

AT SOUTHERN HILLS, ABILENE, TX. (2011-2017) BIBLE CLASS CHAIRMAN SOUTHERN HILLS (2005-2019), ADULT BIBLE CLASS TEACHER, CO-ORGANIZER WEDNESDAY NIGHT "PIZZA FEAST" SOUTHERN HILLS (2010-2019)

Biography:

Give us a brief biography.

GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL FROM OLNEY, TX. (1969), OBTAINED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION FROM ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (1974), RECEIVED MASTER OF EDUCATION FROM ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (1978). MARRIED JUNE (WALLACE) SHEPPARD IN 1974, WHO ALSO GRADUATED FROM ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY. I TAUGHT AND COACHED IN ABILENE ISD (1974-1978). LATER WAS EMPLOYED BY A PROPERTY TAX SERVICE LOCALLY AND WORKED WITH SEVERAL CURRENT AND PREVIOUS MEMBERS OF HILLCREST (1978-1987).

WE ATTENDED HILLCREST FROM 1978-1982 BEFORE MOVING TO MIDLAND TO OPEN AN OFFICE FOR THE PROPERTY TAX CONSULTING FIRM. STAYED ONLY TWO YEARS AND RETURNED TO ABILENE AND HILLCREST UNTIL 1988. CONTINUED WORKING WITH THE ABILENE OFFICE UNTIL 1988.

ESTABLISHED MY OWN CONSULTING COMPANY AND RETURNED TO MIDLAND FROM 1988-2001. RELOCATED MY BUSINESS TO ABILENE IN 2001-CURRENT. WE ATTENDED SOUTHERN HILLS FROM 2001-2020, BEFORE RETURNING TO HILLCREST. I HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD MY BUSINESS TO MY SON-IN-LAW AND REMAIN EMPLOYED ON A PART TIME BASIS TO DATE.

WE HAVE 3 DAUGHTERS THAT SPENT MOST OF THEIR CHILDHOOD YEARS IN MIDLAND AND ATTENDED MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS. THEY AND THEIR SPOUSES HAVE BLESSED US WITH 11 GRANDKIDS. ONE FAMILY LIVES IN ABILENE, THE TWO OLDEST GRANDKIDS ATTEND A.C.U. AND THE THIRD ATTENDS ABILENE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS. ANOTHER DAUGHTER LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND AND 5 OF OUR GRANDKIDS IN MANSFIELD, TX. HE IS THE EXECUTIVE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR MANSFIELD ISD. OUR DAUGHTER HAS WORKED PART TIME AS A LABOR/DELIVERY NURSE FOR THE LAST 20+ YRS. OUR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER LIVES IN WAUSHAU, WI. WITH HER HUSBAND, WHO IS A PRACTICING PARTNER OF AN ORTHOPEDIC CENTER AS A SURGEON. THEY ALSO HAVE 3 OF OUR GRANDKIDS.

Please give a few examples of spiritual disciplines you practice in an effort to grow in the image of Jesus.

WE HAVE ALWAYS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES BY PARTICIPATING IN AN ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE CHURCH BODY. WE HAVE TRIED TO BE AS INVOLVED AS POSSIBLE DURING THE VARIOUS STAGES OF OUR LIVES. BOTH MY WIFE AND I HAVE ALWAYS TAUGHT BIBLE CLASSES, FROM CRADLE ROLL TO HIGH SCHOOL AND MOST RECENTLY ADULT CLASSES. WE DETERMINED EARLY THAT THE BEST WAY FOR US TO SET CHRIST EXAMPLES TO OUR KIDS IS TO HAVE THEM ACTIVE AND INVOLVED IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES. IF WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IT

BECOMES EASIER TO REFLECT CHRIST'S IMAGE. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ALSO BECAME AN EXTENSION OF WHAT WE TRIED TO DO IN OUR HOME LIFE. OUR DAUGHTERS AND THEIR HUSBANDS GRADUATED FROM EITHER MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS, ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERISTY, OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OR THE UNIVERISTY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR.

WE PRAY THAT OUR EXAMPLES TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HAS MADE POSITIVE INFLUENCES ON THEM AND THAT IT HAS ENCOURAGED THEM TO SEEK THE SAME DESIRE TO REFLECT THE IMAGE OF CHRIST IN THEIR LIVES.

The questions on the rest of the Information Form were designed to stimulate the introspection of nominees and to provide information to members of the Hillcrest congregation. Therefore, we ask you to give your thoughtful and prayerful attention to the questions that follow.

Please respond in the spaces below to each question. Feel free to use additional paper, numbering each answer to correspond to the question being considered, if necessary.

Section 1: Introspection Related to Self and Family

1. Are you willing to serve to the best of your ability? What motivates you to serve the Lord as an elder at Hillcrest?

YES, I AM WILLING TO SERVE AND TO STRIVE TO HELP MY FELLOW CHRISTIANS AT HILLCREST REACH A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD OUR GOD. NONE OF US HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE POSITIVE INFLUENCES IN ONE ANOTHER'S LIVES. WE ARE ALL IN THIS WITH THE SAME GOAL... TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.SO WE NEED EACH OTHER FOR ENCOURAGEMENT, DIRECTION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND MOST OF ALL LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

2. After a study of 1 Timothy 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-9, do you and your family concur that you qualify scripturally to serve as an elder? Yes No
3. Please describe the special circumstances, if any, that you considered in making your determination to question 2 above.

THE ATTRIBUTES MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES CAN BE VERY OVERWHELMING TO ME. AS BEST AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE, I HAVE TRIED TO EXHIBIT THESE CHARACTERISTICS. I AM NOT SURE HOW ANY OF US CAN SCORE 100%. THESE QUALITIES ARE CHALLENGES TO ALL OF US. THE OLDER I HAVE BECOME THE BETTER I HAVE DONE TRYING TO MIRROR THESE ADMONITIONS, BUT I ADMIT, I AM A WORK IN PROCESS. MY GOAL IS THAT THESE QUALITIES HAVE BECOME MORE EVIDENT TO THOSE AROUND ME OVER THE YEARS AND THAT I CAN SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE I COME IN CONTACT.

4. After a study of Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Peter 5:1-3, are you and your family willing to give the time it will require you to fulfill the duties of an elder? Yes No

Section 2: Introspection Related to your Vision for Hillcrest

5. Describe the Hillcrest congregation as you see it now.

AFTER BEING A MEMBER AND OBSERVING THIS CONGREGATION 4+ YEARS, I FEEL THIS CONGREGATION IS AN EXTENSION OF ITS LEADERSHIP. I SEE AN ELDERSHIP THAT IS COHESIVE AND UNITED, LOOKING OUT FOR THE BEST FOR THIS FLOCK OF CHRISTIANS. AS A RESULT, THE STAFF AND CONGREGATION MODEL THE ELDERS' BEHAVIOR. I FEEL THIS CONGREGATION IS IN A CONTENT, PEACEFUL PLACE AND IS UNITED IN TRYIING TO SHOW CHRIST TO NOT ONLY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THROUGH MISSION EFFORTS.

6. Describe the Hillcrest congregation as you would like to see it in five years.

A CONTINUATION OF WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING AND EXPANDING IN EFORTS TO EVANGELIZE THROUGH LOCAL AND FOREIGN MISSIONS, AS WELL MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR RESIDENT MEMBERS. I WOULD PRAY THAT WE CAN SEE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PENATRATE THE UNIVERSITY. THERE ARE SO MANY STUDENTS JUST ACROSS THE STREET THAT NEED TO KNOW THE LORD AND BE BROUGHT INTO A CARING, NUTURING, WARM AND SAFE PLACE.

7. What activities would you pursue, or encourage others to pursue, so that the Hillcrest congregation (individually and collectively) can make a greater impact for Jesus Christ in our neighborhood and the city of Abilene?

BY FINDING WAYS TO MAKE HILLCREST A PLACE THAT IS ATTRACTIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND LOCAL THE NEIGHBORHOODS, WE CAN IMPACT THE FUTURE OF THE BODY. THOROUGH THE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN HUGE SUCCESSES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITIES. I WOULD HOPE WE CAN EXPLORE WAYS TO EXPAND OUR EFFORTS TO REACH EVEN MORE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE PRINCIPLES THAT HILLCREST STANDS FOR.

ALSO, THE LOCAL EVANGELISM THAT IS CURRENTLY LED BY STEVE RIDGELL IS MAKING TREMENDOUS INROADS WITH THE "UNCHURCHED" IN ABILENE. WE NEED TO PREPARE OURSELVES OF HOW TO BEST WELCOME THIS NEW COMMUNITY OF CONVERTS AND INCORPORATE THEM INTO OUR FELLOWSHIP. WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE THEM FEEL INCLUDED AND A PART OF OUR CHURCH. WE SHOULD ALWAYS STRIVE TO KNOW OUR BODY WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW THOSE THAT NEED ADDITONAL CARE AND CONCERN.

Section 3: Introspection Related to the Spiritual and Congregational Health of Hillcrest

8. What do you view as the single most important task of an elder at Hillcrest?
-

TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES HELP FACILITATE EACH MEMBER IN THEIR EFFORTS TO LIVE FOREVER IN HEAVEN WITH OUR FATHER.

9. How would you relate the following scriptures to yourself and to the Hillcrest congregation?

Ephesians 4:11-16

OUR MAIN GOAL SHOULD BE TO EQUIP ONE ANOTHER TO BE STRONG IN OUR FAITH WALK AND TOGETHER GROW INTO OUR MUTUAL GOALS. WE SHOULD SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND WORK TOGETHER TO FACILITATE INHERITING SALVATION. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT GOD IS TRUTH AND THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE TRUTH.

Acts 20:25-31

WE SHOULD STRENGTHEN, ENCOURAGE AND INSTRUCT ONE ANOTHER AGAINST ANY TEMPTATIONS WE ENCOUNTER THAT MIGHT CAUSE US TO NOT FOLLOW THE TRUTHS OF OUR FATHER.

John 10:2-5

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER WELL ENOUGH TO GUIDE AND STAND BY EACH OTHER. THERE WILL BE TIMES OF DIFFICULTY WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED TO LOSE SIGHT OF OUR GOAL AND WE SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE DURING DIFFICULT OR CONFUSING TIMES.

Hebrews 13:17

WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE A SPIRIT OF COMMARADERIE BETWEEN THE LEADERS AND MEMBERS THAT CREATES AN ATOMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND APPROACHABILITY. IF WE GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND ARE IN ONE ANOTHER'S LIFE, WE CAN NUTURE THIS.

10. What are the greatest challenges facing the Hillcrest congregation in the coming days?

WE NEED TO NOT BE FEARFUL OF ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL "ILLS" THAT HAVE INVADED OUR SOCIETY IN RECENT YEARS. WE MUST GUARD AGAINST THE LINES THAT SEPARATE GOOD AND EVIL BECOMING BLURRED. WE NEED TO GUARD AGAINST BENDING OR COMPROMISING OUR BELIEF SYSTEM.

11. How do you view modern culture's impact on today's Church (for example, in the areas of personal morality, sexual identity and behavior, gender issues, racial bias, politics, etc.) and how should the Church respond?

WE SHOULD ACTIVELY ADDRESS OUR SOCIAL ILLS AND TEACH WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS AND TEACHES. WE CANNOT GIVE INTO CULTURAL IDEAS BY COMPROMISING OUR BELIEFS. WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH AND NEVER LOSE SIGHT THAT THERE IS TRUTH THROUGH HIM. WE SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED TO TEACH AND BELIEVE THAT.

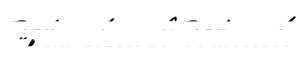
12. I have read the beliefs document (expanded version) posted on the Hillcrest website and the Hillcrest policy manual. Yes No

I can serve as an Elder at Hillcrest in support of these beliefs and policies. Yes No


If you have any reservations about serving in support of either document, please describe your reservations:

13. This space is for further comment on any subject. If in reference to a question above, please begin your comments with the number of the question being discussed.

DAN SHEPPARD



Name (please print)



Name (signature)

Feb 14 2025

Date