

What You're Missing

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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The story is told of various church members and their attitude toward the midweek service. Brother A thought it looked like rain, and concluded that his family had better remain at home. Yet, on Thursday evening it was raining very hard, and the same brother took his whole family to the local college to hear a lecture on the "Intelligence of the Lobster". Brother B thought he was too tired to go, so he stayed at home and worked on a train set he had promised to make for his son Billy. Sister C thought the pavements were too slippery and dangerous for her to venture out. She was seen the next morning going down the street to get her hair done. During that specific Wednesday night, three-fourths of the members stayed at home.

One of the many impressive aspects I initially noticed when starting work here five years ago was the great "retention rate" in people coming back on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We averaged around 200 people on Sunday mornings, with around 160 or so on Sunday and Wednesday nights (if memory serves me correctly). That's an 80% return rate, which is excellent by normal standards. If I were to guesstimate from anecdotal evidence, I would say that many congregations have a return rate of around 45 to 55%. Certainly the ideal is to have a 100% return rate, but reality is often anything but ideal.

Let's say that you just so happen to be someone who does not attend either the Sunday or Wednesday evening service. If you attend Sunday morning and Sunday night, but don't attend Wednesday nights, you are missing out on 2,080 minutes of Bible class and 780 minutes of worship and devotion, not to mention the many minutes of fellowship before and after services with the saints. If you attend Sunday morning and Wednesday night, but don't attend Sunday night, you are missing out on 3,120 minutes of collective worship to God. If you neglect both Sunday and Wednesday evening services, you are missing out on 5,200 minutes of time with God and His people. Let's throw in the neglecting of Bible class on Sunday mornings and you are missing out on 7,280 minutes (121.33 hours) of solid spiritual time.

You may say to yourself, "Ehh... I mean, all that God really requires of me is that I attend at least one service on Sunday in order to partake of the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is all that really matters anyway, right?" The Bible does give great emphasis to us meeting together to partake of the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34), but to claim that the communion is the only thing that really matters is to deny other purposes of our assembling. We are to worship God and exhort one another through singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:17). We are to stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are to listen to the public reading of God's Word (I Timothy 4:13). We are to confess sin and pray for one another (James 5:16). And so much more. We can come up with all sorts of excuses for not attending services, but God doesn't acquiesce to our excuses (Luke 9:69-62; 14:18-24).

In talking about our relationship to our elders, Hebrews 13:17 reads, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." Part of submitting to our elders is to be there when they set up times for us to be there. When we don't attend like we should, I promise you that it makes it harder for them to have joy in their shepherding. Think about how much more you can learn about and grow in God by attending every single service that the elders have provided for us! Try it out. You may be surprised at what it does for your soul.

Luke Yates

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Joyce Clarkson, Heather Cobb, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Faye Haught, Mae Hill, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Bette Sinden, Helen Swem, Terry Tolles, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Hillcrest Brothers and Sisters: Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, and words of encouragement following our loss. It is in such times as this when your Christian family shines as stars in a dark world. We love you all!
Wayne & Vera

Hillcrest Members, Thanks to all who worked hard to help make our anniversary celebration a success. We appreciate all of you!
Dale and Mebyl Privett

Rejoice! Becky Matthews was baptized into Christ Sunday night. Welcome Becky and her son Payton to the Hillcrest family. Their address is 1909 Cash Street and phone number is 417-592-7792.

It's a boy! Selleck Murray was born to Landon and Chani last Wednesday. Congratulations to grandparents Todd and Ginger Murray and great-grandparents and Bob and Rita Murray.

One Word: Remember to read about "inspiration" this week.

Every "One" Counts: Don't forget to give an extra dollar in the offering each week! This week we helped a local family who needed some financial help..

Students are invited to **Devo and Donuts** every Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center. Bring a friend!

 **Thursday morning ladies' Bible class** will begin at 10:00 September 6. Join us in a unique study of God's Word in concert with Joan M. Haselwood's book *Be-hold the Birds: Spiritual Insights from God's Design*. Invite someone to come with you!

The Anderson church of Christ invites you to a gospel meeting September 2-5 with Jake King.

 **This Sunday's Sermons:**
A.M. *Make It Last, Part 2*
(1 Cor. 7, Danny Boggs)
P.M. *One Word: Inspiration*
(Luke Yates)



Would you like to grow your marriage and at the same time grow in friendship with a long-married Christian couple? See Danny for more information or to be paired in our **12 Conversations marriage mentoring project**.

Opportunity: Would you like to help supply snacks for the after-school program at Neosho Christian School? please see Carla Murray.

Build your faith, knowledge and relationships by joining us for **Bible class** every Sunday morning and Wednesday night. Here's what's happening in adult classes beginning this Sunday...

Sunday Mornings

- *Hebrews* with Pat Andrews and Bill Reiboldt, auditorium
- *Romans* with John Deffenbaugh and Glen Honeycutt, room 7
- *One Word* with Pete Babb and Danny Boggs, room 29

Wednesday Nights

- *1 Peter* with Rick Hyder and Josh King, auditorium
- *The Life and Legacy of Abraham* with Luke Yates, room 29
- *1 Thessalonians* with Bob Murray, room 21

Free College dinners will begin next Wednesday at 6:00 in the activities center. College students and other young adults are invited to enjoy a meal together and stay for Bible class every Wednesday. Keri Collinsworth's hostess group is in charge next Wednesday.

Our gospel meeting with Chris McCurley is only a month away, September 23-26. Make plans to build your faith with this good series and to build faith in others whom you can invite.



Who We Are & What We're About!

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, September 2

- AM Opening: Mike Kidwell
- AM Closing: Benny Haught
- PM Opening: Bill Reiboldt
- PM Closing: Tony Flint

Wednesday, September 5

- Opening: Jared Thomas
- Closing: Bob Murray

RECORDS	8-26-18	8-22-17
Bible Study	152	135
AM Worship	195	209
PM Worship	134	124
Wednesday	130	126
Contribution	\$8,758.45	\$6,772.19
Budget	\$7,643.38	\$7,630.58