Winter At Spring

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... Ecclesiastes 3:1

Seasons are a funny thing, especially in Texas. This past weekend, we experienced unexpected freezing temperatures. I've been told that this happens in Abilene from time to time. Someone even shared with me that just over twenty years ago, there was snow around this time of year. It is a reminder that many things in life, like the weather, are beyond our control. We simply must do our best with the changes as they come.

Sometimes winter comes at springtime emotionally and spiritually as well. Spring is a season of life and new birth, but for some of us, it can also be a time of loss. This month marks nineteen years since Heather’s first husband, James White, passed away from an aggressive battle with cancer. His death radically changed our lives. Eventually, God brought new life for us, but it was not before wading through much pain and sorrow. There are no shortcuts through the valley of the shadow of death.

The comfort is knowing that God does not send us there alone.

The last few weeks since Heather’s mother died have had a deeper impact on me than I imagined. Sundays have been especially hard for me because that was often the time when mom and I visited the most. I am very thankful that she is no longer sick and struggling, but I miss her. Both of Heathem’s parents have played a big role in my life, and these recent weeks have brought back a flood of memories reminding me of that. It has affected me in every way. I am reminded of how interconnected our lives become with those we love.

The writer of Ecclesiastes understood that in the spiritual seasons of life come, “a time to weep...and a time to mourn” (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Though the Bible often reminds us “do not fear”, it almost never says, “do not weep.” Weeping is a part of worship and faithfulness (Romans 12:15). God weeps for the pain, suffering, and death in this world because he loves us (John 11:35). Death is a part of life, but the gospel of Jesus reveals that death is not the last word. The death of Jesus is ushering in a new season. God has the final word.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away. And the one seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Revelation 21:4-5

Nathan Burrow

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 Tuesday 2-24 mo.
Age 2 Room 100 Gr 1 Room 121
Age 3 Room 106 Gr 2 Room 117
Age 4 Room 110 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) Room 14
Y/0 (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
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 15, 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: #647 ___________________________ Soldiers of Christ, Arise
Welcome ___________________________ Terry Brown

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #797 ___________________________ Lord, We Come Before Thee Now
Hymn: ___________ ___________________________ My Life Is In You

Loving Our Neighbor

Leviticus 19:18 ___________________________ Ron Rosseau
Matthew 25:36-40 ___________________________ Ron Rosseau
Prayer ___________________________ Sean McNeil
Hymn: #610 ___________________________ I Love My Savior, Too
Hymn: #740 ___________________________ Song for the Nations

We Celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Hymn: #313 ___________________________ The Old Rugged Cross
Communion Meditation ___________________________ Gary Varner

Offering

Hymn: #570 ___________________________ A Beautiful Life

“Labor for Your Neighbor”

Welcome ___________________________ Nathan Burrow
Hymn: ___________________________ Behold Our God
Elder Blessing ___________________________ John Barton
Hymn: ___________________________ ...
Send the Light
The Missions Team thanks the congregation for its generous donations toward short-term mission efforts. This past Sunday’s special collection, along with online and additional donations, bring the total so far contributed to $88,062 as of April 11. Donations will continue to be accepted in the Church Office if you have not yet had opportunity to give.

Mumena Campaign Garage Sale - Sat., Apr. 21, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the home of the Brutons, 2242 Boston Road. All proceeds and donations will benefit Mumena campaigners. If you would like to donate items for the sale, please email or call Lynne Bruton or Melody Kern to arrange pick-up or drop-off. Lynne Bruton - 325-665-3206 or lynnebruton@gmail.com. Melody Kern - 325-725-3451 or mak1@suddenlink.net. Suggested items: furniture, kids and baby items, kitchen items, luggage, linens, decorative items, tools, shoes, jewelry, sporting goods. No clothing please.

Sunday Morning Adult Classes
This morning’s class is a continuation of the series on the book of Mark. Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - Apr. 17 Fellowship - 9:30 a.m., Class - 10 a.m.; The Lord My Rock (PS 144) Teacher: Marty Williams

Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.
- Rom 10:11 - Nathan Burrow will be teaching for the month of April.
- Rom 12 - Glenn Rogers continues his series on the Gospel of Mark.
- Rom 14:15 - Route 52 - Psalms
- Rom 16 - Congregational Singing; Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rom 17 - Spiritual Formation Class
- Rom 50 - Class
- Rom 51 - Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rom 52 - Divorce Care
- Rom 219 - Women’s Bible Class - Don’t Hurry the Sunrise

VBS - Go to the VBS table and sign up to get involved! June 18-21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Book Drive - If you have any children’s books written on a reading level of 1st-7th grade, please dispense them in the marked bin right under the missions bulletin board. Each book will be sent home with a Taylor elementary student as school lets out for the summer.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Adult Education

VBS Registration and Payment Deadline
Wilderness Trek 2nd Payment – $100, Due April 22* 2nd Payment can be made physically, or electronically through Hillcrest Connect.

Today - There will be no Bible classes for teens, as today is Labor for Your Neighbor. Students are encouraged to serve with their families, help Cynthia Coates with children’s classes, or help prepare lunch.

HS Leadership Feedback Meeting - This Afternoon
All high schoolers are invited to the youth room from 2-3 p.m. to talk youth ministry, give feedback, and brainstorm ideas. Your voice needs to be heard, so plan to join us today!

TODAY - 4 p.m., Parents of High School Juniors are meeting in the Living Room to discuss Senior Sunday plans. Each year the parents of Juniors host the Senior Sunday reception in the MPR to honor our graduating Seniors. At least one parent from each Junior’s family should plan to attend today’s meeting.

Middle School Madness and High School Huddles - Tonight
6th-8th – Hillcrest, 5:30-7 p.m.
9th-10th - 1341 Piedmont Drive, 5:45-7:15 p.m.
11th - 2626 Garland, 6-7:30 p.m.
12th - 2434 Township Ct., 6-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Class – 7 p.m.
Join us this Wednesday evening, in the high school youth room for a time of fellowship and spiritual discipline. We hope to see you there!

Prayer Breakfast - Thursday - 7:45 a.m.
All students are invited to join us at the Chick-fil-a on Hwy 351 this Thursday for prayer breakfast. Parents who can help give students a ride to school are encouraged to attend as well.

Youth Ministry Info Meeting – Next Sunday, April 22
Next Sunday, there will be an information meeting for all students and parents to go over and discuss the summer schedule and start solidifying dates for the fall. We will meet in the high school youth room beginning at 3:30 p.m. We hope you will join us!