

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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Lessons from a Shot Clock Operator

After an unforgettable job as a basketball coach at ACU, I found myself missing the adrenaline rush of a close game and having the best seat in the house. Fortunately, I landed a new front row seat at half court as the Shot Clock Operator. From this perch, I can hear bits and pieces of “coach speak,” officials reporting fouls, and look into the eyes of players checking into the game. I love this job and have done it for 17 years. It is my job to be invisible during a game and apply the rules subjectively until the final buzzer sounds. If I do my job correctly, the game runs seamlessly. I don’t usually get any feedback - except for an occasional “thumbs up” from an official who agrees with my interpretation of a tricky situation during a game - or if I mess up. When this happens, the whole game stops and I have to reset my shot clock (kind of embarrassing and super motivation to always do my best).

This year, before the first men’s game, our reliable table crew (score book, game clock, scoreboard, replay and shot clock) went to meet with the officials. During this meeting, the officials check in with us and go over any rule changes. It was in this meeting that something new happened. The first words from the lead official were, “who is running the shot clock?” I replied that I was. He said we had some changes and the whole crew nodded our heads in recognition. Then he asked me directly to tell his crew how I interpreted the new rules. Wow! Talk about being put on the spot! Fortunately, my answer sufficed.

Have you ever had an opportunity to explain why you do what you do in life? Do our words and actions take on a “world” interpretation (self-centered, instant gratification, try to get ahead mindset)? In comparison, I think Jesus lived life in a way that mimics a shot clock buzzer. His actions and words stopped people in their tracks and made them think about what just happened and why He would do what He did.

While listening to Nathan a few Sundays ago, I started thinking about what I am doing on a daily basis that demonstrates my love for Jesus. When we love someone, we usually see some type of public display of affection...kindness in our eyes, handholding, hugs, words of affirmation, doing nice things for the one we love, putting their needs before our own, etc. So if we love someone, we demonstrate with our actions and tell them with our words. Further, if we are in love, we almost always share our happiness with others and brag about what that person means in our life. As Christians, do we stay ready to explain why we do what we do? In John 14:15, Jesus says, “If you love me, keep my commandments” which includes loving God and loving your neighbor. In the end, if done correctly, we will earn far greater than a “thumbs up” from our Father. As I strive to boldly interpret God’s commands in my daily life, I can use a re-written familiar song with a John 13:35 vibe to encourage a public display of affection for the one I love.

I love Jesus, people know
For my words and actions show
His joy and peace in me abide.
The Word of God will be my guide.

Deonna Shake

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

January 7, 2018

**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	My Life Is In You
Welcome	Jack Hardcastle
Prayer	Dave Copeland

Songs of Praise

Hymn	Great Are You, Lord
Hymn: #42	How Majestic Is Your Name
Hymn: #215	O Lord, Our Lord

We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: #234	Worthy Is the Lamb
Communion Meditation	Bill Luttrell

Offering

Prayer	Bill Luttrell
Hymn	Lord, I Give You My Heart

Strength for Living

Isaiah 40:28-31	J.R. Foster
Romans 12:1-5.....	J.R. Foster

“Renew: Opening Your Life to God”

Hymn	Behold Our God <i>(Parents may escort children ages 2-4 to TLC during this song)</i>
Message.....	Nathan Burrow
Remembrances 2017.....	Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #740	Song for the Nations

Responses

Family News	Yancey House
Hymn: #567	Restore My Soul
Elder Blessing.....	Gary Varner

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow
P.M. - Coy Roper

Sympathy

Our sympathy to Lucy and Carly Smith on the loss of Charles.

Baptisms

Congratulations to Gary Ayeva and Alan Burg on their recent baptisms.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch

It's time to honor our teachers! Make plans to attend the Teacher Appreciation Lunch next Sunday after classes in rooms 10-12. RSVP in the adult classes or online. Make a nomination for a teacher to be honored. Nomination forms are in the church entry ways and also online with the online RSVP form.

Next Sunday, January 14, The Welcome class will meet in Room 17 with the University class. The YO class will meet in the Worship center.

2018 Bible Class Fellowship/Chapel Service

Jan 14 - Welcome Class	July 8 -
Feb 4 - Soulful Filling	Aug 12 -
Mar 4 - Sunrise Class	Sept 9 -
Apr 8 - Church-wide Picnic	Oct 14 -
May 6 - Travelers Class	Nov 11 -
June 10 - F.U.N. Class	Dec 9 - CIA Class

If your class has not signed up to lead a service please contact Alan Clute.

Calendar of Events

January 7.....	Hillcrest Remembrances 2017
January 14.....	Teacher Appreciation Lunch
January 14.....	Bible Class Fellowship
January 21.....	New Life Blessing
January 30.....	Hilltoppers Luncheon
February 11.....	Hillcrest 101/New Member Lunch
April 8.....	Church-wide Picnic
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.

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/projection, 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.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Cebu City and Asia

Caleb and Vanessa Callari leave tomorrow to begin their mission work in Cebu City, Philippines. Cassie White has just returned from a year of mission work in Asia. A reception is planned for them today at Hillcrest, immediately after Bible Class. Please come to the Foyer to say goodbye to the Callaris and to welcome home Cassie.

Refugees in Vienna, Austria

A current update on the Hillcrest Vienna Refugees Ministry is always available each week via the Facebook page of Reggy Lynn Hiller. There are wonderful pictures and stories on Reggy's page of refugee families and persons worshipping together and in Bible studies, no matter what their hardships.

ZMM Work Day and Container Loading

You and your Life Group or Bible Class can help send off the next Zambia Medical Mission! On Jan. 20 (Sat.) at 9 a.m., come help prepare boxes, used clothes, and other items during a "ZMM Work Day" at Bontke Construction, 102 College Drive. Also, please come Jan. 27 (Sat.) at 9 a.m. at Bontke Construction to help load the 40-ft. container that will leave later that day for Zambia.

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.

Teacher Appreciation - Teachers, we want to honor you! Make plans to attend the appreciation lunch next Sun., Jan. 14, in rooms 10-12. RSVP online today. Make a nomination to recognize an outstanding teacher as you enter the building or as you RSVP.

HYG - Youth

Today - Join us today after Worship for a special combined Bible class to kick-off the new year! All 6th-12th grade students are invited to join us upstairs in the high school room for class.

Middle School Madness and High School Huddles tonight

Tonight our Sunday night small group meetings are resuming. Below are the times and locations for all of our Sunday night gatherings, according to age.

Middle School Madness (6th-8th Grade), Hillcrest, 5:30-7 p.m.
9th & 10th Grade, 1341 Piedmont Drive, 5:45-7:15 p.m.
11th Grade, 2626 Garfield, 6-7:30 p.m.
12th Grade, 2434 Township Ct., 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Class - 7 p.m.

Looking for a mid-week spiritual pick-me-up? All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us (and bring their friends) for a time to connect socially and spiritually. We will begin at 7 p.m. See you then!

Prayer Breakfast - Thursday - Prayer Breakfast will return this Thursday! Join us at Chick-fil-a on Hwy 351 from 7-7:45 a.m. for breakfast and a time of prayer before heading off to school.

Device-Free Game Night - Sunday, January 14

Next Sunday night the youth ministry will be having a device-free game night in the youth room. Students are encouraged to leave their phones at home, or will be asked to put their phone in a box while we are playing games. We will begin at 7:45 p.m. and go until 9:30. Students are encouraged to bring friends, their favorite games, and snacks.

Youth Ministry Luncheon & 2018 Planning Meeting - Jan. 21

All youth ministry parents and students are encouraged to join us after Bible class on Sunday January 21 for lunch and a meeting regarding the 2018 calendar of events. More details coming soon.

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

Today we begin a new series, "The Mission of the Church and Individual Christians."

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Jan. 9

Fellowship - 9:30 a.m., Class - 10 a.m.: "Hashem = the Name" (1 Kings 8) and "The Lord of Hosts" (1 Sam 17), Teacher: Paula Leverett

Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.

- Rm 10/11 - Everett Ferguson continues his series on the Lord's Supper
- Rm 12 - Glenn Rogers continues his series on the Gospel of Mark.
- Rm 14/15 - 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 - *Don't Hurry the Sunrise* Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

Route 52 - Psalms - Wed., 7 p.m. 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

Today - Class Resumes

Tonight - 6 p.m. - Meet at Heff's.

Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Prayer Night

For the Record

Sunday Morning - 12/24/17	Membership	892
A.M. Assembly	Dec. Offering.....	\$142,838
		656