



**WORSHIP SERVICE – 11:00 EVERY SUNDAY
INSIDE, DRIVE-IN OR ON FACEBOOK**

The Beacon

March 2021

What's inside.....

- 1** A Word from Our Pastor
- 2** New Sanctuary
Adult Bible Study –
Sunday Mornings
- 3** Music Notes
Backpacks and
Outreach
- 4** Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Study
Constitution & Bylaws
- 5** Email Updates
March Birthdays
Financial Results

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

A few years ago, I saw a program on tv about someone who knew what was going to happen the day before it happened. A friend of the man knew the man had this particular “gift.” So, the two of them began scheming about winning the lottery. Obtaining the winning lottery numbers was no problem at all. But here is where it got sticky. The man with the “gift” faced a moral dilemma: was it right for him to know in advance something that would benefit himself financially when others did not have that same knowledge and/or opportunity? The man applied his “gift” to other areas of his life too such as his health and subsequently his last day on earth. He figured that any day that he did not know that he would die the next day, then he was ok. Finally, the “gift” became a burden, one so great that it affected his mental stability. He began to fear waking up wondering if this were the day that he would know his last day on earth would be the next day. He finally determined that to be happy, free, and at peace he had to relinquish the “gift.” He gave up the dreaded “gift” and found himself content and relieved of anxiety.

No one knows the future; yet we must prepare for the future. We must prepare for our personal future, our family’s future, and our church’s future. While we do not know precisely what will come to be in the near future, we can have an influence upon it by the decisions we make now and the actions we employ now. For example, we decide we must save for a rainy day so that if we find ourselves short of resources in the future, we have something to see us through until times are better.

As we do personally, Hillcrest should make decisions in the here and now for the future that hopefully will place Hillcrest in the best possible position to sustain and flourish ministry in church and, at the same time, to conduct effective outreach into the community where God has placed us. Here are a few things to know:

- The new sanctuary construction will begin soon. It is no longer “out there” in the future. For almost two years the church has planned and finally the day is near.
- Building and planning will not only apply to the sanctuary, but it will also apply in other strategic areas such as updating the Website

and using it as a centerpiece for communication. Other forms of communication will take place using other social media, but the Web will be a focal point.

- The children's wing has received much needed attention with fresh paint and other items to indicate it is a children's area. A focus on children's educational process will be developed and implemented using the talent of our church folks.
- Ministries will continue such as the Backpack Ministry and the Firewood ministry. Yet, we are also going to form partnerships with other entities where we will have the opportunity to affect the lives of others for the Lord.

While the future in detail is unknown, it is also one that is influenced by what we do now. And I am ready, and I believe Hillcrest is ready to do now for tomorrow's sake.

The day that lies in the future will soon become today! Will we be ready? I cannot tell the future, but

Grace and Peace,

Clarke

NEW SANCTUARY UPDATE

Hello Everyone!

The New Sanctuary Building Committee (NSBC) is pleased to give an exciting report in this month's newsletter. Much has

been happening behind the scenes.

- Hanover County Board of Supervisors approved our conditional use permit in December.
- Huff Morris, architect, completed all plans related to our project and submitted them to Century Construction, general contractor, to begin the bidding process.
- The NSBC met with the architect and general contractor on Tuesday, February 23rd.
- Bidding process is complete and UNDER BUDGET!

The projected timeframe for groundbreaking is May 3, 2021, with a completion target date of November 5th!!! If all goes well, we will be worshiping in our new sanctuary for the upcoming Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday season.

The NSBC cannot thank Huff Morris and Century Construction enough for all their efforts. The NSBC requested numerous items we felt were important to be accomplished within the project and we were pleased to see our concerns addressed in the plans. Some of these items included multidimensional exterior brickwork, new steeple, new cornerstone, movement of the existing cornerstone, and movement of the current stain glass windows within the new building. Huff Morris and Century Construction listened to our concerns and delivered.

Each member of NSBC would also like to thank Hillcrest members

and guests for your continued support through this process.

As you see, there is so much to be excited about. The building project is being used as a springboard to launch Hillcrest into a new era of worship and service. Hillcrest is using this excitement to focus on upcoming youth events, mission options, deacon engagement, and community outreach.

The committee is planning a groundbreaking ceremony sometime toward the end of April, so be ready! We need each of you to help with this important process. Please ask Pastor Hawkins, a Hillcrest deacon, or someone from this committee how you can take part.

If you have any questions as we take steps forward, please don't hesitate to ask any of us.

Respectfully,
Jason Lipinski and
Trish Hawkins, Co-Chairs
Sharon Duling
Tony Riccio
Ed Wilkinson

SUNDAY MORNING - ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Come join in Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be continuing our study in 1 Peter.

Here are our topics:

When I Don't Feel Like Being Good - 1 Peter 1:17-25)

An Appetite for Being Good-
1 Peter 2:1-2

Refuse to Get Revenge –
1 Peter 2:19-22

If you have any questions, please
let us know.

Jean Sharp
Todd Collier

MUSIC NOTES

"Greatest man in history named Jesus. He had no servants, yet they called Him Master. Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

John 15:15-16 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

Jesus is your friend. A friend accepts you as you are. A friend likes to spend time with you. Being a friend of God implies faith in God and intimacy with God that is available even today to you and me through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To become a friend of Jesus starts with a love for God through Christ Jesus. Only love can produce love in return. God bless and do tell the Lord thank you for He has promoted us from the status of

"slaves" to "friends" by faith through His Son Christ Jesus. He calls you His friend." from GOD TV, Oct 22, 2020

I hope you call me your friend too.

Mary Jane..... MOM

BACKPACKS AND OUTREACH

When we began the Backpack Ministry seven years ago, we took on the ministry thinking it was a way to serve our community. It was a step in the right direction. We took this ministry on without understanding how big it could be, the relationships that could be built through it and most of all the power of outreach it would have. The ministry started out small, only six students. We were assigned the region of the county I dubbed "The Central Corridor". More specifically it is the Hanover County Public Schools along the Route 301 corridor. While there are seven schools in our reach, we mainly serve six.

This ministry has helped Hillcrest build relationships with St. Paul's Episcopal at Hanover, The Atlee Ruritan Club, Leigh Street Baptist Church, the six schools we serve and certain individuals in the community that support the ministry. The people that serve in this ministry are truly servants of the Lord. They are determined and committed to making sure that at risk kids in our ministry area will get food on the weekends. No matter what! When COVID-19 hit last March and the schools shut down, there was a two-three week break in our ministry. Instead of doing nothing. we decided to reach out to the schools to see if we could

find a way to continue. It began by us taking two bags of food to Cool Spring Elementary and giving them to the principal who took the food to a family herself. The counselors reached out to families shortly thereafter and we had eleven families that were willing to allow us to come to their homes and drop off the food for the weekend. That continued till the end of the 2019-20 school year.

This school year we started out with the same plan. Today we are providing 31 students per week food for the weekend. Which brings me to the last two students added.

The ministry is very fluid, and changes can happen on any given day. In January we were asked if two more students could be added to the Oak Knoll students' list. The counselor explained that it was for a family, a single mom recently diagnosed with cancer. We added those two students to the ministry, but then something else happened. Hillcrest reached out to the school for permission to reach out to the family to try and help them. The counselor spoke with the mom who told the counselor she would be appreciative of any help she could get. That was the door swinging wide open to.....outreach! We are now in the middle of building a solid relationship with the family. On January 30th, nine Hillcrest members went to the home and cleaned the yard of fall and winter debris, cleaned out two vehicles and washed the windows, organized, and cleaned up the garage and took the two middle school students shopping to purchase much needed clothing and shoes. Hillcrest has

also donated a Kroger gift card. On Friday, February 19th two Hillcrest members (one was the pastor) went to the home and began completion of a flooring project the mom had started before her illness. We still need to go back and complete the task as well as install a new garbage disposal. Hillcrest members have also helped the family by picking up and disposing of an old lawn mower that wasn't working and getting the family's generator running before the ice storm. Beginning Thursday, February 25th Hillcrest members will be providing a meal every Thursday night for eight weeks. Thursday is the day for chemo treatments.

Imagine if you can how many people will witness the kindness of our church reaching out to this family. Also, the blessing it is to everyone who has been involved. Ephesians 3:20-21 tells us that God is able to do **immeasurably more** and abundantly **more**, than we could ever imagine. All in His power. His hand is in the Backpack Ministry and that has been apparent on many levels for seven years. This ministry has been a huge blessing for Hillcrest by helping us build relationships with other local churches and organizations as well as many individuals.

All of this leads to one conclusion. The Backpack Ministry has the power to not only provide opportunity for service but also to build relationships with the community through outreach opportunities this ministry is providing.

The best way to become relevant to our community is by being out in the community serving in the name of Jesus. The mom has told me that Hillcrest is her angel on earth. That says it all. Pray how you will serve as other opportunities become available. Oh! One last thing - thank you to everyone that has been involved in our local ministries.

Peace,
Jerry Edwards

ADULT BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

If you prefer to participate in Bible study from your home, we invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m.

Call Kathy Johnson (218-2717) or Steve Eggleton (496-0785) for more information.

Here are our upcoming lessons and scripture references.

The Means of Salvation

- 3/3 The Foolishness of the Cross
I Corinthians 1:18-25
- 3/10 The Loving God
Ephesians 2:1-10
- 3/17 The Suffering Savior
Hebrews 5:1-10
- 3/24 The Humble King
Mark 11:1-11

In the World Today

- 3/31 Experience the Risen Lord
John 20:1-18

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 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 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

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Dixie MacDonald (3-3)
- Carole Guill (3-3)
- Kaitlin Collier (3-6)
- Harry Frasier (3-7)
- Mary Jane Smith (3-9)
- Lynn Haworth (3-9)
- Steve Brooks (3-10)
- Courtney Payne (3-11)
- Kitty Anderson (3-13)
- Tad Bell (3-13)
- Valerie Crisp (3-19)
- David Harris (3-19)
- Larry Horn (3-20)
- Mason Drudge (3-26)
- Kendall Tucker (3-28)

GENERAL FUND RESULTS

Balance as of January 1	\$ 32,594.32
Receipts as of January 1	\$ 13,666.00
Expenditures as of January 1	\$ 10,800.86
Balance as of February 1	\$ 35,459.46