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# HILLCREST

### Dates to remember:

Feb 2 Bible Bowl

Jr PC Kids & PC Kids kick off tonight at 6:00pm

Feb 5 TeamKID (Pizza) @ 6:15pm. Meet in Gathering Area.

Feb 8 The Edge, 10:00-11:20am. Meet in Fellowship Hall for Service

Feb 9 Bible Bowl

Jr PC Kids & PC Kids Choirs @ 6:00pm

Feb 12 TeamKID (Hot dogs) @ 6:15pm. Meet in Gathering Area.

Feb 16 BIG Church today! No Bible Bowl

Jr PC Kids & PC Kids Choirs @ 6:00pm

Feb 19 TeamKID (Fish sticks) @ 6:15pm. Meet in Gathering Area.

Feb 23 Bible Bowl

Jr PC Kids & PC Kids Choirs @ 6:00pm

Feb 26 TeamKID (Nachos) @ 6:15pm. Meet in Gathering Area.



Little Flock (nursery ministry) Parents, please be mindful of our health policy concerning sick children. We can only allow well children in the nursery. Health policies are listed in the Little Flock brochure at the Welcome Desk.





TEAMKID
Wednesdays
6: 15pm

Meet in Gathering Area



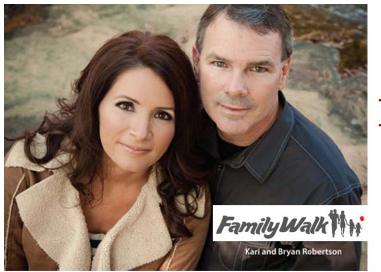


February 2014

Volume 8 Edition 5 www.hillcrestbc.net

**OUR MONTHLY MINISTRY NEWSLETTER** 

### CONNECTIONS



Hillcrest Baptist Church presents

### Marriage Boost February 14, 2014

6-9pm \$20 per couple includes light supper and childcare
Call the church office or go online to register

Making More of What Matters Most

# Sunday School and Discipleship

Leaders Meeting
with Bro. Tony Lewis
Sunday, February 9 5:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall





I am willing to admit I am an archery junkie. In other words, I am a fanatic when it comes to equipment and shooting bows and arrows. Every year I cannot wait to see what the industry comes out with next. Each year the bows get faster and the equipment gets lighter. However, just because the equipment gets better does not guarantee that I do. It may increase the likelihood but, only if I am willing to put in the effort to become better. That requires commitment.

The same kind of commitment is required for the Lord to make better of your life. The Lord does not produce new stuff every year. He is so much better than that. He is the same He has always been and always will be (Mal. 3:6) and yet the Bible declares, "His mercies are new every morning" (Lam. 3:22-23). God is great and that is a constant. Your 2014 may not have any scheduled changes to it but I can assure you God wants to be a greater part of your life than ever before. "Will you let him?," is the question to be answered. The poster on the back of my office door reads, "If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always gotten."

If I want my marriage to get even stronger, I've got let Him make me a better husband. If I want my parental influence to become more effective, I've got to let Him make me a better father. If I want to be a greater spiritual leader, I've got to let Him make me a better pastor. John said it this way, "He must increase, therefore, I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30). Isn't that what you want, too. I hope so. Let God do new works in your life this year. He's pretty good at what He does!

Blessed to be your pastor,

Bro. Joe

Join Nicole and I February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Marriage Boost, 6-9 p.m.

### A Little Housekeeping...

If you desire to use any part of our church property for a Sunday School fellowship or other activity, it is very important you schedule it through the church office. This will not only help our custodial team, but prevent a possible embarrassing situation.



Congratulations to TC & Angela Loughery on the birth of their daughter, Sheridan Grace, born Dec. 29, 2013. Proud great-grandparents are Edith Lewis and Bill & Anna Pollock.



### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Gifted Hands by Ben Carson, M.D. This book is an autobiographical look into the life of one of the best neurosurgeons in the United States. Dr Carson is living proof that we at 'not' mere products of our environments. He overcame a broken home, bad temper, and radical inequality to become a great man, loving father, and famous Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD. This is an inspirational book for adults and great to share with youth.

*God Loves You Very Much!* by Jordan Herstek (a Veggie Tale book) This is a wonderful book that instills a positive sense of self-worth in kids and explains how much they are loved.



Two boys stood at the rail overlooking twenty-seven floors of empty space surrounding the two exposed elevator cars. As the youngest stood and commented on the distance and how much it would hurt to fall, the eldest just stood there, peering downward. After a few moments, the younger boy was ready to move on and reminded the other that his oatmeal was getting cold. But still no response. The sight was mesmerizing. The

open shaft gripped his attention and nothing could distract him.

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 146 about the sight that continually catches his attention. He declares, "I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." The words following this bold declaration picture the other side of life, where unfairness and trouble rule. Yet, the Psalmist reminds the reader that rapt attention to the King of glory clarifies the situation.

Our attentiveness to the Lord is too easily swayed by circumstances. How, and to whom, should we respond to in the midst of life? Like the boy drawn and kept at the rail, our attention must be directed to the majesty of Jesus and thus respond most aptly to Him. It may mean the cries of comfort and the urgent **must** wait as we respond to the heart of the Father.

Bro. Bet

**Reminder**: Join the conversation on Facebook about Sunday's messages.



It is great getting to settle in and to meet so many of the Hillcrest family! Thanks for being so kind to my family and me. I am so honored to be serving with such a dynamic staff that obviously has a great passion for helping Hillcrest reach this community.

Our Sunday School has been going quite well recently. A church family that gathers together for Bible Study and fellowship is one that will grow stronger in their walk with the Lord! If you haven't found a class that is right for you, please come talk with me so I can help point you in the right direction for your family.

I'm amazed at our Discipleship classes on Wednesday nights! Our teachers come prepared and many people are coming eager to learn. Thanks to everyone who began such an incredible foundation. I look forward to seeing even more coming in the near future.

See you Sunday!

Bro. Tony



This is what it is all about!

THANK YOU!

The family of Velma Funkhouser thank the Hillcrest members for their prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, visits, food and contributions to her home church in Zigler, Illinois & to Hillcrest in her memory.

Edith Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Rick Pollock, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Pollock, Mr. & Mrs. Bud Funkhouser



I would like to say "Thank you Hillcrest Baptist Church for supporting the Guatemala Mission Team financially and spiritually through your support of fund raisers and financial gifts". More importantly you supported us through your prayers and words of encouragement. You helped make our dream a reality and we will ever be mindful of your love and generosity.

We survived hurricane type winds and some tornados and saw God work in marvelous ways in the lives of children and adults. We had over 175 children attend Vacation Bible School on two separate occasions and over 400 attend worship service and the dedication of their new educational building.

Make sure that you come out and support the Guatemala Team as we share our pictures and experiences of the trip on Sunday night, February 9, 2014.

Byo. Tom



New Classes Coming in February, 2014
Check the website or app for details.

**Beginning February 19** 

Gray Areas - Finding Truth When Life Isn't Black & White by Mike Glenn facilitated by Phillip Miller (Room 205)

*Every Woman's Battle* by Shannon Ethridge facilitated by Julie Davis (Room 210)



As children we all learned through repetition. All parents who have music in their car can attest to this fact. From songs that repeat over and over to a steady routine we all learn things quicker when they

happen time over time. Truth is we never stop learning this way. As a student and teacher of God's word its easy to recognize God repeats many things over and over for us. He sets a standard for us.

We choose what is important later in life by the things we choose to repeat. This ultimately looks like discipline in our lives. If you were to inventory your life from just the days of 2014 what things are you doing over and over. Work... that's important! Church... that's important! These are things that matter. There is great pressure in our world to invest in the random things that do not matter. There are notifications that need to be checked, movies that need to be watched, games that need to be played, naps that need to be taken, and countless more random activities that leave us with nothing to show for our dedication to them. God's word warns us to pay attention to this in Ephesians 5:16 "Redeem the time because the days are evil...". Notice its not that all these things are bad in fact they can be good. We simply need to evaluate what our lives tell about Jesus. Consider what repeats are truly important that you will be able to look back and say, "I have redeemed this time!" What is really important? Let your answer filter through Jesus words to Love God and Love People!

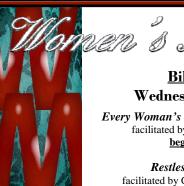
### Cody



## Intentional Outreach Mondays @ 6:30pm

Each Sunday School class represented once a month, sharing the hope found in Jesus.

\* Limited childcare available. Register by calling the church office.



### Bible Studies Wednesdays @ 6:15pm

Every Woman's Battle by Shannon Ethridge facilitated by Julie Davis, Room 210 <u>beginning Feb. 26</u>

**Restless** by Jennie Allen facilitated by Gail McKinney, Room 203

Details at www.hillcrestbc.net/womensministry







Monthly calendar & articles of interest to women. Find it at www.hillcrestbc.net

R & R Women's Brown Bag Lunch

Vomen's Brown Bag Lu Tuesday, February 25 12:00-1:00pm Fellowship Hall

