

# 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

## Chairman of the Elders

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## Ministers

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## The Space Between Us

*A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.  
Ecclesiastes 4:12*

A couple of weeks ago, I was blown away as I witnessed my Hillcrest family being “bound together” by hundreds of strands of thread. I did not realize just how much God would use a simple piece of string to touch lives. In the following weeks, I have had several people share with me how this binding experience had a profound affect on them. People who are often isolated from one another moved in and drew near to each other. Kindness and assistance was shared and given as one would help another tie their string to the other. I wish all of you could have seen the excitement and smiles on child and adult alike as we did this exercise. The tiny thread grew to a giant mass of unity.

Bridging the space between us is a very real challenge in a church worship center and in life. Over time, many of us become unaware when a physical and emotional disconnect has developed. When separation starts to happen, we do not always know how or why. Then, once the distance occurs we don’t know how to come back together. Yet, this is where the gospel is able to display its power. God is not only the master builder, he is also the master rebuild and reconciler. The love, grace, mercy, kindness, strength, and forgiveness of Jesus do a work in the space between us that we cannot do.

Last Sunday, I read an excerpt from the book *The World According to Mister Rogers* that spoke to this. He retells an experience that he had as he listened to “the worst sermon...ever imagined” (Rogers, p. 114). It wasn’t until he saw a woman near him moved to tears that he realized God had done something special with the words given. He reflects, “Thanks to that preacher and listener-in-need, I now know that the space between a person doing his or her best to deliver a message of good news and the needy listener is holy ground” (p. 115). God can do a lot even with the least, or especially with the least. In Christ, God is working in the space between us. It is a holy work and it is wonderful to behold.

Nathan Burrow

# 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

Nursery.....	2-24 mo.
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

January 22, 2017

Worship Leader ..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #474 ..... Thank You, Lord  
Welcome ..... Shane Price

### Favorite Songs of the H.O.P.E. Class

Hymn: #202 ..... Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
Hymn: #129 ..... Amazing Grace  
Hymn: #414 ..... Anywhere with Jesus

### God’s Concern for All People

Jonah 4:5-11 ..... Rick Diaz  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ..... Rick Diaz  
Prayer ..... Dan Cox

### We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn ..... Worthy Is the Lamb  
Communion Meditation ..... Justin Hatfield  
Hymn: #827 ..... Sweet Hour of Prayer

### Offering

Prayer ..... Justin Hatfield  
Hymn: #449 ..... Thy Word  
Hymn: #376 ..... He Paid a Debt  
*(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)*

### “Reconnect with the Unchurched”

Message..... Nathan Burrow  
Hymn ..... Come to Jesus

### Responses

Family News ..... Yancey House  
Hymn: #567 ..... Restore My Soul\*  
Elder Blessing..... Odies Wright  
*(Children’s Song of the Month\*)*

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow

P.M. - Coy Roper - Chapel at 6 p.m.

## Teacher Appreciation Lunch - Today, MPR

We will honor our teachers at lunch today. If you signed up to attend, come to the MPR after Bible Class.

## Baby Shower - Today, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

In honor of Jennifer Hoskins, (daughter-in-law of J.R. & Carmen Foster), at the home of Karen Southward, 1941 Green Ridge Ct. Selections at Target, Walmart, and Amazon gift cards.

## Get to Know Nathan

If you haven't had a chance to meet or visit with Nathan, feel free to drop by the office any Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. His door will be open.

## Giving Statements Now Available

To view or print your annual giving statement on Hillcrest Connect, go to [hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect/](http://hillcrestonline.com/hillcrestconnect/) statement for instructions. If you have never logged in to Hillcrest Connect, choose the Sign Up option. You may also request an email at [admin@hillcrestonline.com](mailto:admin@hillcrestonline.com) or call 691-4200 for a printed copy.

## Faith at Home - Sunday, Jan. 29 - "Be a Match"

We will have a blood marrow donor drive immediately after the special workshop that will happen during Bible Class. In various locations throughout the auditorium, volunteers will leave a simple throat swab that can save someone's life (blood marrow tests only take a few minutes and add you to a national registry). We are also asking Bible classes to bring underwear and socks for our homeless teen population here in Abilene (or you can bring Wal Mart gift cards, as well). A box will be available on January 29, at the entrance to the worship center by the foyer. Sign-up in Bible class to bring certain sizes. Call Jack in the office if you have any questions at 325-691-4200.

## Hilltoppers Luncheon - January 31, 11:30 a.m.

Kay Talley will speak about her book "Beyond the Rain" dealing with recovering from grief. For the menu, see the Sign up sheet in Bible class.

## New Wednesday Night Ladies Discussion Class begins February 8.

The class will study "Daring Faith" by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor, a book that focuses on meeting Jesus as He is presented in the Gospel of John. Women looking for an opportunity to grow spiritually while developing a deeper relationship with other sisters in Christ are invited to attend. This class meets in Room 219. If you have any questions about the class, contact Marty Williams.

## Life Group

If you would like to join a Life Group, please call Alan Clute.

## Prayer Team Life Group

Join the Hillcrest Prayer Team in praying for all things Hillcrest such as ministers, ministries, special needs, and the spiritual health of Hillcrest. Weekly email prayer focus and monthly potluck/group prayer time. Email Robert Cole for more info. [rlcole1985@gmail.com](mailto:rlcole1985@gmail.com)

## Missions and Faith Sharing

## Zambia Medical Mission

There are two ZMM containers leaving from Abilene this winter. The first will be loaded at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Bontke Bro. Construction. The second will be loaded on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. at Bontke.

**Phil Palmer** is in East Africa and South Sudan for World Bible School. Janiece Watts and Traci Kennen are at Neema Village near Arusha, Tanzania, working at an orphanage associated with a church plant.

## Hillcrest's World Bible School 2016 Report

Our WBS paper correspondence ministry had a great year sending out 4,369 studies to Africa and over 200 to those in Texas prisons. African countries include, Malawi, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana and Liberia. Chikondi from Malawi wrote, "I am 13 years of age and this is my first time to receive WBS. Thank you for this and I desire to spread the Good News of Christ to all those who don't know Him to receive salvation." Amen, Chikondi. That is our goal, too!

The WBS online teaching method is newer but has a growing number of teachers from Hillcrest. To date we have accepted 531 online students from 42 different nations. A few of these have progressed through a number of lessons.

A 3rd WBS teaching method involved distribution of paper lessons to high school students in Ghana. Then WBS scanned those lessons and sent them to us electronically, which we then graded, rescanned and returned electronically. This hybrid model is very new but has potential for certain situations.

Last September during ACU's Summit, we hosted our first WBS workshop along with our annual Breakfast. We had over 80 attend from the surrounding area.

Thank you Hillcrest for your great support.  
Paula Leverett and Don Pope

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

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

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

## HYG – Youth

**Tonight - 6 p.m.** - Huddles

**Wednesday – 7 p.m.** - Class

**Thursday**

7 a.m. - Prayer Breakfast at Chick-fil-A.

6-8 p.m. - TNT, All grades

**Ski Trip spots are full.** Remember to bring your money to Cody Forsberg.

**HYG Spring Retreat** will be March 31-April 2. Sign-ups will be available online soon.

## Hillcrest - U

**Tonight - 6 p.m.,** LIFE Groups resume. Details in class.

**Wednesday - 7 p.m.** - Share YOUR Story with Nathan and Heather Burrow.

**Thursday - 11 a.m.** - HillcrestU Prayer Chapel at Jacob's Dream. If the weather is poor we will meet in BSB 121.

**REACH** - Normal REACH activities will resume next week. Join us this week at 4:30 p.m. to pass out flyers for the new semester.

**Mark Your Calendar** - Spring Retreat will be March 3-5. Location and theme to be announced.

## Calendar of Events

January 22 ..... Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
 January 29 ..... Faith at Home Sunday  
 January 31 ..... Hilltoppers Luncheon  
 February 5..... Bible Class Fellowship  
 February 15 ..... New Member Dinner  
 February 15 - March 8 ..... Hillcrest 101

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes** – This morning our study of the book of James continues with a lesson on "Being Doers, not just Hearers" taken from James chapter 1.

**Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - January 24, 10 a.m.** B's & C's - Big God, Believe, Creator & Clay, Psalm, 139, 33, 104,119. Teacher: Pat Varner.

## Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 – Cliff Barbarick presents lessons during the month of January. February teacher is Kevin Batten.
- Rm 30 – ESL Class
- Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals
- 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, new session began last week.

## Family Ministry

## Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15

### An Unexpected Christmas

Let's face it; we all have an uncle or cousin we whisper about behind closed doors. We all have a relative or two we try to avoid at family gatherings. No surprise there. But here's something you may not know. Jesus had a few shady characters in his family as well. Actually, he had some relatives that make your most wayward cousin look like a saint. This series will look at how we see our families in a new light!

## Faith at Home Sunday Jan. 29

Speaker: Earl Young, Olympic Gold Medalist and Cancer Survivor - Earl will be here to share his testimony of the healing power of God during worship, and how we can heal others with a very simple test. A special interview will be held during bible class time in the worship center, and Jack will demonstrate on stage how simple the marrow donor process is.

## For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 712	Chapel..... 40
Bible Class..... 595	
Membership..... 883	Wed ..... 386
Dec. Offering ..... \$136,086	