

# Hillcrest Calling

Volume XXXXV, No. 3

To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven...

March, 2017

Ecclesiastes 3:1



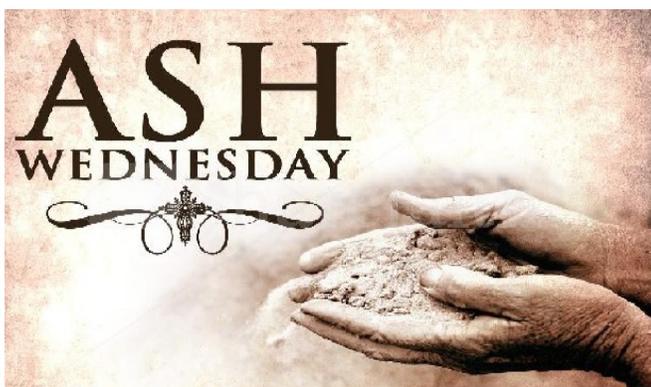
As we prepare for the coming Lenten and Easter season, the authors of, “Feasting On The Word, Lenten Companion, (Barbara Brown Taylor, David L. Bartlett, Kimberly Bracken Long) have the following to say about the season. Lent is a time of self-reflection and penitence, a time to acknowledge our sinfulness and need for God’s mercy. From the church’s earliest days, Lent was a

time of preparation for baptism of new converts and penitence leading to the reconciliation of those estranged from the community. Mirroring the forty days of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness (which itself mirrored forty-day periods of trial experienced by Noah, Moses, and Elijah), the season of Lent begins forty-six days before Easter Sunday. Because every Sunday was to be a celebration of the resurrection and therefore not a day of fasting, the Sundays of Lent are not included in the forty penitential days of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, Christians are invited to enter a period of self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial. We are called to use these forty days as a time of reflection on our sins, the ways that we separate ourselves from God and from one another. Thus it is easy to characterize Lent as the somber, solemn period of the church year, but there is also joy to be found in the journey. The juxtapositions of mortality and eternity, sin and grace, death and life, make the path to Jesus’ cross and tomb a rugged, rewarding terrain. Lent can be a dangerous time. People come to the church looking for discipline and a new way to live; they come to be challenged—prepared for the heartache and joy of the cross to come. The fallacy of Lent can occur when we contain the season to six weeks of intentionality and introspection rather than building a Lent that becomes a life. It is dangerous to meet Jesus in the dark places, to ask the same questions of ourselves that Jesus asks of his disciples, to accept Jesus’ radical touch. In these moments of utter truth and honesty, we find ourselves vulnerable enough to connect with the risen Christ as never before.

May we be willing participants in this holy and transformative season.

Peace & Grace,

Jack



So what’s with the ashes? From the earliest Scriptures people covered themselves with ashes as a sign of their sincere repentance. When our foreheads are marked with a cross in ashes it is a sign of both our repentance and our faith that Christ Jesus is our Redeemer.

We will begin our Lenten journey on March 1st with an Ash Wednesday service 6:00 pm. This special worship experience will include music and will also offer participants an opportunity to receive ashes on the forehead or back of the hand. Following the service you will have a opportunity to quietly remain in the sanctuary to

reflect on the solemn nature of how profoundly expensive our faith is in the crucified Christ.



The church offices will be closed the week of March 13th—March 17th. If you need anything please contact Garry Hill at 838-3333.

**Of Note**

The sacrament of Communion will be celebrated on March 5th.

The Men’s Breakfast for March is the 11th, 8:00 am at the Golden Corral on North Kansas.

The church will be serving dinner at the Cox Ronald McDonald House on Monday, March 13th.

The Book Club will meet to view “The Shack” stay tuned for date and time information! We’d love to have you join us!

**Refocus for Lent**

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
  - Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
  - Give up worry — trust God to provide.
  - Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
  - Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
  - Give up hatred — return good for evil.
  - Give up anger — be more patient.
  - Give up pettiness — become mature.
  - Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
  - Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
  - Give up sin — turn to virtue.
  - Give up giving up — persevere.
- Author unknown



**Ladies, Save the Date**

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> we will be taking the girls from Ashley House to dinner at Jimm’s Steak House (1935 S. Glenstone Avenue) at 5:30pm. We hope that you will join us and help make this a very enjoyable evening for these girls. If you would like to sponsor a girl this year, we are requesting a \$20.00 donation to cover the cost of their meal. Please contact Regina Ice or Nancy Hackett to contribute. Thanking you in advance for supporting these girls.

The Salvation Army  
2016 Tree of Lights Christmas Campaign

During our recent Tree of Lights Christmas campaign the kettles where you were ringing raise \$396.63 for Salvation Army programs and services. Every dollar you helped collect will fund important services for individuals and families in crisis, through emergency social services, disaster relief efforts, and so much more Visit [www.salvationarmyspringfield.org](http://www.salvationarmyspringfield.org) to read about our many programs and services.

We hope you’ll consider ringing for us again next year and share the idea of bell ringing with family and friends who are looking for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for you gift of time to The Salvation Army. Merry Christmas and God bless you,  
Major Mike Mills  
Corps Officer  
The Salvation Army



Way to Go Hillcrest!  
Your giving to the Gideons on Sunday, February 19th was \$200. Because of your help more people will receive the Word of God—  
Keep spreading the word!

**Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th.**

**• SPRING FORWARD**

**Missions**

The food pantry, Meals on Wheels, Rare Breed meals, and Ronald McDonald House meals are some of our ongoing missions that regularly need volunteer help. If you feel called to help with any of these please speak with the pastor and your talents will be utilized.



Thank you so much for the use of your church van to transport Springfield students to the sophomore pilgrimage in Jefferson City on April 11th.

This is the 83rd year that GFWC Missouri has sponsored this even which promotes good citizenship and enables students to see government in action. Your church plays a vital role in transporting these students.

-Cindy Hall, GFWC Sorosis Club President—Springfield

P.S. Thank you Jim Downing for agreeing to drive the van.



**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

40 years, man how time goes by  
 40 years of laughs and cries  
 40 years of kisses good night  
 40 years of holding each other tight

Please join the Palmerton family as they celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

**Fred & Rae Jean**

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
 2:00- 4:00pm

Hillcrest Presbyterian Church

**Inclement Weather Policy**



**Monday – Saturday:** Church events will be canceled on any day when the Springfield schools are closed due to inclement weather. If school is not in session, cancellation will at the discretion of the coordinator.

**Sunday Morning:** The pastor, Garry Hill and Diane Meester will make a decision no later than 8:00 am .

Notification will be made by means of email, phone calls, Facebook and texts.

Winds of March  
 Winds of March we welcome you,  
 There is work for you to do.  
 Work and play and blow all day,  
 Blow the winter cold away.

-Unknown



**Please volunteer for a Committee**

Our committees are looking for new volunteers this year. Please consider talking with one of the following session members to find out how you can serve at Hillcrest

- Administration
- Congregational Care
- Congregational Growth
- Discipleship
- Outreach
- Property
- Worship

- Larry Butler & Heather Heslin
- Mary Morrissey & Maddison Reynolds & DeAnn Riggs
- Norm Meester
- Cathy Miller & Garry Hill
- Fred Palmerton & Nancy Hackett
- Randy Zweerink & Dianne Hutchins
- Dianne Meester

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

MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY RELY ON VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO SENIORS WHO CAN NO LONGER GET OUT OR COOK FOR THEMSELVES, TYPICALLY AROUND THE LUNCH HOUR.

SO POP BY, DROP OFF A MEAL,  
AND SAY A QUICK HELLO TO  
A FEW SENIORS IN NEED.

YOU JUST MIGHT BE THE ONLY PERSON  
THEY SEE THAT DAY.



"AMERICA, LET'S DO LUNCH" IS A NATIONWIDE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CREATED TO INSPIRE A NEW PIPELINE OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO KEEP UP WITH A RAPIDLY GROWING SENIOR POPULATION.

HILLCREST HAS 4 VOLUNTEER GROUPS THAT DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS EVERY OTHER MONTH. WE WANT TO THANK GARRY & DEBBIE HILL, NORM AND DIANE MEESTER, FRED & RAE JEAN PALMERTON AND BARBARA GARTEN. WE ALSO NEED ONE MORE VOLUNTEER THAT CAN DELIVER ON THE MONTHS THAT HAVE A FIFTH THURSDAY LIKE THIS MONTH. PLEASE LET HEATHER KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO "DO LUNCH" AT 833-1746 OR [HILLCRESTCHURCH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HILLCRESTCHURCH@GMAIL.COM).