

# 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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## Suffering in Silence

*“Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. Groan silently”  
Ezekiel 24:16-17a*

God has often called his prophets to very difficult and bizarre tasks in order to bear his message. God called Isaiah to wander unclothed (Isaiah 20), Hosea to marry a prostitute (Hosea 1), and John the Baptist to live in the wilderness feasting on locust and wild honey (Mark 1). Perhaps most difficult was God’s instruction to Ezekiel after the death of his wife. Not only was the delight of his eyes taken from him, but also he was instructed to hide his sorrow. He would not mourn in the customary ways of the Jews. He had to uphold his responsibility as God’s mouthpiece and deliver the Word of the Lord. The dramatic nature of this instruction was meant to be a dramatic wake up call for what God was going to do to the Jews because of their sins.

There are times in people’s lives where tears are a privilege that cannot be expressed. Parents keep up a good face before their children when dealing with crisis. Public servants cannot give in to the pain of sorrow when tragedy strikes and they must do their jobs. Ministers and caregivers often cannot mourn while they are trying to care for those who are hurting. Then there are others who hide their sorrow because of shame or guilt. Though, there may be times where grief cannot be openly shared with all, it is still necessary for the soul to be able to find comfort in sharing sadness. Isolating ourselves only leads to further pain and destruction. God has created us as relational beings dependent on the care of others. We all need to feel loved, especially when life is hard. Confiding in others can also opens doors for prayer and love to flow.

Develop a space for grace. Opening our hearts is risky. If someone is heavy hearted and needing care, one should realize the importance of tact. No one will confide in someone they do not feel they can trust. Gossip and a lack of integrity are traits that will destroy this ministry of presence. God has promised that a time is coming when he will wipe away all tears (Revelation 21:4). Until then, he is calling the church to be there for those who are hurting.

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
Age 3 .....	Room 106
Age 4 .....	Room 107
Pre-K.....	Room 110
K.....	Room 118
Gr 1.....	Room 121
Gr 2.....	Room 117
Gr 3.....	Room 120
Gr 4.....	Room 213
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
Soulful Filling (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 30, 2017

Worship Leader ..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #227 ..... On Zion’s Glorious Summit  
Welcome ..... Gary Varner

### Favorite Songs of the Sonrise Class

Hymn: #851 ..... I’ll Fly Away  
Hymn: #881 ..... Mansion over the Hilltop  
Hymn ..... Mansion, Robe, and Crown

### Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 ..... J. Sanders  
Prayer ..... Cary Watson

### We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: #337 ..... Hallelujah! What a Savior  
Communion Meditation ..... Wes Gorman  
Hymn ..... Love Came Down

### Offering

Prayer ..... Wes Gorman  
Hymn: #394 ..... Walk with Me

### “The Other Side”

Hymn: #214 ..... Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?  
*(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)*  
Message..... Justin Hatfield  
Hymn: #383 ..... Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

### Responses

Family News ..... Kyle McAlister  
Hymn: #77 ..... Glorify Thy Name\*  
Elder Blessing..... Jack Stewart  
*(\* Children’s Song of the Month)*

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. - Justin Hatfield  
P.M. - Bob Pipes- Chapel at 6 p.m.

## Sympathy

Sympathy to Larry and Mary Kay Knight and Zach and Meg Knight on the loss of B Jack Williams. He was the father of Mary Kay.

Sympathy to Diane Wilson on the loss of Jerry on April 25.

## Baby Shower - Today, 2:30 p.m.

Honoring Tyler & Elizabeth Burton and their soon to arrive baby at the home of Dave & Laura Copeland (1451 Tanglewood Rd.) Everyone is invited. Bring your entire family, children too. Selections: Amazon.com and Little Giant Kids.

## Hillcrest Softball - Tomorrow, 7 p.m., Field 1

Tomorrow's game is against First Baptist Church.

## Get to Know Nathan

Nathan will not be available this Tuesday.

## Teachers Needed in Jail Ministry

Taylor County Jail Women's Ministry, part of our local evangelism ministry, would like to invite you to volunteer to teach or assist with our jail ministry team. Contact Joy Powers at 559-260-7988 for more information.

## Cajun Fest Loaves & Fishes Fellowship - May 3, 5:30 p.m.

Join us on May 3, in the MPR for shrimp, sausage, wienies, corn on the cob, and potatoes, and then wash it all down with a Cajun Cone! Being seated at tables begins at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up in Bible class if you can help set up tables on Tues., May 2, at 5:30, prep food on Wed., May 3, at 12 or 3 p.m., help serve at 5 p.m., or help clean starting at 6:30 p.m.. This church-wide meal is funded by your donations. Hillcrest Singers will present their spring performance in Rm 10/11 afterward.

## Bridal Shower - May 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

Honoring Sierra Ware (daughter of Ken & Lorri Ware, granddaughter of David and Linda Lawrence) at the home of Linda Varner (13 Hilliard Cir.) Selections: Dillard's and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

For the Record	
<b>Sunday Morning</b>	<b>Sunday Evening</b>
A.M. Assembly .....598	Chapel .....55
Bible Class ..... 604	
Membership ..... 888	Wed..... 347
Mar. Offering .....\$96,281	

## Senior Sunday - May 21

Hillcrest will be celebrating our High School graduates soon. We will be placing bins in the hallway across from the MPR beginning the month of May so that you can have the chance to give a gift to our graduating Seniors. Graduating High School Seniors:

Carisa Brawley	Thomas Light
Ashlynn Brooks	Collin Longoria
Dylan Cox	Jade Martinez
Molly Earles	Allen Price
Tatum Hines	Kaleb Watson
Kendall Houston	

## Missions and Faith Sharing

Please join African Christian College in celebrating its 50th Anniversary of work for God in Swaziland. The free event is Monday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Hills Church of Christ, and includes a meal with macadamia nuts grown on the school's property. You will meet some graduates of the college and hear inspiring stories from Brad Carter, ACC President. Registration for this free event is at [www.AfricanChristianCollege.org/Abilene50](http://www.AfricanChristianCollege.org/Abilene50) or 325-261-9207. Hillcrest formerly supported this ministry when it was called Manzini School of Preaching.

## Prison Ministry

There were 95 men baptized at the Middleton unit for the month of March. The total for the year is 205.

## Calendar of Events

April 28-30 .....	HEB Family Retreat
May 3 .....	CajunFest LAFF
May 7 .....	Bible Class Fellowship
May 21 .....	HYG Senior Sunday
May 24 .....	Mesos Pylona
May 29 .....	Office Closed/Memorial Day
June 3.....	Men's Life Breakfast at Bill Walker's
June 11.....	Bible Class Fellowship

# 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 - 6 p.m.

### VBS - June 18-21, 2017

Register online at [www.hillcrestonline.com/events/vbs/](http://www.hillcrestonline.com/events/vbs/)

## HYG – Youth

### Tonight - 6 p.m. - Huddles

**Wednesday – 7 p.m.** - Bible Class in the youth room.

### Thursday - 7 a.m.

 - Chick-fil-A Prayer Breakfast

**MS Retreat - May 5-6** (Camp Butman) Sign up through your newsletter or [hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth](http://hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth)

**Sign up for LCU summer camps** through youth newsletter or [www.hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth/](http://www.hillcrestonline.com/ministries/youth/)

Summer Kickoff - June 4 (more details soon!)

Encounter (June 11-17) for those entering 9th grade - graduating seniors

Camp Champion (June 28-July 3) for those entering 6th-8th grade

Pine Springs - July 29-August 4, for incoming 7th graders through graduating seniors. Go to [pinespringscamp.com](http://pinespringscamp.com) to sign up.

## Hillcrest - U

### Tonight - 6 p.m., Rm 10, 11, 12

Sponsor Appreciation Dinner - Don't miss this opportunity to say "Thank you!" to all of our sponsors who have taken care of us all year!

### Wednesday - 7 p.m. Share YOUR Story

### Thursday

11 a.m. - HillcrestU Prayer Chapel - Jacob's Dream

4-5:30 p.m. - REACH

### Mark your calendars!

April 30 - Sponsor Appreciation Dinner! Hillcrest, 6 p.m.

May 7 - Graduation Celebration! 5 p.m. at the home of Neal and Cynthia Coates!

## Adult Education Corner

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes** – The series on the book of Philippians continues.

### Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - May 2, 10 a.m.

Review the study of the Psalms and sing some Psalms. Teacher Connie Adams. May 9 will be the last class and salad luncheon.

### Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 - Bill Brant begins series titled "What do we do with Jesus?"
- Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 30 – ESL Class
- Rm 51 – Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 – Divorce Care will resume in the fall.
- Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals
- Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class: Daring Faith by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor. Women of all ages are invited.

## Family Ministry

### New Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15, Baptism - Sharing the Story as A Family

Everyone knows someone, whether a friend or family member, who has not made the choice to be baptized. You may have a friend that is struggling with the thought of Christianity, but don't know how to approach them biblically. You may be a parent of a child that is getting close to "that age" and you're concerned, but don't know how to approach it. In this class, you will not only learn ways to share the gospel with someone you know, but as a parent you can bring your whole family and share in a guided study together! After a short intro, small groups (or families) will go through a guided Bible study together, and then close with a short discussion all together. Don't miss this great opportunity to share in a guided Bible study that will strengthen your own faith, as well as help you in sharing your faith!