derrick & Jarrell & Deloris Edwards.

Men's Softball

Pitchers and catchers have reported for MLB spring training. Hillcrest's pitchers, catchers . . . infielders, outfielders and extra hitters need to report for softball practice tomorrow, from 8 to 10 p.m. on field 2. The season will start Mon., March 21, and go through May. Games will be at 7, 8 or 9 p.m. on Monday nights. The cost will be \$50 per player, unless we can find a sponsor. If you are interested in playing and enjoying fellowship, contact Alan Clute.

Prayer Room for Preacher Search

As we continue in our search for a new pulpit minister, the congregation is asked to be in constant prayer that God's Holy Spirit will guide every aspect of this process. To encourage this, the Hillcrest living room will be dedicated as a room of prayer for anyone who would like a private, quiet place to pray. It will be open during all office hours and there will be Bibles, notebooks, and pens available. If you would like, you may write your prayer, and it will be given to the incoming minister and his family. For security reasons, only the office entrance will be open.

Calendar of Events

March 8..... Caterpillars & Butterflies
 March 23..... New Member Dinner/Hillcrest 101
 March 25..... A Hillcrest Singing
 April 2 Hillcrest Bible Bowl
 April 3 Send the Light Sunday
 April 3 Care Group/Church-wide Picnic
 April 4-8 Woman to Woman/Home Dinners
 April 20 Cajun Fest LAFF
 April 29-May 1 Family Retreat at HEB Camp

Hillcrest 101

If you are a new member or considering placing membership at Hillcrest, you are invited to attend the Hillcrest 101 class. The class begins Wed. March 23, in room 12. The first night we will begin at 5:30 with a New Member Dinner. Terry Brown & Alan Clute will facilitate. Come learn more about Hillcrest. RSVP to Kay in the office 691-4200.

A Hillcrest Singing – Re-scheduled to March 25

You are invited to A Hillcrest Singing on Friday, March 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in rooms 10 & 11. This will be a time for learning a few new songs and reviewing songs learned in the past. Babysitting is provided. Bring a snack to share. Stay for games and conversation afterwards. RSVP to your email invitation or call the office to let us know you are coming.

Woman to Woman – “Showers of Blessings”

Don't forget to sign up for the lunches/dinners planned for April 4-8. Choose the time and date that best fulfills your time requirement and join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Details on the Woman to Woman table at the side of the auditorium or online at www.hillcrestonline.com.

Update on the Christian Service Center's New Home

A number of people have been asking how the renovation project at the Woodlawn location is going. The final part of the asbestos abatement is being completed, and the contractor and his crew are up to full speed in the renovation. They recently sent us photos of all the rooms they're remodeling, and it's exciting to see this project underway. Lord willing, we plan to move in to our new home late this year, hopefully by November. For more information, go to www.cscabilene.org. For all of you that financially supported this project, thank you so much! You have made it possible for us to have a much larger and more energy efficient facility, located at a prime location for serving our clients. Looking forward to the grand opening later this year, to which you will all be invited!

With gratitude in Christ, Jim Clark, Director Christian Service Center.

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 733	Rm 10/11 62
Classes 593	
Membership 900	Wed 360
Jan. Offering \$100,412	

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1)

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 Bowl Practice – Meets today. Judges 20-21. Hillcrest will host a Bible Bowl competition Saturday, April 2.

Bible Hour – 6 p.m. – No Bible Hour Tonight. Enjoy your Care Group!

Caterpillars and Butterflies – Meets this Tuesday at 4:30, room 10.

HYG – Youth

Tonight – 6 p.m. – Huddles - Huddle locations are listed on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Sophomore Huddles Service Project at the Kern's. Bring a snack to share. Freshman Huddles meet at Prime Time at 5:45 p.m. Bring \$7 for bowling at 7:30 and money to eat with if you want.

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.

Sign-up is now available online or through the link in our Newsletter for the HYG Spring Break Trip! March 12-15 \$75.

Mark your calendars for High School Spring Retreat, "Post-it's & Polaroids" April 8-10 \$60

Middle School Spring Retreat, "Kingdom" April 22-23 \$35

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Tonight – There will be no LIFE groups tonight due to retreat.

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – LIFT – Come Share Your Story

Thursday - Prayer Chapel - ACU's campus, 11 a.m.

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 check required.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – Today's lesson completes the series on the Gospel of Mark. Next Sunday a 6-week series on "Neighboring" begins.

Wednesday Night Classes

- **Rm 10/11** – Wendell Willis begins a 3-week series.
- **Rm 12** – A follow-up discussion of "Social Media and Our Children." Download Rod's presentation at <http://hillcrestonline.com/media/presentations/>
- **Rm 30** – ESL Class.
- **Rm 16** – Join Odies Wright for a time of Worship in song!
- **Rm 219 – Women's Class** "Walking by Faith" by Jennifer Rothschild. Women of all ages are invited.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – March 8 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "Progress not Perfection" Teacher, Megan Forsberg. **Rm 10** – "Paul's Concern for the Galatians" (Gal. 4:8-20) Teacher, Carol Horton.

Family Ministry

Wednesdays – Rm 14/15 – 7 p.m.

IF – All that stands between you and your wildest dreams for your family is one little "if". Looking at Romans 8 for four weeks, we will work together to overcome feelings of guilt, fear and doubt so that you can transform your family "if only's" into "what if" possibilities!

Missions and Faith Sharing

April 3, Send the Light Collection

The annual special collection for short-term missions at Hillcrest will be held April 3. Please be considering how you can help that Sunday! This year there are 44 Hillcrest members involved in mission efforts in 14 countries. The Missions Team has set a goal of \$66,125 to help with half of the airfare for these campaigners.



www.hillcrestonline.com/members/search