

# 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

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## Ministers

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## One Holy Night

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

*Luke 2:9-10*

O Holy Night is my favorite Christmas song. The lyrics never fail to captivate me and create powerful imagery in my mind. The truth, the hope, and the power of the night that Christ was born. The night that the soul felt its worth. Oh, it was divine, indeed.

Lately, I have been thinking more about the infinite hope that we have in Christ because of a holy night. Hope for the world was born in a stable and changed everything. What a privilege to get to carry that kind of hope with us each day. If that's not powerful, I don't know what is.

The infinite hope of the holy night came with an infinite mission for God's people: to spread that hope to the world, to share the good news of great joy and to live in such a way that our hope in Christ is evident. How are we bringing the hope and magnitude of the holy night with us today? How are we sharing it with others? How does it influence our choices, our responses, and our reactions?

I think, in part, that this starts with knowing what our hope means. It means that chains are broken. People are worthy. We don't have to have it together all the time. Brokenness becomes restored. Fears become relieved. Whatever it is that you might be struggling with cannot hold a candle in comparison to the meaning of your hope in Christ.

All of this hope because of one holy night.

May you live with the joy and hope of the holy night this Christmas season and always.

Kara Nestle

# 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  
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 17, 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 ..... Odies Wright  
Hymn: #1018 ..... Joy to the World  
Welcome ..... Robert Marion  
Prayer ..... Andy Little

### Songs of Praise

Hymn ..... Lord I Lift Your Name on High  
Hymn: #740 ..... Song for the Nations

### We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn ..... Every Time  
Communion Meditation ..... Justin Hatfield

### Offering

Prayer ..... Justin Hatfield  
Hymn: #127 ..... When All Thy Mercies  
Hymn: #221 ..... Jesus, Name Above All Names\*

### The Birth of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:18-24 ..... Bob Hale  
Hymn ..... Magnificat  
*(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)*

### "Immanuel—God Is With Us"

Message ..... Nathan Burrow  
Hymn: #180 ..... Jesus Is Lord

### Responses

Family News ..... Ron Rosseau  
Hymn: #528 ..... I Know that My Redeemer Lives  
Elder Blessing ..... Malcom Coco  
*(\*Children's Song of the Month)*

# Hillcrest Family News

## Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow  
P.M. - Bob Pipes

## Sympathy

Our sympathy to Bob & Beverley Pipes on the loss of Bob's brother, Jim Pipes.

## New Members

Kristina Dello and her children, Isabell & Isaac Cooke

## 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 optional
- The church office will be closed: Monday, Dec. 25 through Monday, Jan. 1
- All usual schedules begin Jan. 2.

## Breakfast With Santa Attendance

Members: Adults 53 Children 70/ Guests: Adults 129 Children 179/ Total Attendance: 431 + 70 volunteers

## MAGI Boxes

Thank you to all who participated. 61 boxes were collected and will be sent to Zambia.

## Comfort & Hope Ministry

A huge applause to those who wrote notes, prepared food, assembled AND delivered Christmas sacks to our family members who lost loved ones this year.

It's our hope that those who were on the receiving end this year had as much pleasure opening your sacks of goodies, as those who had the honor of putting them together for you. Mostly, we hope you know of our love for you.

And, to those who are grieving a loved one from other times, no matter the time frame, we recognize "sadness and missing" doesn't change in one year! There is no magic time of "getting over." We know, we understand and we remember, We love you!

Comfort and Hope Ministry

## Calendar of Events

December 25-January 1..... Office Closed/Holiday  
January 7.....Hillcrest Remembrance Video  
January 14.....Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
January 14..... Bible Class Fellowship  
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](http://www.hillcrestonline.com), our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hillcrestabilene](http://www.facebook.com/hillcrestabilene), the office phone at 691-4200, local TV stations and their websites, and through our Hillcrest Connect email message system.

## 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.

## MPR Renovation

We will be renovating the MPR in early 2018. The 33-year-old building will be getting a new ceiling, the walls will be fixed, upgrades will be made to lighting/sound/projector, and the floor will be refinished. It will be unavailable beginning January 2, 2018, and we hope to complete this project sometime before Cajun LAFF, graduation activities, and other annual events. We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time.

**Unclaimed Dishes** - Please check the shelf in the kitchen if you are missing any dishes.

## Missions and Faith Sharing

### Athens Greece

Many of you know Dino Roussos and his work in Athens, Greece. He has requested assistance to purchase a building there. If you have interest in his work or want more information about this request, go to [hillcrestonline.com/ministries/missions/greece/](http://hillcrestonline.com/ministries/missions/greece/).

### Cebu City

Please be in prayer for Caleb and Vanessa Callari as they prepare to leave January 8 for their mission work in Cebu City, Philippines.

### 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..... 736	Chapel.....35
Bible Class..... 677	
Membership ..... 892	Wed.....283
Nov. Offering ..... \$96,850	

# Hillcrest Ministries

## Children's Corner

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

**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.

**Wednesday, December 20** - Classes for nursery - 3 year old's. 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! This will be our final Bible class for the month. There will be no teen Bible class on December 24 or December 31. We will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

### No Middle School Madness or High School Huddles tonight Christmas Party – Tonight, 5-8 p.m.

Tonight is the youth group Christmas Party at Timothy Coates' house (1726 Cedar Crest Drive) from 5-8 p.m. All youth ministry students are invited to wear their best (or ugliest) Christmas apparel and join us! 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. We will snack on treats, play a fun Christmas game together, and watch a classic Christmas movie! We'll see you tonight!

### Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Christmas Worship Night

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 this week for a special, Christmas themed worship service. Please park in the lot by the ACU tennis courts, follow the sidewalk around the amphitheater to the ground level doors to the right of the amphitheater. Take the spiral staircase up to the second floor, and the chapel entrance is at the top of the stairs. We'll begin at 7 and end by 7:45.

**Prayer Breakfast - Thursday** - There will be no Prayer Breakfast this week. Good luck with finals! Prayer Breakfast will resume on January 11.

## Adult Education Corner

### Sunday Morning Adult Classes

The series on "Connecting to the Community" will finish this morning. In January, a new series will begin focusing on "Connecting to the Lost" with an emphasis on the mission of the Christian. There will be no classes on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Will resume Jan. 9

### Wednesday Night - January 2018, 7 p.m.

- Rm 10/11 - January 3, Everett Ferguson will begin a series on the Lord's Supper
- Rm 12 - January 3, Glenn Rogers will begin a series on the Gospel of Mark.
- Rm 14/15 - January 3, Route 52 - Psalms
- 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.

## 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.

For those in town we will meet at Rosa's.