

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. Pruet
- 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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Cynthia Coates, *Children's*
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Jack Hardcastle, *Family*
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Justin Hatfield, *University*
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Long Over Due Thank You

What is a man's favorite TV channel? The next one . . . if HE is holding the remote!

Unfortunately, I have often found this true in my ministry. What am I focused on at any given time? The next one. The next event or responsibility . . . without properly taking the time to express gratitude and appreciation to those who gave of themselves to make the last happening a blessing. I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Only 1 of the lepers who Jesus healed returned to thank him . . . and he was a foreigner! (Luke 17:11-19) That puts me in the 90 percent!

Yesterday, the Woman to Woman ministry hosted an event to honor "silent servants," those who work behind the scenes. That motivated me to take a moment to be a 10 percenter and impersonally personally thank some of the people who have blessed my ministry through the years. A BIG THANK YOU TO . . .

Kent & Lupe Anderson and everyone who worked together cooking, serving, cleaning, covering tables, filling silverware trays, recycling, and cleaning out drawers so that we could all enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving LAFF meal. *Bob & Betty Hale* who faithfully make the tea and lemonade. *James Gober* who helps re-stock the serving line.

Susan Green who answers all my emails about Hilltopper menus and explains what Shallots, Lemon Curd and Silken Tofu are and then comes to cook on Monday night and Tuesday morning. Thank you to everyone who comes and helps her or stays after and cleans up.

Jack & Ruby Moran who asked if I would drive the van to look at Christmas lights in 2000 (we were one seat short, so Jack sat on a water cooler . . . don't tell Judd), which began my work with the Hilltoppers. They have provided many suggestions of places to go and things to see through the years.

Sherry Vaughan & Linda Perkins who show up to decorate tables without a reminder call.

Stephen Powers who drives the bus to and from University Place every Sunday, unless he or the bus are out of town (something I used to do or schedule a rotation).

Scott Duncan who puts the PowerPoint/Media Shout together and runs it every Sunday (something I used to do . . . usually late Saturday night).

Star Ferguson, Liz Rotenberry and this year *Melissa McClung* for planning the Fourth of July parade and making it happen with lots of help.

Everyone who shows up and helps with the Trunk Party.

Everyone who has and WILL help with the Single Senior Christmas Dinner – Sat., Dec. 5.

Ron & Cary, Krista & Kayla Owens who set up a network and print pictures for over two hours during Breakfast with Santa.

Troy McCorquodale who always stays after and helps clean up.

My Life Group, who lets me read the questions and then just listen.

The nineteen people who gave me an early Christmas present with a wonderful Branson trip. WHOOSH!

The Hillcrest family who patiently and lovingly support me and my family.

The elders who have given me the freedom, support and encouragement to use my talents and gifts to get things done in my own way . . . without making me preach!

Hillcrest staff who make me appear better than I am, especially *Carmen, Kay and Vicki* . . . I'm still not getting a cell phone!

Thank you to my wife, *Jennifer*, who at times has been a "minister's widow" when I have been called away, stayed out late to get something done, have chosen to go to Branson or drive a bus to Encounter LE.

Thank you to *James McGee* who usually writes or recruits someone besides me to write this article.

Star Ferguson is so good about writing Thank You notes. Sometimes I think she either has them written before hand or stays up all night to write them. Maybe next time I will just ask her to write Thank you notes for me!

This Thanksgiving, take time to count your many blessings, and consider yourself one of mine...even if you weren't mentioned by name in this article!

Alan Clute

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 22, 2015

Worship Leader..... Odies Wright
Hymn #718..... We Shall Assemble
Welcome..... Robert Marion
Hymn: #309..... In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

Dealing with Criticism While Remaining Faithful to Mission

Psalms 3:1-8..... Tyler Merritt
Romans 15:5-6..... Tyler Merritt
Prayer..... Matt Merritt

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #666..... I Am Thine, O Lord
Hymn..... Lord, I Give Your My Heart
Hymn..... How Can I Keep From Singing

The Lord's Supper

Hymn: #376..... He Paid a Debt
Communion Meditation..... Dusty Rhodes
Hymn: #361..... Nailed to the Cross

Offering

Prayer..... Dusty Rhodes
Hymn: #810..... Listen to Our Hearts*
Hymn: #560..... Living By Faith

Nehemiah: Serving God with Dirty Hands "I Can't Come Down!"

Message..... Phil Ware
Hymn: #948..... I Am Resolved

Responses

Hillcrest News..... Gary Varner
Hymn: #859..... When All of God's Singers Get Home
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
650 E Ambler Ave - Abilene, Texas 79601 - 325-691-4200 - office@hillcrestonline.com - www.hillcrestonline.com

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Phil Ware
P.M. – Phil Palmer

Light on the Hill

Thank you for your generous donations of \$63,678.10 to our Light on the Hill contribution.

Food Donation to Christian Service Center

Thank you, Hillcrest family, for your very generous food donation to our pantry last Sunday. Our pantry shelves are overflowing! There is such a great need in our community for food – including many people who are working, but still cannot afford basic needs such as food. We fill over 1,400 orders a year, giving each person 20 pounds of food. You help make it possible for us to show the love of Jesus to people in poverty in very tangible ways. To God be the glory!

With gratitude in Christ, Jim Clark Director

The Woman to Woman Ministry would like to thank the congregation for attending the reception Saturday morning and helping us to honor twelve ministry leaders and many current volunteers for being “Silent Servants” for the Hillcrest family. The Ministries honored were: Safety - Robert Cole, Letter Writers - Mark Miller (& Patsy Ivy/just retired), Middleton Prison - Glen Cannon, Haskell Prison - Marian Rowe, Taylor Co. Jail - Jackie Vardiman, Hilltoppers - Alan Clute, Communion Preparation - Eugene Kiefer, Greeters -J.R. Foster, Information Table - Fred Jamison, Projection - Scott Duncan, Recording - Cade White, and Sound - Scott McMillan.

Our personal thanks are extended also to each minister, elder, deacon, staff, ministry team leader, individual ministry leader, and member who serve this church. May we all strive to be workers in the Kingdom of God.

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.

This Wednesday Night

No Bible classes. - Devotional – Chapel

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.

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

November 25Devotional in the Chapel/No Class
November 26-27 Office Closed/Thanksgiving
December 5Single Seniors Christmas Dinner
December 12Breakfast With Santa
December 13 Care Group

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly644	Rm 10/1149
Classes.....425	
Membership.....915	Wed Classes448
Oct. Offering.....\$109,324	

Hillcrest Ministries

Children’s Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #4)

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.

Wednesday Night – No Bible Classes – Thanksgiving holiday

HYG – Youth

Today – HYG Returns from Encounter LE at 1:45. Huddles meet at 6 p.m.

Wednesday – No class – Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday – No Prayer Breakfast - Thanksgiving

Sign up for High School Retreat. SABOTAGE! Dec. 4-6. \$70. Please let Taylor know if cost will be an issue.

Hillcrest - U

Tonight – 6 p.m. LIFE Group service Sunday. Check with your LIFE groups for what you will be doing. More information in class.

Wednesday – No class due to Thanksgiving Break. There will be a short devotional in the chapel for those in town.

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!

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – Today the final series of the year begins focusing on the “Spiritual Responsibilities of the Individual and the Church.”

Wednesday Night Large Class - Rm 10-11 – No class. There will be a devotional in the chapel.

Tuesday Women’s Bible Study – Nov 24 - No Classes

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. Next meeting Dec. 2.

Faith at Home recordings are now online
www.hillcrestonline.com/media/sermons

Divorce Care – Wednesday Night – Rm 52
Russell & Cene’ Gould facilitating.

Missions & Faith Sharing

As we approach our day of Thanksgiving, let’s spend time in prayer for those serving overseas.

- Cindy Robinson – Namwianga Mission
- Nhamo Marunga & family – Mutare School of Preaching
- Andrew Kelly & family – Ukraine
- Tony Morrow & family – Ukraine
- Chris Dos Santos – Zimbabwe (Operation Starfish)
- The churches in Cape Town, South Africa
- The churches in Mumena, Zambia
- Larry & Pam Sullivan – East Germany
- The church in Chemnitz
- Charles Odoi – WBS Ghana P.R.E.P. coordinator
- Phil & Elaine Palmer – WBS God Bless East Africa
- The church in Empangeni