

# Hillcrest Calling

Volume XXXXV, No. 8

Don't worry about anything; Instead, pray about everything.  
Tell God what your need, and thank Him for all He has done.

August, 2017

Philippians 4:6

## A Year In The Rearview Mirror

Amazing and Blessed!! Those are the two best words that I can think of to describe the last year here in Springfield and specifically here at Hillcrest! I'll never forget the day that Jack got the call to come here and the emotions that flooded my mind and body. I wasn't ready to move. I wasn't ready to leave my family and friends and I really wasn't ready to have to tell Ethan's dad and stepmom that we were moving 8 hours away. I couldn't wrap my head around all of the things that needed to be done in order to prepare to move here and found myself in a place of continually being overwhelmed and then throwing in the finishing touches for our wedding and Jack having to go back to Alaska to pack all of his things. I was a mess and as Ethan would say "I need my me space" as he would lock himself in his room. In the midst of all of these emotions, concerns, and fears I realized I wasn't looking to God for help and instead I was trying to do it all on my own. There is a saying that God will never give us more than we can handle and boy did I think that was a joke. I was so overwhelmed that I joked about how my plate must be king sized and my silverware must be small because I couldn't think straight and I couldn't keep it all under control. About a week before the wedding, which was about a month before the move, I found myself sobbing on the bedroom floor as I looked at what all needed to be done. It was there, in that moment, that I cried out to God, both in frustration and in need of help. I remember sobbing and after what felt like an hour of crying the sense of relief that came over me. I could feel God's presence and I could hear him say to me "take my hand and let me help you". At that moment, everything started to fall into place. No, everything wasn't sunshine and rainbows, but it was all doable and with less anxiety and trouble than I ever imagined possible. Ethan's dad and stepmom were able to sit at our kitchen table with Jack and I and we easily came to a parenting arrangement without having to go through attorneys. We found the perfect house for us to live in here in Springfield and we were able to celebrate our marriage with family and close friends without any concerns. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank God for all the blessings that he has given to us. And there isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank Him for YOU, our church family.

It is because of YOU that we have transitioned with only a few bumps and bruises and it is because of YOU that we are happy here. One of my biggest fears when we got here was about Ethan and about how he would transition to being here. Autism is a complicated disability and one of the major things that it impacts is transition. Needless to say the closer it came to moving day the more my anxiety and Ethan's anxiety increased. However, from the moment we arrived Ethan was comfortable and happy. YOU, the church, demonstrated God's love to us from the very beginning. The first night we got here there was a youth lock-in and Covey and Tyce didn't think twice and invited Ethan to go. We weren't expecting him to say yes, but as soon as they said SkyZone and pizza he was in. I gave a brief rundown of Ethan and what can happen when and there wasn't any hesitation and he was fully accepted into the group. It was at that exact moment that I knew that God placed us exactly where we were supposed to be. Our year here hasn't been perfect, but thanks to you, our church family and your willingness to follow God's calling, we have made it through and come out stronger than ever before. You stood with us when we moved, you wanted to learn more about Ethan and Autism before we moved here, you accepted us into your family, you prayed for us when we were sick, you brought us food when we had surgeries, you've lifted up and still lift up Miranda, and from the beginning of summer until the day Ethan came home from his dad's you've prayed for us, checked on us, and kept our spirits up. You see, you have followed God, shown us God's love, and demonstrated the true meaning of being a church and Christian family. Thank you, all of you, for loving us. We have had a blessed and amazing year with you all and are looking forward to the year ahead.

With love and thankfulness,

*Scarlet*



Gene Goodell is continuing radiation. Prayers for he and Joyce through his treatments.

Jan Zweerink is recuperating from knee replacement surgery.

Mariya Hill had a mass removed from her neck which was determined to be thyroid cancer. She goes back to the doctor in two weeks for an ultrasound then will see an endocrinologist for further surgery and treatment. Prayers for her and her family during her treatments.



Choir Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. The first one is August 23rd. It is hoped all choir members as well as anyone who would enjoy singing in the choir will join us each of these Wednesday evenings. Help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord here at Hillcrest Church.

I take **JOY** in doing  
your will,  
my **GOD**,  
for your instructions  
are written on my heart.

Psalm 40:8



BABY  
SHOWER



The Millers are adding to their nest.

Please join us for a baby shower  
In honor of

Alex & Kayla Miller

Sunday, August 13th at 6:00pm  
A light supper will be served

They are  
registered at  
Target,  
Babys-R-Us, and  
Amazon.



REST  
AREA

Rest Stop  
Mission

REST  
AREA

Hillcrest will again be handing out snacks and drinks to travelers at the Conway rest area along West bound I-44. This mission aims to help keep travelers awake and aware as they are on the road. Many who have helped with this mission in the past really enjoy visiting with people as they stop for a quick break along the road.

We need individually wrapped snacks (preferably not chocolate) and drinks. Good snacks are chips, crackers, snack cakes, granola bars, etc. We usually have bottled water and Capri Suns for the kids. We would also welcome cash to buy whatever supplies we are low on. Please give any donations to Bill Covey.

Bill will have a sign up sheet later in the month. We usually have people there from 3:00pm - 10:00pm.

Hope to see you out there!



**A Note From The Treasurer:**

Through June, giving is up over 2016 by approximately \$3,000. Expenses are up approximately \$6,400. The majority of the expense increase is due to the fact that we were without a minister part of 2016.



So, our checking account balance is down from approximately \$4,800 on January 1, to approximately \$1,700 on June 30.

Average monthly contributions have totaled \$10,800. Average monthly expenses have totaled \$11,340.

Monthly contributions are on a downward trend from a high of \$13,240 in January to \$9,222 in June (the lowest of the year).

I probably over analyzed this but approximately 40% of us are above last year's giving pace, approximately 40% are below, and the other 20% are right on last year's pace.

I have "borrowed" \$5,000 from our designated funds (or our savings). But, the Administration Committee hopes this is just a loan and we will be able to pay it back.



**"BRING THE WHOLE TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE FOOD IN MY HOUSE. TEST ME IN THIS," SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY, "AND SEE IF I WILL NOT THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR OUT SO MUCH BLESSING THAT YOU WILL NOT HAVE ROOM ENOUGH FOR IT."**

MALACHI 3:10

Dear Hillcrest,  
Thank you for your generous June 2017 in-kind gift of food in support of Crosslines. Gifts, such as yours are vital in assisting us in continuing to provide life-changing services for our most vulnerable.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to serve our most vulnerable neighbors with unity and compassion. We share your concerns about hungry families, homeless women, and abused and neglected children. We share your desire to make a real difference in our community.

Thank you for partnering with the Council of Churches of the Ozarks!

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us: please contact us with any questions, ideas, or suggestions about ways CCO can improve the quality of life in our region through compassionate service and outreach.

kindest regards,  
Christine Moses  
Director of Marketing & Development  
Council of Church of the Ozarks.



Christ has no body but yours;  
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the  
world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours.

**Of Note**

The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on August 6th.

The Stated Session meeting will be Thursday, August 10th at 7:00pm.

The Men's Breakfast for August is the 12th, 8:00 am at the Golden Corral on North Kansas.

The church will be serving dinner at the Mercy Ronald McDonald House on Monday, August 14th.

The Book Club will meet to review "The Award" by Danielle Steele on August 28th at 7:00pm.



A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped to make VBS a successful, fun time spent with friends and family. We were only able to make this happen with your help!

Thank you for providing your talents, your cookies, your decorative items that

made our family life center look like the Oregon Trail. Thank you for teaching, decorating, supporting, cooking, copying materials, solving problems, hauling your horse in on a SEVERE HEAT ADVISORY day, cleaning up, making fires – putting out fires. Thank you for inviting others, singing your hearts out, making everyone feel included and valuable, AND most of all your prayers!

A sincere THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!

Marcia & Cathy



Please note these new addresses:

Alex & Kayla Miller  
1425 N Opportunity Ave  
Republic MO 65738

Ronnie & DeAnn Riggs  
Deanna & Isabelle Riggs  
4720 W Skyler  
Springfield, MO 65802

Betty Saffeels  
1505 W Lark, Apartment 115  
Springfield, MO 65810



*+ Thank you God +*

Thank you God for this new day.

In my school to work and pray.

Please be with me all day long.

In every story, game and song.

May all the happy things we do,

Make you, Our Father, happy too!



**Back to School Supply Drive  
for Watkins Elementary School**

The outreach committee is collecting schools supplies for Watkins Elementary. The supplies needed are listed page 6 of the bulletin. The school supply drive will continue through August 6th. If you need help with school supplies or know someone who needs help please contact a member of the outreach committee.

- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Tissues
- Black & White Composition Books
- 24 Pack Crayons
- Yellow Highlighters
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Hand Sanitizer
- Colored Pencils
- Pens

- Scissors
- Large Pink Erasers
- Zip-Lock Bags (all sizes)
- Flash Drives
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Pencil Pouch or Box



Hillcrest Presbyterian Church  
818 East Norton Rd.  
Springfield, MO 65803-3646

## Freezer Meals Group

### What is it?

A group that meets to cook, package, and freeze meals for their households or families. You get to share the work, share the cost, stock your freezer with yummy meals, and have fun and fellowship while you do it!

### What are the benefits?

- ⇒ **An excuse to spend time together**—It can bring many people from different ages together to enjoy time together and be productive while doing it. We will also provide a babysitter for those who need it!
- ⇒ **Variety**—Cooking in a group can help expose us to new and exciting recipes that we don't try on our own!
- ⇒ **Learn from each other**—Cooking with others helps us share our unique skill set with them as well as picking up their tips and tricks in the kitchen..
- ⇒ **Save money**—Cooking for many means bulk shopping which saves everyone involved money!
- ⇒ **Save time**—With everyone working together the cooking and clean-up goes quicker and we can all go home with several meals after just a few hours. It also saves you from having all those mid week trips to the grocery store!



We are starting one of these groups here at Hillcrest and would love to have everyone join us! We want to help families, singles, and couples get their freezers stocked with healthy, delicious meals! If you are interested in being a part of this group please let Heather Heslin or Scarlet Cormack know and we will start planning our first Freezer Meal Party!