

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
- Phil Vardiman
- Gary Varner
- Odies Wright

Chairman of the Elders

Ray Ferguson
Ray.Ferguson@condley.com

Ministers

Nathan Burrow, *Preacher*
nathan@hillcrestonline.com

Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*
aclute@hillcrestonline.com
691-4217

Cynthia Coates, *Children*
cynthia@hillcrestonline.com

Jack Hardcastle, *Family*
familyman@hillcrestonline.com

Justin Hatfield, *University*
justinhat@gmail.com

Lance Parrish, *Youth*
lance@hillcrestonline.com

Living in Valleys

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Matthew 8:1

When I was in High School, I was able to go on a backpacking trip through Colorado, Utah, and Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. The views from the mountain peaks were incredible. I saw some of the most beautiful sights that could be imagined. Everywhere you looked you could see God's fingerprints. It was filled with breathtaking wonder, a "How Great Thou Art" kind of experience. I treasure those times even decades later. But, after months of training and preparation for the trip, when it was over we had to come back down the mountain and return to our normal lives back home.

It is good to have mountain peak moments. It gives us the fresh air we are often in need of. However, I've found that most of our lives are spent living in the valleys. We cannot stay on the mountain forever. Eventually, we have to go back to our lives and meet the needs down below. The challenge is remembering the view from above while we live life beneath. How do we find God inspiring moments in the mundane of daily life?

The thing I love most about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is not the awe-inspiring views of heaven, but his words declare heaven on earth. He gives us the call to action we need to live out the wonder of God in our daily lives, humbly and full of grace. It is the practical teaching we need to be faithful in our marriages and families. This is what kingdom life looks like lived beyond Sunday gatherings. Jesus' message of loving our enemy, forgiveness, and prayer is what we need to thrive in the valleys of every day life surrounded by imperfect people, like you and me. It trains us how to respond to life with the grace of Christ. As we give over to the Father's will, the kingdom bursts forth. In the lowly places, heaven meets earth.

Jesus is not asking for a one-time response of faith. He is asking you to continually trust him with your life in the midst of anger, fear, doubt, and disappointment. It is an invitation to believe and be transformed as we walk through the valley together.

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 16
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

December 10, 2017

**Staffed nursery for children 2 months to 24 months through back double doors.
Training area for children and parents at rear north-side of Worship Center.**

Worship Leader Lance Parrish
Hymn: #74 Praise the Lord
Welcome Perry Reeves
Hymn Let God Arise
Hymn Shout Hallelujah

Congregational Reading

Psalm 66 Lance Parrish
Hymn How Great is Our God/How Great Thou Art
Hymn: #810 Listen to Our Hearts
Prayer Dan Cox

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn: #365 How Beautiful
Communion Meditation Cliff Barbarick
Hymn: #315 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Offering

Prayer Cliff Barbarick
Hymn: #103/54/993 Praise Medley
Hymn The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock
(Parents may escort children to TLC after this song.)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-28..... Marvin Whitt

"Living the Sermon"

Message..... Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #948 I Am Resolved

Responses

Family News Jack Wilson
Hymn: #915 Trust and Obey
Elder Blessing..... Malcom Coco

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow

P.M. - **Grand Old Songs - Chapel, Tonight, 6 p.m.**

There will be a special song service tonight, in the chapel led by John Casada featuring "Grand Old Songs" from years past. Please bring your best singing voice and be blessed.

Sympathy

- Our sympathy to Buck & Bonnie Hood on the loss of Bonnie's brother.
- Our sympathy to LuGene Lewis on the loss of her brother-in-law, Gerald Jones.

New Members

Doris Vance, Dani Bates, Natalie Ruiz, Lauren Maloy

Breakfast with Santa

To all of our many volunteers that made this community event a fun-filled time- Thank you and Merry Christmas!

50th Anniversary Celebration - Sat., Dec. 16, 3-4:30 p.m.

You are invited to a 50th anniversary celebration for Terry and Gail Brown in Room 10/11/12.

Share a Christmas Gift with a Child in Zambia

Be sure to pick up a MAGI box in the auditorium or children's wing if you have not yet done so. A list of what is needed is attached to the box as well as an envelope that the \$10 for shipping is to be placed in. On Wed., Dec. 13, bring your box and envelope with \$10 to the MPR where you can decorate it with your family and tape it. Also, we will be collecting new pillows and coat hangers (adult and child sizes) for Noah Project. A craft project will also be in the gym that will be given to Noah Project.

Schedule of Services for December

The usual schedule will be followed with these exceptions:

- Sunday, Dec. 24 and 31: Morning service at 9:00 as usual. No Bible classes nor evening services
- Wednesday, Dec. 20: Rodney Ashlock completes series in rooms 10 & 11, other classes optional
- Wednesday, Dec. 27: devotional only in chapel, other classes are optional
- The church office will be closed: Monday, Dec. 25 through Monday, Jan. 1
- All usual schedules begin Jan. 2.

Calendar of Events

Today Bible Class Fellowship
 December 25-January 1 Office Closed/Holiday
 January 7 Hillcrest Remembrance Video
 January 14 Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 January 21 New Life Blessing
 April 27-29 HEB Retreat

Inclement Weather Closings

When winter weather prevents members from safely attending, our elders may choose to cancel services. When that happens, we will post information on the Hillcrest home page at www.hillcrestonline.com, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hillcrestabilene, the office phone at 691-4200, local TV stations and their websites, and through our Hillcrest Connect email message system.

Service Project

Our Hillcrest youth group is collecting bars of soap and wash cloths to send to Zambia. The soap and wash cloths will be given out at the Medical Mission. Please consider donating to this project! There are marked bins in the hallway for you to place the donated items. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, January 14, Rooms 10-12. All church members are welcome to attend. An area to make a nomination of a deserving teacher of adults, youth, or children to receive the Sybil Faubus Award is on the online RSVP form on Hillcrest's website.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Returning Missionary

Please welcome home Cassie White from her year-long mission work! She is at Hillcrest today, having returned on Thursday. Cassie, we appreciate what you have done for the Kingdom!

Cebu City

Please be in prayer for Caleb and Vanessa Callari as they prepare to leave in early January for their mission work in Cebu City, Philippines.

Send the Light

Applications are due January 1 to lead a Send the Light short-term mission trip in 2018. Contact Neal Coates for an application.

Loy Mitchell Scholarship Fund Update

An update on the Loy Mitchell Scholarship Fund is available by the Missions bulletin board in the main hallway. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, those funds will continue to be used wisely.

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly..... 738	Chapel.....35
Bible Class..... 665	
Membership 892	Wed.....348
Nov. Offering \$96,850	

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1)

Training & Learning for Children (Children's Church for ages 2-4) Parents may escort their child to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

December 13 - The nursery will be open. No classes for the children. The children will be with their families in the MPR to take part in the MAGI Box and other service projects.

December 20 - Classes for nursery - 3 year olds. PreK-5th grade will meet in the TLC room.

HYG - Youth

Today - Join us after worship for Bible class! Cliff Barbarick will be teaching the middle school class, and Lance Parrish will be teaching the high school class!

No Middle School Madness tonight as today is Bible Class Fellowship.

High School Huddles – Tonight

9th & 10th Grade - 1341 Piedmont Dr., 5:45-7:15 p.m.

11th Grade Location: 3125 S. Willis, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

12th Grade - 2434 Township Ct., Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Join us in the youth room at church for a fun game, a time of worship, and a devotional. We'll see you there!

Prayer Breakfast - Thurs., 7 a.m. - This week's prayer breakfast will be at the north side Chick-fil-a (on Hwy 351) from 7 - 7:45. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Christmas Party - December 17

Next Sunday we will have a youth group Christmas Party at Timothy Coates' house (1726 Cedar Crest Drive) from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All youth ministry students are invited to join us and bring a friend! Everyone will need to bring a 2 liter drink (or gallon of tea or water). Additionally, girls need to bring a sweet Christmas treat, and boys need to bring a salty Christmas treat to share.

Christmas Worship Night - December 20

All youth ministry families and youth ministry volunteers are invited to join us at the Chapel on the Hill at the ACU College of Biblical Studies on Wednesday evening December 20th for a special Christmas worship service. We hope you and your family will make plans to attend.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

This morning's study is about connecting to the strangers and aliens in our midst.

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Will resume Jan. 9

Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.

- Rm 11/12 - Rodney Ashlock will be speaking.
- Rm 16 - Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 34 - ESL Class
- Rm 51 - Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 - Divorce Care
- Rm 219 - Women's Bible Class: will resume studies starting January 3rd. Our guest will be the author of the book we will study this semester. Our own Kay Talley, author of Don't Hurry the Sunrise, will be with us to introduce her book. She will have copies for you to purchase. We will also be praying for our ladies Connie Adams, Peggy Goodwin, Carol Horton, and Janiece Watts before their trip to Africa. If you enjoy in-depth Bible Study, please come be with us. We invite women of all ages. You will be blessed.
- MPR - Decorating & Packing MAGI Boxes/Craft

Family Ministry

Route 52 - Psalms - Wed., 7 p.m., Beginning Jan. 2018 Hillcrest Roadtrip 2018

This will be a year long mental road trip (52 weeks) for anyone who would like to go deeper into the Psalms, with special emphasis each session for families, marriages, and singles. Participants will be able to use this as a springboard for personal use in the home. Each session will be interactive with scripture, handouts, media you can use at home and group discussion tools.

HillcrestU

Tonight - 6 p.m. Christmas Party! Join us at the NCCIL (102 Cedar) for food, a gift exchange and our ugly Christmas attire contest! Its going to be amazing!

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Finals week Wednesday is at 7! We will have snacks and hot chocolate and spend time laughing and praying together! Hope you can make it!