
May 2021

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

I cannot remember my first time playing baseball or how many games in which I have played over the years. All I know is that playing the game taught me so much which I have been able to take with me through life. It taught me that hard work is not an option. The work must be invested for the payoff of personal satisfaction and winning. The team ran sprints until I thought we would drop on the ground. We took batting practice repeatedly, figuring out our power zones, sweet spots, and stances among other things. Fielding and reflex building were never ending.

I was an infielder. I played second or third base and prayed I was never placed at shortstop. I simply did not like to play shortstop. We set up offensive and defensive plays and repeated them until the coaches were ok with our performances (which seemed like never). And not one coach I had the pleasure playing for tolerated poor sportsmanship. This said, the disciplined hard work was worth every grain of dirt, every drop of sweat, and every sore muscle on my body whether we won or loss.

The hard work not only sharpened physical skills, it also produced mental sharpness, strength, and determination that remains after the physical skills have long since gone away. What many people don't realize about

baseball is that there is a lot of strategy taking place with every player on the field at all times such as when the pitcher delivers a pitch to the batter or the catcher gives a signal. And the same is true with the offensive team.

Both the physical and analytical components of the game have been priceless for me in my studies and ministry and are the results of hard work. Hard work lies ahead for us as the body of Christ called Hillcrest. By the time this article is read, Hillcrest will have held a groundbreaking ceremony and the construction of the new sanctuary will have begun. So many people will have had a hand in making this possible but ultimately God has provided all things for us. But hard work for Christ will always be a charge set before us.

The goal is that the new sanctuary will be finished, and services will begin prior to Thanksgiving. The important truth we must not forget, however, is that the completion of the new sanctuary is a goal met unto itself. It is not the end of church life and ministry for Hillcrest in no way, shape, or form and is not a license to return Egypt.

To be the active, vibrant, and living body of Christ, remember that hard work is not an option. Investing this hard work will have inherent rewards but ultimately, we exist and function as the body of Christ because Christ has called

us into existence and will prune what needs pruning to make His church healthy. And one part of this story is that the people must have a desire for winning and success. Complacency and mediocrity are in no way substitutes for the investment of hard work and the desire to achieve for Christ's sake. So, let us get ready to run the race that God has set before us during and after the building of a God-blessed sanctuary. As we go forward in our work together, remember the immortal words of that great baseball philosopher Yogi Berra, "Baseball is 90 percent mental, the other half is physical."

Grace and Peace,

Clarke

SUNDAY SCHOOL – JUNE 6

What an exciting Sunday this will be! All Sunday School classes are returning to meet inside our building on June 6.

Come take a walk to the children's wing. You will be greeted by newly painted walls, brightly colored decals, and new signage. The K-5 classroom has many new additions - tables, chairs, cubby storage and a wall-mounted tv.

Our preschool and K-5 classes will be using a new curriculum which encourages activities that will have the children up and moving as well as singing every Sunday to videos shown on a tv monitor.

The adult classes will be meeting and the youth will meet in the conference room.

Come and join us. See you at 9:45 on June 6.

NEW SANCTUARY GROUNDBREAKING

CEREMONY

What a glorious day April 25th turned out to be. The weather was a bit chilly, but God smiled on us with warm rays of sunshine and lots of smiling faces during the groundbreaking ceremony. The ceremony was complete with special guests, decorations, and the actual breaking of the ground with gold shovels! We give praise to God for the opportunity to begin such a task and pray for His guidance each step along the way as we attempt to follow His direction for our future on the hill.

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

MRS. CAMPBELL UPDATE

We continue our ministry to Mrs. Campbell and her children. She will be continuing her chemotherapy through the end of May. Volunteers have signed up to prepare a meal for the family every Thursday through May 27. Hillcrest has made an impact on this family. In a recent email, Mrs. Campbell stated: "I thank God daily for bringing you and your church into my life and my children's life. You are all a true blessing." That says it all!

Thank you, Hillcrest, for serving in this ministry. Keep the prayers coming. Though her numbers are improving, she has a way to go before she is fully recovered. We have taken a lot of stress off of her which has given her more strength to fight her illness. Pray

she beats this illness and makes a medical recovery.

Jerry Edwards
Ministry Coordinator

SUNDAY MORNING - ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Come join in Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Jean Sharp will be leading a study on Making Sense of Suffering during the month of May. Many scripture references will be used during this study.

- May 2 Finding God in Our Pain Job; Isaiah 53
Luke 13:1-5
- May 9 Where is God in This Mess
- May 16 God's Purpose in Our Suffering
- May 23 Unexplained Tragedy
- May 30 Redeeming Suffering

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Jean Sharp and Todd Collier

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Every good news article should answer the five "w's" - who, what, why, when, where. To enhance our understanding of this ministry, let's look at these questions.

Who: Who sponsors Operation Christmas Child? This is a ministry through Samaritan's Purse. It began in 1993 when shoeboxes were filled with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Since 1993, 186 million children in more than 160 countries have received an OCC shoebox.

What: What is Operation Christmas Child? This is a ministry to reach children ALL over the world, to provide in a tangible way evidence of God's love to children in need around the world and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Why: Why be involved in Operation Christmas Child? This ministry enables us – in a small but significant way – to fulfil the Great Commission-to fulfil our responsibility for spreading the Christian message and sharing the message of salvation with others. The Greatest Journey is a discipleship course available through OCC designed to achieve this goal. More than 26.5 million children have been enrolled in the 12 lesson program. This program enables children to learn how to follow Christ.

When: When can we participate? All year long. Each month, we will be collecting specified items to be included in the shoeboxes. An easel with a listing of the items associated with each month will be on display in the atrium adjacent to the Christmas tree. A basket is also provided for leaving gift items.

Where: Where can we participate? Right here at Hillcrest. A shoebox filling party will be scheduled in October and all are encouraged to be involved. If you cannot attend a structured event, items can always be left under the Christmas tree for inclusion in the boxes. There are also opportunities to go to the distribution centers and actually participate in the preparation of boxes for shipping.

May Items: Personal Care Items:

- Comb
- Hairbrush
- Toothbrush (no toothpaste)
- Washcloth
- Bar Soap (individually wrapped)
- Adhesive Bandages (colorful ones)
- Non-Liquid Lip Balm
- Flashlight (include extra batteries)
- Compact Mirror

General Information:

We are always in need of empty shoeboxes (basket by Christmas tree for boxes). While there will be special emphases every month, any gift for the boxes will be appreciated.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sharon Duling - 477 5271 or email sharonaduling@yahoo.com

BACKPACK MINISTRY

The 2020/2021 school year is winding down. This ministry is always changing. We have had additions and also some have discontinued using the ministry. Currently, we serve thirty-two students a week and everything in the ministry is running very smoothly. The volunteers in this ministry are passionate and committed making the ministry easy to manage. At this time, we are adjusting inventory to run as low as possible by the end of the school year so we won't have a lot of inventory to carry through the summer. However, we continue to ask for grocery bags with handles and financial support so when the time comes in late August to rebuild inventory, we will have the necessary resources to do so. Thank you for your support this

year. It is truly a church wide ministry.

Jerry Edwards
Ministry Coordinator

MUSIC NOTES

MAY I say this has been a very different (if not difficult) year. So many changes and challenges. So many new habits to be learned and old ones to be unlearned. It can be difficult to get used to, but change is not always a bad thing. God is faithful to get us through it all.

MAY I say thank you to all of our faithful choir members who have been here to worship week after week, indoors and out; now gathering again to practice for our next opportunity to sing for you, our family. God loves a faithful spirit.

MAY I also encourage any of you to join us in Hillcrest's music ministry. We have room for vocalists, instrumentalists, directors, props-masters, and seamstresses. God gave each of us talents to be used for His glory.

MAY I encourage you to let us know what you would like to hear and/or sing each week. We'll try to work your suggestions into the service.

MAY we continue to celebrate with each other through the upcoming months as we watch the face of Hillcrest change with visitors who visit and decide to stay.

"May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and

the patient endurance that comes from Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 3: 3

Love.....Mary Jane...MOM

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The first quarter 2021 Treasurer’s Report is available upon request to the church office. The two-page summary report is the standard distribution report. If you want a copy of the six-page detailed report, it is available by request. If you would like an electronic or printed copy of the report, email the church office or call the church office. Treasurer reports will no longer be on the table in the atrium. If you have questions, email the treasurer, Jerry Edwards at jedw917821@aol.com and he will assist you.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

If you prefer to participate in Bible study from your home in May, 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.

Necessary Knowledge

- 5/2 Knowing God Loves Us
1 John 4:7-21
- 5/9 Knowing We Love Others
1 John 5:1-8
- 5/16 Knowing We Have
Eternal Life
1 John 5:9-21
- 5/23 Knowing the
Spirit Helps Us
Romans 8:22-27

5/30 Knowing We Are God’s Children

Romans 8:12-21

IN SYMPATHY

Our love and prayers are extended to:

Ken Jones in the passing of his wife, Regena, on February 24.

Jean Sharp in the passing of her son, John Sharp on March 11.

Bob Barnes in the passing of his brother, Johnny Barnes on April 12.

THANK YOU

Jean Sharp would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, visits and many expressions of love of sympathy.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Abi Riccio (5-1)
- C. J. Forrester (5-3)
- Donna Smith (5-6)
- Lois Link (5-6)
- Trevor Johnson (5-10)
- Sheryl Smart (5-13)
- Nathan Bellflower (5-14)
- Casey Zahn (5-18)
- Cathy Adkins (5-18)
- Sam Carter, Jr. (5-21)
- Linda Miles (5-22)
- Mary Loving (5-23)
- Charlotte Althizer (5-24)
- Joshua Hawkins (5-25)
- Ashley Petersen (5-26)
- June Loving (5-28)
- Bethany Johnson (5-29)

GENERAL FUND RESULTS

Balance as of March 1	\$ 34,874.12
March Receipts	\$ 8,767.02
March Expenditures	\$ 14,279.61
Balance as of April 1	\$ 29,361.53