

# Hillcrest Encouragement

## Elders

- John Barton
- Terry Brown
- Neal Coates
- Malcolm Coco
- David Copeland
- Ray Ferguson
- Duwain Houston
- Cam Hurst
- Robert Marion
- Charles Perkins
- Don Pope
- C. D. Pruett
- Jack Stewart
- Phil Vardiman
- Cleddy Varner
- Gary Varner
- Steve Wages
- Jim Watts
- Odies Wright

## Chairman of the Elders

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## Our Story

I sometimes find myself approaching the Bible as a collection of verses...sort of like a whole book of proverbs and quotes to get my mind on the right track. Many of my favorites are probably your favorites, too. Philippians 4 tells me that "I can do all things through him who gives me strength" (v. 13)...nice to know when I find myself in circumstances beyond my control. That same chapter reminds me to "Rejoice!" (v. 4) and informs me that the way to do this is to dwell on those truths that are pure and noble (v. 8), to be thankful (v. 6), and to be content (v. 11).

When confronted with my guilt, it is comforting to be reminded that there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). That I, like Paul, can "forget what is behind and press on toward what is ahead" (Phil. 3:13), leaning on the promise that as I "walk in the light" the "blood of Jesus" continually "purifies" me from my sin (1 John 1:7).

In times of struggle and challenge, it's encouraging that our trials help us to become "mature and complete" (James 1:3,4) and the comfort we receive from God in our troubles enables us to comfort others who face similar difficulties (II Cor. 1:3-7).

Of course, the Bible is much more than a collection of verses. All of these verses have a context and are surrounded by stories...stories of people struggling with their faith, with adversity, with sin. I guess we all have our favorite stories, too. I'd love to know what Joseph was thinking while traveling to Egypt as a slave (Genesis 37:23-36) or how Gideon felt when he realized the army he was leading into battle had only 300 men (Judges 6,7)...I wonder if he wanted to do that thing with the fleece one more time! It impresses me that a king, like David, who was so mighty in battle and status would humble himself when confronted by Nathan (II Samuel 12:13) and pen words like those found in Psalms 51.

The stories of the Bible are many...too many to mention...and, yet, it's really just one story...THE STORY...the story of God and his redeeming love for his creation. That's what really strikes me about the Bible...the continuity of thought through so many centuries in the words of so many writers. Books aren't usually written that way. Usually, an author begins and ends a story...not simply add to a story started by someone else. And this story has a purpose...not just a purpose in the telling, but a purpose in the living. There was purpose in Joseph going to Egypt and Moses in a basket...purpose in crossing over the Jordan to reach the Promise Land. There was purpose in establishing the temple as the only place for sacrifice...and purpose in splitting the curtain when Jesus died. There is purpose in our fellowship and meeting for communion.

I'm glad we each have our favorite verses to look to for encouragement. I'm thankful for those stories that help us put our own lives in perspective. But I am in awe when I think of God's hand throughout history, guiding the fulfillment of his purposes...living out THE STORY.

As part of his creation, it's our story, too.

David Perkins

# 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
Upward Bound (all ages) .....	Room 10
Y/O (all ages) .....	Room 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

April 19, 2015

Worship Leader..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #608..... He Gave Me a Song  
Welcome ..... Alan Clute

### Songs of Praise

Hymn: #250..... The Great Redeemer  
Hymn..... Come People of the Risen King  
Hymn: #810..... Listen to Our Hearts  
Hymn: #550..... I Walk With the King

### Welcome To the Eternal Kingdom

Psalms 84:1-4, 6, 10-12..... Art Reese  
2 Peter 1:3-11..... Art Reese  
Prayer ..... Don Boyd

### The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #287..... There is a Redeemer  
Communion Meditation..... Cliff Barbarick  
Hymn: #67..... For the Beauty of the Earth\*

### Offering

Prayer ..... Cliff Barbarick  
Hymn ..... Magnificat  
Hymn ..... Awesome God  
*(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)*

### "Qualified to Serve"

Message ..... John Siburt  
Hymn: #276..... Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

### Responses

Hillcrest News..... Keith Morgan  
Hymn: #704..... Bind Us Together  
Family Blessing..... Phil Vardiman  
\* 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 Speakers

A.M. – John Siburt  
P.M. – Charles Small, "Christianity 101"

Dr. John Siburt is known to people in Abilene because he is the son of Charles and Judy Siburt. John has 10 years experience as a pulpit minister and is now the president of a faith-based organization, CitySquare, that offers a variety of poverty-fighting programs throughout Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin. John has three degrees from ACU as well as additional post-graduate work from Texas Christian University. He will be preaching for us today and next Sunday as well.

## Labor for Your Neighbor – Today

Labor for Your Neighbor flyers have been distributed through Meals on Wheels to the 01, 02 and 03 zip codes. We have received over 50 calls from people unable to do the work themselves or afford to have someone else do it. Help is needed mowing, weed eating, trimming bushes & trees, hauling off stuff and washing a couple of windows. Plan to help serve during Labor for Your Neighbor today. Work together with your family, huddle, or life group to do one or more jobs. Signup sheets with names, addresses, phone numbers and work needed done are on the tables at the side of the worship center. Call before you go, so they will know you are on your way. You will probably need to take your own tools. Be sure to pray with the recipient you have blessed with your labor. Childcare will be provided at the building for children 2nd grade and below, if you choose not to take them with you. Please sign up for babysitting or to help babysit on the clipboards at the designated table.

## Men's Softball – Monday, April 20

The Hillcrest softball team will play a double header at 8 p.m. against Baker Heights on Nelson Park field 1 and 9 p.m. on field 2.

## Tuesday Ladies Class – April 21, 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – Pam Clements – *Lord is it Warfare?* Chapter 10  
Rm 10 – Mary Barton – 2 Timothy 4

## Calendar of Events

April 19..... Labor For Your Neighbor  
April 28..... Hilltoppers Luncheon  
May 1-3..... Annual Retreat at HEB Camp  
May 3 ..... Care Group  
May 5 ..... Ladies Class Salad Luncheon  
May 17 ..... Senior Sunday  
June 14..... Care Group  
June 21-24 ..... VBS  
July 19-22..... VIP Camp

## Hilltoppers Luncheon – April 28, 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Reed, D.O. and Katherine Hennecke, LMSW (Social Worker), from Hendrick Hospice will present "Pathways: Supportive Care and Palliative Medicine."

## Annual HEB Spring Retreat – May 1-3

The Hillcrest Spring Retreat at HEB Camp will be May 1st - 3rd. Experience the new Headwaters campsite. Families stay together in individual casitas which sleep 6 or 10 or hotel-like rooms that sleep 4. Enjoy singing Friday night. Be encouraged and inspired during a morning and evening session focused on the theme "Breathe". The cost is \$15 a person and includes 3 meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday! Register online at hillcrestonline.com. Request your choice of accommodations and pay online. You will receive a confirmation email with links to a packing list, map & directions, and a permission release form in case you are taking children or youth from outside your family.

## Senior Sunday – May 17

Below is a list of Hillcrest students in the 2015 graduating class. In the hallway across from the MPR, tables are currently set up with the names and pictures of our graduates. You are invited to place gifts or cards in buckets underneath the tables. This is just one way that the Hillcrest family chooses to honor our graduating students and celebrate this milestone in their life.

Martha Coates	Clay Meyer
Tida Dam	Champ Mongkonatatan
Baylee Hancock	Kimery Oliver
Adam Holland	Jessica Price
Molly Holland	Ben Riddle
Jessica Ivey	Sara Roibal
Macy McClung	Colton Rosseau
Miranda McClung	Carly Smith
Bailey McCorkle	Catherine Swedlund
Darby McGee	Rylee Ware
Rachel McMillan	Annelise White

## VBS - "Christian Academy" - June 21-24

Ages 4 yr. to 5th grade. Please sign up to volunteer in the VBS needs request email sent on April 8, or on the wall in the bin area close to the teacher workroom. Registration forms will soon be on the church's website and on the desk in the children's wing.

## VIP Camp – "Move" - July 19-22

For children 1st grade to 5th grade as of January 2015. Registration forms will be mailed to the children.

## Children's Ministry Need

Please begin collecting empty paper towel rolls for VBS and empty cereal boxes (not the tiny size) for VIP Camp. A designated bin is in the hall for your convenience.

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

### Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #3)

### 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 4-5th grade will begin in the MPR.

## HYG - Youth

**Today** - Huddles at 6 p.m.

**Wednesday** - Tutoring at 6:15 p.m. Class at 7 p.m.

**Thursday** - Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. at Chick-fil-A North.

**Friday** - South-side Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. at Chick-fil-A South (on Southwest Dr.).

**Sign up for HYG summer events** - Sign up online at hillcrestonline.com or through links in HYG newsletters.

## HillcrestU - University

### Tonight – Life Groups at 5:30 p.m.

G1 and G4 - Hatfield (Location TBA)  
G2 and G3 – Goodman Home (702 Serrot Ct)

### Tuesday

Bible study at 8 p.m. Location TBA.

### Wednesday

Lift at 7 p.m. Experiencing the Psalms.

### Thursday

Small group chapel this week at 11 a.m. at Jacob's Dream.

### Upcoming Events

- April 26 - Sponsor Appreciation Dinner
- May 3 - Graduate Celebration

## For the Record

<b>Sunday Morning</b>	<b>Sunday Evening</b>
A.M. Assembly ..... 689	Auditorium..... 53
Bible Class ..... 513	Bible Hour ..... 21
Membership ..... 956	Life Groups ..... 167
Offering ..... \$27,288	<b>Wednesday Evening</b>
Weekly Budget .... \$25,000	Classes ..... 331

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Bible Classes:** This morning we continue a study of the "signs" of Jesus in the gospel of John. While each of the gospel writers describes numerous miracles performed by Jesus, John chooses to call them "signs" instead of "miracles". Come explore why he uses this term.

**Wednesday Night Classes:** During April the speaker for the large adult lecture class will be Steve Austin. His topic is "Following Jesus" and will place an emphasis on the geography and culture of Israel. Also remember that there is a class for women and a class for everyone that focuses on prayer, scripture reading, reflection and faith sharing.

## Family Ministry

### Sunday - Single and Parenting - 6 p.m. – Room 14-15

Darrin Cox & Summer Anders facilitate this group.

### Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Room 14-15

Family/Group Bible Study on Baptism. If your kids are at "that age" and beginning to ask about baptism, or you have friends you would like to study with about becoming a Christian, but don't know how, or you would like to study about baptism in a small group, this class is for you. Each week families or small groups will go through a guided study on what baptism is and why it is so important, in a relaxed atmosphere. Please RSVP to the office at 691-4200.

### Divorce Care – Wednesday – 7 p.m. – Room 52

If you or someone you know could benefit from this support group, please plan to attend. Facilitated by Russell & Cene' Gould.

## Missions and Faith Sharing

### Send the Light

Thank you, Hillcrest, for your dedication to missions! The Send the Light collection now stands at \$86,377! We have passed our goal! If you still have a donation, please bring it by the office or give it to any of the elders. The Missions Team will use additional funds to assist the various teams this year with any emergency expenses.