

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

Jim Watts
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Ministers

Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*
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God Doesn't Play Fair

Have you ever played a game with someone who cheats? Who has the deck stacked? It's pretty frustrating, isn't it? No matter what you do you can't win because your opponent isn't playing fair. Kind of takes all the fun out of it when you know you can't win no matter what. God's kind of like that – He doesn't play fair.

On a different note, have you read the news lately? If you're like me, I almost flinch to pick up the paper in the morning for fear of what I might read there. It seems like every day we read about another tragic occurrence somewhere in the world or even right here in our own community. It seems as though the world is a very dark place, getting darker by the day. It would be easy to slip into despondency and despair thinking that there must be little hope for humanity; yet I am reminded that God doesn't play fair. His opponent, The Adversary, must surely be frustrated. As I look around with God's eyes, I see a much different world.

The overwhelming majority of people in the world are not violent. Given the opportunity, they would smile, greet you kindly, and freely offer help to you in your need. Step out at night and see the majesty of stars that adorn the sky, more beautiful than diamonds from the ground. Walk out in nature and see the breath-taking beauty of nature in the trees, a flower, a fall-turned leaf gliding gently to the ground. We are surrounded by beauty and kindness. I heard many say last week that they weren't surprised by the tragedies they heard about on the news. However, that's simply not true...they were surprised. Nobody expects tragedy to happen. If you were to be perfectly honest with yourself, you are very surprised when you encounter evil. That's because we are immersed in good. We aren't witnessing an invasion of evil; we are witnessing the invasion of the Kingdom of Heaven into this world – and God doesn't play (or fight) fair.

Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

There it is. I can just picture Jesus' face turn to a sneaky smile at the last part. He plainly tells us that we will have trouble in the world – he is right. Then I picture him leaning forward and speaking quietly to us in a hushed tone with a sly smile on his face... "But take heart! I have overcome the world."

As we enter this season of peace, take heart. Jesus told us everything he did so that we may have peace in the midst of trouble. When you pick up the paper or turn on the news and see trouble, remember that you are witnessing the futile opposition of evil as the Kingdom of Heaven invades our world. Naturally, evil will put up a fight albeit fruitless. Don't fear the gasps of a dying army of evil; take heart that Jesus has "overcome the world."

Do something this week to invade someone's darkness with godness.

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 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 29, 2015

Worship Leader..... Odies Wright
Hymn..... Blue Skies and Rainbows
Welcome..... Jack Wilson

Songs of Praise

Hymn..... Let Us Worship
Hymn..... Lord, I Give My Heart
Hymn..... Here I Am to Worship

Living New Lives In Christ

Psalm 1..... Caden McGee
Romans 6:1-4, Ephesians 4:22-32..... Caden McGee
Prayer..... James McGee
Hymn..... Light the Fire

The Lord's Supper

Hymn..... Worthy Is the Lamb
Communion Meditation..... Perry Reeves
Hymn: #319..... Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?

Offering

Prayer..... Perry Reeves
Hymn: #810..... Listen to Our Hearts*

"Let's Get Real"

Message..... Greg Anderson
Hymn..... All Things Are Ready

Responses

Hillcrest News..... Justin Walker
Hymn: #716..... Sing to Me of Heaven
Family Blessing..... Jack Stewart

(*Children's Song of the Month)

The Hillcrest family is led by the Holy Spirit to glorify God, proclaim the truth of Christ which transforms lives, and encourage one another toward faithful service and maturity.

Hillcrest Church of Christ
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Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Greg Anderson

P.M. – Phil Palmer

Baptism

Congratulations to Ethan Etter on his baptism on Nov. 22. Ethan's parents are Eric & Cheryl Etter.

New Baby

Congratulations to Luke & Larissa Riddle on the birth of a daughter, Hadley Riddle on Nov. 23. Grandparents are Rick & Lisa Riddle.

Special Silent Servant Award

On Saturday, Nov. 21, the Woman-to-Woman Ministry recognized twelve of our Hillcrest ministries, ministry leaders, and their members. They also honored Alan Clute with the "Special Silent Servant" award for his exceptional servant heart and work. Since he was away driving the bus for the youth group, and was unable to accept his award at the reception, the W-2-W Ministry would like to express again how deeply we all appreciate Alan, not only for his work in so many Hillcrest ministries, but also for his work in the Abilene community. We love you, Alan!

The Hillcrest Gals and Gifts Christmas Party – Thur., Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Patsy Ivey, 1537 Westwood. Bring a \$20 wrapped gift, finger food and a friend. Join us for a fun filled evening as we open gifts and get to know each other. For more information, call Mary Ann (Mac) Ivey 979-255-4661 or Patsy Ivey 325-668-2557.

Single Senior & Hilltoppers Christmas Dinner

Sat., Dec. 5, 5 p.m.

It will soon be time to get the Christmas decorations down from the attic or at Hillcrest from the Decorator's Closet. Get out your festive Christmas sweater and plan to come Sat., Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. to the Single Seniors Christmas Dinner. This year we are inviting all of the Hilltoppers to join us. Come at 4:30 to have your picture made with Santa. The menu is ham, potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls and dessert. Tyler Burton will be playing Christmas songs on keyboard. Enter through the covered entrance. Please sign up in Bible class if you will be able to attend. If you need a ride, please mark that on the signup list. We plan to finish in plenty of time to attend the Philharmonic.

If you 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 Baskets – Fri., Dec. 11

Watch for sign-up sheets in classrooms to contribute your baked goods for the baskets that will be distributed on Fri., Dec. 11, to Hillcrest members who lost a family member in 2015.

Breakfast with Santa – Sat., Dec. 12, 9-11 a.m.

Hillcrest will be hosting this community event in the MPR. Kids will be able to come in their pajamas and have their picture made with Santa! A free pancake and sausage breakfast will be provided along with Christmas craft activities. Bring a neighbor! Sign up to help in your class today!

Breakfast With Santa Craft Need - We are in need of pine cones, ranging from 3 to 5 inches, for a Breakfast with Santa craft. A bin in the large hall has been marked for this collection. Thank you!

Christmas for the Children of Cherokee Home for Children

Last year the Hilltoppers sent gifts for each child at Cherokee Home for Children. Cherokee Home provides for the physical, educational and spiritual needs of about 35 children (ages 11 months to 18 years) that have been removed from difficult family situations. If you would be willing to purchase and wrap a gift from one or two of the children's wish lists, please contact Janiece Watts at 325-372-1970 or janiece.watts@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events

December 4-6	High School Retreat
December 5	Single Seniors Christmas Dinner
December 9	Elders, Deacons, Ministry Leaders and Staff Meeting
December 11	Comfort & Hope Baskets/Prep
December 12	Breakfast With Santa
December 13	Care Group
December 23	Devotional in Chapel
December 25-Jan 1	Office Closed/Holiday
December 27	Worship at 10 a.m. ONLY
January 10.....	Care Group
January 17.....	Remembrance of Lives Lived
January 26.....	Hilltoppers Luncheon
January 28.....	"What You Didn't Know About Mom & Dad" Seminar, Hosted by Hilltoppers
January 31.....	Faith at Home

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1 – 5th Sunday)

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 Hour – Tonight from 6-7 p.m.

Infants up to age 3 meet in the nursery. Children ages 4 through 5th grade will begin in the MPR.

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 in Namwianga, Zambia. The directions are on the box. Please deposit the box to the red receptacle no later than Sunday, December 20.

HYG – Youth

Today – Huddles meet at 6 p.m. No Junior Huddle. Sign up for High School retreat.

Monday – Last day to sign up for High School retreat

Wednesday – 7 p.m. - Class

Thursday – Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. at Chick-fil-A (north).

Friday – Leave for High School Retreat at 5 p.m.

Hillcrest - U

Tonight – There will be no Life Group meeting tonight.

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – LIFT, Come share your story!

Thursday – 11 a.m. – Final small group prayer chapel at Jacob's Dream.

December 6 - Annual Christmas party! 6 p.m. at the NICCL (102 Cedar)! We'll have an ugly Christmas attire contest and a gift exchange! You won't want to miss it!

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly713	Rm 10/1152
Classes.....590	
Membership915	Wed.....448
Oct. Offering\$109,324	

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – Today the final series of the year continues with a focus on "Spiritual Responsibilities of the Individual and the Church."

Wednesday Night Large Class - Rm 10-11 – Rodney Ashlock begins a three-week series on 1 Peter.

Wednesday Women's Bible Class – Rm 219 – Continues a study of Walking by Faith by Jennifer Rothschild. Women of all ages are invited.

Wednesday Worship in Song – Rm 16 – Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song.

Wednesday ESL – Class Rm 30 - If you have an interest in helping as a tutor, please contact Phil Palmer.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – Dec 1 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "A Call to Perseverance" Heb. 12:1-29, Teacher: Marty Williams.

Rm 10 – "Exhortations" Phil. 4:1-9, Teacher: Pat Pamplin.

Family Ministry

Wednesday Night Series – 7 p.m. – Room 14/15

The Advent Conspiracy - Are you tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This year, take a stand! Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be - a joyous celebration that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirit. This series shows you how to substitute consumption with compassion by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts. Find out how to have a Christmas worth remembering, not dreading! Christmas can still change the world when you, like Jesus, give what matters most - your presence.

Divorce Care – Wednesday Night – Rm 52

Russell & Cene' Gould facilitating.

Missions & Faith Sharing

World Bible School

Hillcrest is helping to craft a fast turnaround Bible correspondence system with World Bible School in Ghana. Our volunteer graders even use some of their holiday time to grade lessons in order to meet school schedules in Ghana. Thank you Hillcrest for being dedicated sharers of the Gospel through postal and digital methods!