

# 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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## Ministers

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## Why Live A Christian Life?

Recently I was challenged with the question, “Why live a Christian life style?” This question has taken me on a journey, because I didn’t have an answer. I am prepared with answers for “Why believe in God?”, “Why do you believe that Jesus really was God’s son and rose from the dead?” The question of why to live a Christian life was harder for me to answer. For me, belief in God has always come easy. I was raised to believe in God and as I’ve grown I’ve matured my relationship with God, but I am coming to understand that living a “Christian” life is less about what my life looks like externally, and more about who I am internally. I know many non-Christians whose lives look a lot like mine. People of other faiths like Buddhist and Muslims, as well as a few atheists. They are good people who take care of others, speak kindly and give abundantly. I also know many Christians whose lives look more like what one might think an atheist’s would look like; morally vacant, hateful to others, vocally judgmental of things/people they do not understand, unloving and unkind...yet they declare God at every opportunity.

Being a Christian doesn’t make you a Christian. I know, that sounds ridiculous, but it’s true. Just because you believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have tasted the waters of baptism does not make you a Christian. Your relationship and desire to please God does. That is internal, not external. Now, do not hear me say you don’t need baptism. I believe that is an essential step to salvation and a must for a relationship with God; however, that is a discussion for another time. What I’m saying is it is what is going on inside that counts. You can do good deeds and sacrifice yourself daily for your fellow man, but if you do those things for a pat on the back, you’ve missed it. You are not living a “Christian” life, you are just a good person. To live a “Christian” life, you must connect your actions to your relationship with God/Christ/the Holy Spirit. As humans, we make mistakes...sometimes our reactions are all too human and not Godly at all, but if we try daily to be in relationship with God through prayer and study of his word, our actions will show love and kindness. We will love those that are different from us, those that do not agree with us and those that challenge us, not because we are simply open minded, but because we have a genuine relationship with God, and he has a genuine love for all people. When my internal life, that life connected by relationship with God, began spilling over into my external life, people noticed. It looked different from the life the “good person” lived. God now speaks through me, many times without actual words, to those around me. Others want to know what is different about me in a good way. They want to know how they can be different too.

So, why live a Christian life style? I guess it really comes down to the desire to live for more than just death. The promise of a future in Heaven where there will be no tears, no pain, no struggles. It’s more than being a good person. It is wanting the promise of life lived to the fullest and the guarantee of love through God, the Father. It is also a selfish desire to bring those I care about with me to Heaven, to share the peace of God with all.

A’Lisa Brooks

# 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

November 27, 2016

Worship Leader ..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #227 ..... On Zion’s Glorious Summit  
Welcome ..... Jack Wilson

### Your God Will Come

Isaiah 35:3-6 ..... Charles Anderson II  
Luke 7:11-23 ..... Charles Anderson II  
Prayer ..... Charles Anderson

### Songs of Praise

Hymn: #647 ..... Soldiers of Christ, Arise  
Hymn: #749 ..... The Battle Belongs to the Lord  
Hymn: #648 ..... Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus  
Hymn: #469 ..... Faith is the Victory

### We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: #351 ..... He Bore It All  
Communion Meditation ..... Jerry Hayes  
Hymn: #577 ..... We Bow Down

### Offering

Prayer ..... Jerry Hayes  
Hymn: #180 ..... Jesus Is Lord  
Hymn ..... In Christ Alone  
*(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)*

### “More Than A Meal - Invitation to Hope Again”

Message..... Nathan Burrow  
Hymn: #470 ..... Victory In Jesus

### Responses

Family News ..... Yancey House  
Hymn: #853 ..... When We All Get To Heaven  
Elder Blessing..... Don Pope

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow

P.M. - Kenny Horner - Chapel at 6 p.m.

## Sympathy

Sympathy to Charlie & Margie Anderson on the loss of Margie's brother, Bright K. (Buddy) Newhouse.

Sympathy to Nina Perez on the loss of her brother-in-law, Felipe Rodriguez.

## New Members

- Eric & Robbin Hardegree
- Brents Modellmoy
- Dickie & Onita Hill

**Congratulations** to Bruce and Pam Massey on the birth of a granddaughter, Collyns Massey. Parents are Brad & Jenny Massey. Great-grandparents are Chester Foster & C.R. Massey

**Men's Softball - Tomorrow, 7 p.m.** Come cheer them on!

## Single Seniors Christmas Dinner - Sat., December 3

Have you been a good boy or girl this year? Either way, you are invited to the Single Seniors Christmas Dinner. Put on your Christmas attire and come at 4:45 to have your picture made with Santa. The menu is chicken Cordon Blue, twice baked potatoes, asparagus, rolls and dessert. Bob Hale will be reading "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Enter through the covered entrance. Please sign up in Bible class.

ANYONE who would be willing to serve as an elf and help decorate, cook, serve, provide transportation or clean up, please sign up in Bible class also.

## Comfort & Hope Christmas Sacks - Thurs., Dec. 8

Comfort & Hope Christmas sacks will be assembled. Pull out your recipes for treats.

## Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m.

Hillcrest will be hosting this community outreach event in the MPR. Kids are encouraged to come dressed in their pajamas, have their picture made with Santa, eat a free pancake and sausage breakfast, and make Christmas crafts. No RSVP is required. Please reach out and invite someone! Invitations are on the clipboards of the adult classrooms. Sign up to help using the needs list that will be emailed to you! Join in the fun!

## Sybil Faubus Award—Submission Deadline Dec. 18

Each year the Sybil Faubus Memorial Award is given in her honor to a person or persons from Hillcrest who has exhibited outstanding qualities as a teacher. You may use a form provided in the entrance areas of the building to nominate a deserving teacher of children, teens, or adults, or go to Hillcrest's website in the events section to submit your nomination. This recognition will be presented at the Appreciation Lunch, January 22.

**Hosts Needed** - ACU will be hosting the Christian College Choral Festival in January. They have asked Hillcrest to provide housing for around 20 males and 30 female students from Freed Hardeman University on January 6 & 7. Two students share a suitcase, so they are asking hosts to keep an even number of students. They are also asking hosts to provide breakfast on the 7th & 8th and Sunday lunch on the 8th. If you would be willing to host these musically gifted students in your home, please call the church office.

## Missions and Faith Sharing

The last two Send the Light trips for 2016 are occurring in December. Phil and Paula Sullivan and Tommie Ellis are in Costa Rica for a Let's Start Talking campaign. Matt, Cheryl, Tyler and Lanie Merritt will travel to India to work at Sanctuary Ministries.

If you are considering leading or joining a Hillcrest short-term mission trip in 2017 and want to be a part of the April 2 Send the Light special collection, contact Neal Coates for an application. The applications are due to the Hillcrest Missions Team by Jan. 1. Mission trips are already being planned for Mumena, Zambia (contact Cam Hurst) and Zambia Medical Missions (contact Ellie Hamby or [www.zambiamission.org/medicalmission](http://www.zambiamission.org/medicalmission)). Whether you are a college student interested in ACU's Worldwide Witness program, someone considering going on a Let's Start Talking program using the Bible to teach English, you are a nurse, have carpentry skills, love to help plant churches, want to relieve a missionary on the field so they can have a vacation, or have a heart for assisting refugees and helping them come to know Christ, there is a world full of opportunities!

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

**Nursery: 2-24 Months** (TEAM #4)

**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 Tonight** – Bible Hour will begin in the MPR.

**No Wednesday Bible Classes** - Devotional in the Chapel.

**Feed the Pig** - Children have the opportunity this Christmas season to raise money for the purchase of a sow for Jeremiah's Hope; a ministry in the Ukraine for orphans. The orphanage's farm provides jobs and helps with the income needed to keep the orphanage running. A piggy bank is on the desk of the children's wing. To learn more about this ministry, go to <https://jeremiahshope.onelinksites.com/> The deadline to contribute is December 21. \$100 is needed for the purchase of one sow.

**M.A.G.I. Boxes** – Make A Godly Impact! Pick up a M.A.G.I. box in the children's wing to fill with items for a needy child of Namwianga, Zambia. Directions about packing and what to give are attached to the box. Please deposit the box in the red receptacle in the children's wing no later than Sunday, December 21. Learn more about Namwianga Mission at <http://www.zambiamissions.org/>.

## HYG – Youth

**Tonight - 6 p.m.** - No Huddles

**Wednesday – 7 p.m.** Class

**Thursday** - Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. No TNT!

Sign up for Ski Trip - March 13-17

## Calendar of Events

December 3 .....Single Seniors Christmas Dinner  
 December 10 .....Breakfast with Santa  
 December 11 ..... Bible Class Fellowship (Care Group)  
 December 21 & 28..... Devotional/Chapel  
 December 25 .....Worship Only at 10 a.m.  
 December 26-30..... Office Closed/Holidays  
 January 1 .....Worship Only at 10 a.m.  
 January 6-7 ..... Host FHU Students  
 January 22 ..... Teacher Appreciation Lunch

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes** – This morning we continue the 8-week series on the book of Isaiah. Today's lesson from chapter 40-41 focuses on the hope that follows suffering.

**Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Nov. 29** "Detecting the Lies of our World," Matthew 7:13-20. Teacher: Cathy Franklin

## Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 – Terry Brown will complete his series on "Lessons from the Pastoral Epistles".
- Rm 30 – ESL Class:
- Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals led by Caleb Callari
- Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class: Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Women of all ages are invited.
- Rm 51 – Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 – Divorce Care

## Family Ministry

**Wednesday Class - Rm 14/15 - November 30, 7 p.m.**

*Deal or No Deal: Making Choices in a World of Chaos*  
 How do we as families "deal" with the things the world is throwing at us right now? In this study of the book of James, we will look at what the Bible says about how we should live as husbands, wives, parents and individuals of faith in a world of faithlessness. This class is for all ages!

## Hillcrest - U

**Tonight - 6 p.m.** - For those who are in town there will be a gathering at Heff's if you want to join!

**Wednesday** - LIFT - Come Share YOUR Story

**Thursday** - No prayer chapel. REACH Christmas party at 4!

**Dec. 4 - 6 p.m. at the NICCL** (102 Cedar St) - Christmas Party. Bring a gift for the gift exchange and wear some ugly Christmas attire for our contest!

## For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly ..... 730	Chapel ..... 40
Classes.....671	
Membership.....883	
Oct. Offering .....\$117,300	