



**DRIVE-IN CHURCH – 10:00 A.M.
EVERY SUNDAY**

The Beacon

August 2020

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

One of the blessings I received in life was growing up in church. In fact, my family seldom missed a Sunday in Sunday school or worship. We attended both. We supported the church with attendance and participation. I don't remember dad participating so much but mom sure did. She taught Sunday school, worked with VBS, helped with church dinners making sure there was plenty of sweet iced tea and desserts, and transported the Royal Ambassadors (RAs) around from place to place when we were not meeting at church. I'll never forget one place she left us: Mr. Andrew Burgamy's barn that housed his horses and mules and whatever else he could get in there. But why leave us RAs at Mr. Burgamy's barn?

In the life of church, different people have different duties and responsibilities, and from time to time different projects. One of the projects for the RAs was to fertilize the flowers around the church each year. And this is why we RAs were left at Mr. Burgamy's barn. We had shovels and a huge trailer waiting on us to be filled with manure. Man, that project was, how shall I say it, a character building experience. Before we finished filling the trailer Mr. Burgamy would show up and hitch the trailer to his truck. When we

were finished, off we went to church and began the job of spreading the manure. The flowers were beautiful.

What I've described is idyllic as I look back on it. But that was then and now is now. Today at Hillcrest we have things happening. While we contend with the virus, things still carry on. The deacons meet, church council meets, the Wednesday morning Bible study meets. The New Sanctuary Building Committee is active. On a side note, soil samples have been taken in order to evaluate the site for building purposes. All looks good thus far. Also, we are ready to apply for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Continuing, we have drive-in church and live stream on Facebook. We received mail; we send mail. We get bills; we pay bills. We use Zoom for Sunday school; we text, call, and email each other. We care for one another even at a distance, and this is important. And one thing that's obvious to all is that our grass is still getting mowed. These are signs of life for sure. Now, anybody ready to go to the barn?

Grace and Peace,

Clarke

THANK YOU PASTOR

Dear Reverend Hawkins,

During the COVID 19 pandemic, so many freedoms that we took for granted have been curtailed. This is a time when many people are living in isolation; and, in some instances, are feeling frightened as to what the future may hold. This has certainly been a stressful time for all of us.

Despite all of the stress and ongoing concerns regarding the future, we feel truly blessed. We are blessed because we have you as our spiritual leader.

For the past four months, you have been an inspiration to so many of us. When we became aware of the extent of the health crisis, you immediately sprang into action and adapted to the situation with the ongoing goal of providing leadership and demonstrating caring for all of us. This has been accomplished in so many ways. Just a few would include (1) your uplifting emails – designed to bolster our spirits; (2) the drive-in Sunday services – providing us with a sense of church family; (3) the utilization of the praise band to make the Sunday services more personal; and (4) even the topics you have chosen for your sermons (waiting, God's love for all who believe, maintaining our faith in adverse circumstances, sowers of seeds, etc.). These are certainly things we need to hear and can seek solace in knowing.

We can only imagine the added work this health crisis represents for you; but you always maintain a sense of calm and are always attendant to our needs.

To put this tribute in terms you will appreciate --- You have certainly stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun!

We thank you.

Your Grateful Congregation

THIRD QUARTER GIVING

The third quarter of the year can present challenges as far as receipt of necessary contributions. Just a few thoughts ----

1. How should we give? Give cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2. We should give from the top – not from our leftovers. Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.
3. Why do we give? Everything belongs to God -- 1 Chronicles 29:14Everything comes from you (God) and we have given you only what comes first from your hand.

All are encouraged to maintain tithing/contributions. Remember contributions can be mailed to the church office, or presented at the Sunday drive-in service, or provided online through Easy-Tithe.

Blessings,
Sharon Duling, Chair
Finance Committee

BACKPACK MINISTRY

The Backpack Ministry is preparing for a year of uncertainty. There is one certainty which is there will be children in need and we will be providing. The logistics, number of kids and how to proceed are uncertain. It will be September before all this can be figured out. We will be ready for final preparations as soon as the schools know more. For example, the county has adopted the Return to Learn Plan for this coming school year. Each family can decide if they want their child to come to school or stay at home and enroll in the Virtual Learning platform. Families have until July 31 to enroll in the program of their choice with the understanding that their choice is binding through the end of the first semester. This means for our ministry that some teams may need to do home deliveries and school deliveries. This will be decided in late August or September.

If you want to join this ministry please email Jerry Edwards (jedw917821@aol.com) by August 21st. We can always use more help. You will be trained on what to do. But don't worry it is so easy a cave man can do it. Please consider joining this fulfilling ministry.

Jerry Edwards
Baptist Men on Mission

THERE IS NO MUSIC LIKE GOD'S MUSIC

That Is exactly what the Psalms are...God's words put to music. These songs run the gamut of problems we all face in life, from disease to disaster to death. They inspire us to reach higher and compel us to dig deeper. They always hit the right note at the right time and not once are they ever off-key. They lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. They restore the most broken soul.

Like a catchy tune you can't get out of your head, they will take you on a musical journey the likes of which you can't get from a radio, computer, or even a live concert. These are God's songs, composed in His heart and given from His hand.

May the one who is the true composer of these songs meet you where you are, take you where He wants you to be and bless you in the journey.

Adapted: from 52 Weeks through the Psalms – James Merritt

These last few weeks have robbed us of so much of the fellowship we enjoy when we come together on Sundays. It appears the time is drawing near that we'll be able to meet together once again. And I thank God for all the special effort Pastor Clarke and our deacons have put into making our worship experiences rich and meaningful throughout this pandemic and into the future.

Now is the time to start preparing for the holidays. So, if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please get in touch with me at 804-338-0442. We'll find you a place to use your talent for the glory of God.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1 ESV)

Mary Jane.....MOM

UPDATED DIRECTIONS ENCOURAGERS' SS CLASS

Hillcrest Baptist Church and the Encouragers' Class invite you to join us every week for Wednesday night Bible Study starting at 7:15 p.m. using the Zoom App or telephone dial-in (NEW instructions!) We limit our lesson time to 40 minutes, so will finish at 7:55 pm. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to join in. We will continue to use our Connections Study Guide by adjusting the lesson dates, as follows:

God's Mysterious Grace:

- 8/5 Joseph in a Pit
Genesis 37:12-28
- 8/12 Joseph in Charge
Genesis 45: 1-15
- 8/19 Moses on the Nile
Exodus 1:8-10, 22 and 2:1-10
- 8/26 Moses at the Burning Bush
Exodus 3:1-2, 6-15

NOTE: New directions to join by Zoom phone

Dial: **646 558 8656**
Meeting ID: **668 418 8655**
Passcode: **2182717**

To join by Zoom App, you will first need to download and install the Zoom App on your smartphone or tablet or computer. Download from your App or Play store and follow the easy steps to install and open. Look for Zoom Cloud Meetings icon on your phone or Zoom.us on your computer. Select "Join with Video" so that we can see each other and "Join with Computer Audio" so we can hear each other. I send out the Zoom meeting link below in my weekly reminder. Let me know if you want to join the email list.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6684188655?pwd=dS9VREdHckNZejhEaW5WclgybEpHdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 668 418 8655
Zoom Password: 2182717

Any questions, call Kathy Johnson (218-2717) or Steve Eggleton (496-0785)

UPDATING CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Constitution and Bylaws (C & B) Committee is in the process of reviewing and updating the C & B of our church. The last revision was in 2015 and many activities have changed since then. We want the C & B to reflect our current goals and to provide guidance to all committees and/or organizations to accomplish these goals.

To that end, we are requesting all committee chairmen, as well as organization leaders review the stated purpose of your committee/organization and provide any insight/suggestions you might have to make sure the stated purpose and the actual (*cont.'d*)

organization corresponds. We would also ask that all members of our congregation take this opportunity to re-familiarize yourself with the framework under which we operate. Again, we would welcome any suggestions as to changes that should be made.

Copies of the C & B are located in the church office. You are welcome to pick up a copy for your personal reference.

Should you have any questions and/or recommendations, please feel free to contact any member of the C & B Committee.

Sharon Duling, Chair
 Jacque Althizer
 Todd Collier
 Kathy Johnson
 Jason Lipinski

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Julie Carter (8-3)
 Barry Smart (8-4)
 Bob Althizer (8-7)
 Charlie Wood (8-10)
 Diane Taylor (8-10)
 Kim Evans (8-13)
 Kristin Riccio (8-13)
 Gary Payne (8-16)
 Hailie Blackman (8-17)
 Jason Lipinski (8-18)
 Mary Wells (8-18)
 Sandra Miller (8-19)
 Trevor Weaver (8-19)
 Mike Taylor (8-22)
 Wanda Cecil (8-23)
 Wyatt Althizer (8-24)
 Casey Boardwine (8-25)
 Willie Wood (8-25)
 Jean Frawner (8-25)
 Dee Griffin (8-26)
 Lilly Hunter (8-26)
 Richard Bean (8-27)
 Dot Pierce (8-31)
 Regena Jones (8-31)

IN SYMPATHY

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Don Carter, who passed away on Sunday, July 26.

PERIODICALS AVAILABLE

The Open Windows, Mature Living, Journey and Stand Firm magazines are available for you in the atrium. Feel free to stop by the church and pick up the latest copies while they last.

EMAIL UPDATES

To receive important email updates from Hillcrest, send an email to the church office and you will be added to the churchwide distribution list.

JUNE GENERAL FUND

RESULTS

Balance as of June 1	\$ 26,927.46
Receipts	\$ 11,049.06
Expenditures	\$ 15,181.31
Balance as of July 1	\$ 22,795.21



A place for all people.

Whether unchurched or churched,
broken or whole, doubtful or hopeful,
stranger or friend,
we open our arms to you!

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Clarke Hawkins, Pastor
Mary Jane Smith, Minister of Music
Jason Lipinski, Deacon Chair
Jerry Edwards, Treasurer
Linda Wilkinson & Debra Edwards, SS Co-Directors
Debra Edwards, Pianist

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