

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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Seeking Unity In Acts 21

Upon his return to Jerusalem, Paul was confronted by the leaders of the church, including James, the brother of Jesus. They said, "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law" (v.20). Although it surprised me when I saw this for the first time, it actually makes sense. These Jewish believers had walked and talked with the Messiah for whom they and their ancestors had been waiting for centuries. That experience must have added to their zeal for the oracles of God they'd been taught all of their lives. Hence, these believers were zealous for the LAW. The leaders continued, "They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. What shall we do?"

Apparently, Paul's message to the Gentiles had been miscommunicated to the Jewish believers. The Gentile believers were taught that they did not have to conform to the teachings of Judaism. Remember, the question addressed by the Jerusalem council in Acts 15 was, "Did the Gentiles who accepted Jesus have to be circumcised and follow the practices of the Jewish believers?" Resolution to this controversy was reached when James, the brother of Jesus, said, "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God" (15:19).

In Acts 21, James and the other leaders appear to have the same attitude toward their Jewish brothers. I suspect it would have violated the conscience of these early believers to give up the practices they were accustomed to...much deeper than that guilty feeling some of us had when we gave up meeting in the auditorium for Sunday night services. To dispel the rumors that Paul was teaching against the law, the leaders pointed to some men who had taken a Nazarite vow. They asked Paul to participate in their purification rites and pay their expenses. The event ended with the offering of a sacrifice. I have to admit, it greatly disturbed me the first time I saw this. However, it's perfectly in line with what Paul has said all along: to the Gentile he became a Gentile, and to the Jew, he became a Jew.

I struggled for a long time to make sense of this. It just didn't fit with my understanding of how Paul should have responded. Paul did not seem to confine his teachings or behavior to my comfort zones. I wonder how comfortable I would have felt meeting daily in the temple courts with the believers (Acts 2:46). Since they were zealous for the law, I wonder what they did there. The more I thought about it, the more I saw God's gracious patience as the Jewish believers transitioned toward a deeper reliance on Jesus rather than the law with its rituals and requirements...a reliance that must have gone even deeper when the temple was destroyed. It is striking to me how much diversity existed between the believers who grew up under the law with its practices and those who did not. I suppose if God was so patient with the early believers who didn't share my comfort zones then, maybe I should have patience with others who don't share my comfort zones today. As I grow deeper in my own understanding, my hope rests on the conviction that he will have the same patience with me.

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

Babv 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

April 24, 2016

Worship Leader Odies Wright
Hymn Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
Welcome Dave Copeland
Hymn: #134 The Lord's My Shepherd
Hymn We Will Worship You

The Spirit Gives Life

Ezekiel 37:1-14..... Collin Pittman
Romans 8:10-11..... Brody Earles
Prayer Trenton Carothers

The Lord's Supper

Hymn Worthy Is the Lamb
Communion Meditation Lucas Masilamoney
Hymn: #496 O Listen to the Wondrous Story

Offering

Prayer Lucas Masilamoney
Hymn: #764 Teach Me Lord to Wait*

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #250 The Great Redeemer
Hymn: #517 Heaven Came Down
(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)

Jesus' Story Becomes My Story: "New Life In Christ, Like Christ"

Message..... Phil Ware
Hymn: 129 Amazing Grace

Responses

Hillcrest News Dean Pye
Hymn: #859 When All of God's Singers Get Home
Family Blessing..... Ray Ferguson

(*Children's Song of the Month)

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speaker

A.M. – Phil Ware
P.M. – Cam Spencer – Chapel at 6 p.m.

Sympathy

- Sympathy to Richard and Jimmie Greenawalt on the loss of Richard's step-father, Sam Walker.
- Sympathy to Jon and Rebecca Bos on the loss of Jon's mother, Margo.

Baby Shower – Sat., April 30, 2 p.m.

Honoring Crystal Canada, daughter of Cecil & Elida Hernandez, at 1452 Tanglewood. Selections at Target, Kids Village and Buy Bye Baby.

Hilltoppers Luncheon – Tues., Apr. 26, 11:30 a.m. – Rm 12

Brian Davis will share an update on Dave & Irene Meikle in Zimbabwe. The menu will be Macaroni Grill Pasta Di Pollo Al Sugo Bianco (pasta with grilled chicken), roasted green beans with mushrooms, tossed salad, garlic bread and chocolate or lemon layered dessert. Please sign up in Bible class next Sunday. The cost is \$3 per person. Hilltoppers are made up mostly of retirees, but anyone is welcome.

Christian Service Center Update

Limited services beginning Mon., May 2, at 949 Mesquite (Old Meals on Wheels bldg.). Item donations will be accepted starting tomorrow, at 904 Walnut. Current needs are sturdy storage tubs with lids (18 gallon or larger), clothing (especially children's), towels, hand towels & washcloths, sheet sets (all sizes), children's books, small stuffed animals, hangers, paper bags w/handles. To make monetary donations go to www.cscabilene.org and click on Donate Fire Relief Fund or send to P.O. Box 2957, 79604.

Honor a Mother and Help an Expectant Mother – Zambia

Medical Mission would like to suggest a way to give a Mother's Day gift that will give life to a mother and her baby in Zambia. A gift of \$10 will purchase two Clean Delivery Kits (CDKs) for Zambia. We will give these CDKs out to expectant mothers during our Zambia Medical Mission and throughout the year at the Namwianga Rural Health Center. We will be targeting mothers who will not have access to a hospital or rural clinic for delivery. For your gift, Zambia Mission Fund will send either a traditional Mother's Day card to the women you choose or eFlowers. Visit <https://zambiamission.org/mom/> to donate.

Sunday Morning

A.M. Assembly 632
Classes 557
Membership 900
Mar. Offering \$99,374

Sunday Evening

Rm 10/11 44
Bible Hour 8
Wed 455

New Member/Updated Old Member Pictures - Today

Alan will be taking pictures at the side of the worship center today after worship.

Prayer Journal

The search committee is extremely grateful for your prayers and encouraging words as we come closer to discovering who God has chosen for Hillcrest. Starting next Sunday, during class time, we will be passing the prayer journals around the classes for you to have opportunities to write a prayer for our new minister. If you want to bring a written prayer to class and transpose it next week, that would be wonderful. Hopefully, we do not have much longer to wait and we would love to present this man and his family with the journals showing some of the prayers that were given on his behalf. Thank you for the countless prayers that have already been offered and for your continuous support. May God be glorified in all we do!! The Search Committee

Hillcrest - U

Today – 6 p.m. – Sponsor Appreciation Dinner! Tonight we honor those who have fed us and cared for us throughout the year! To help with set up come to Hillcrest at 3 p.m. If you need to use the kitchen, it will available for your use from 1:30 until the event begins at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Come Share YOUR Story at 7 p.m.

Thursday: Last Small group chapel, 11 a.m. at Jacob's Dream and our last REACH at 4 - 5:30 p.m., Canterbury Crossing Apts. Come say goodbye to these wonderful children.

Saturday – 7 p.m. - End of the semester movie night at the Hatfield house! 5333 CR 103 N. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, snacks and deserts to share as we sit out under the stars for a backyard movie!

Sunday May 1 – 6 p.m. – Graduate Celebration! in Neal and Cynthia Coates' backyard. Come help us honor and say goodbye to our graduating seniors!

Calendar of Events

April 26Hilltoppers Luncheon
April 29-May 1 Family Retreat at HEB Camp
May 1 Care Group
May 8 Mother's Day
May 15 HYG Senior Sunday
May 25Mesos Pylona

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #4)

Training and Learning for Children: (Ages 2-4)

Parents may escort their child to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

Bible Bowl Practice – Meets today. All of Ruth Review. Next Bible Bowl competition: Lubbock, Texas May 7.

Bible Hour – Bible Hour is tonight! Ages 2-3 will begin in the playroom beside the 3's classroom, and ages 4 up to 5th grade will begin in the puppet room and end in the MPR.

Caterpillars & Butterflies – We will meet April 26, our last time for this school year.

VBS: June 19-22, Ages 4 through 5th grade. Theme: SCAR FORCE. To register online at Hillcrest's website, go to "Events" or to the Children's Ministry drop down section to find the form.

VIP Camp: July 17-20, Children who have completed 1st grade through 5th grade. Theme: Walk This Way. Registration will soon begin.

HYG – Youth

Today – Huddles at 6 p.m.

Wednesday – 7 p.m. – Class

Thursday – Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m.

TNT! Thursday Night Together – No TNT this week.

Seniors need to turn in their pictures for Sr. Sunday.

Upcoming Events

Jr/Sr Night Out - May 6

Senior Sunday - May 15

Missions and Faith Sharing

Send The Light Final Tally

Thank you again Hillcrest! The Send the Light goal of \$64,175 for short-term missions in the April 3 special contribution has now been passed by almost \$10,000. The final tally is \$73,617. This will provide half of airfare for 43 persons on mission trips to 16 countries this year. The Missions Team designated beforehand that extra funds would go to needed medicines during the Zambia Medical Mission.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – A new study, "Minor Prophets with Major Messages," begins today.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – April 26 – 10 a.m.

Rm 30 – "Don't Bottle It Up": Teacher, Donna Gee. Rm 10 – "Galatians in Song"

Wednesday Night Classes

- **Rm 10/11** – Steve Wages completes his month-long series entitled "God's Design for Human Intimacy: Giving Spiritual Meaning to Human Sexuality."
- **Rm 30 – ESL Class:** Meets every week
- **Rm 16 – Congregational Singing:** Join Odies Wright for a time of Worship in song!
- **Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class:** "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

Wednesdays – Rm 14/15 – 7 p.m.

Relationship 101 (8-week series)

With Jack and Susan Hardcastle. Want to take your relationship to the next level? Whether you are seriously dating, engaged, or feel like you have been married forever, this class will help you understand each other in ways you never thought possible. There is no charge for the class, and it does qualify for the marriage license discount as well. You must preregister online or call 325-691-4200.

Prayer Room for the Preacher Search – Living Room



www.hillcrestonline.com/members/search

Open during office hours and anytime on Sunday and on Wednesday nights.