

March 2019

# Hillcrest Calling



## To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.

## March BIRTHDAYS

Harold Hiser, 1st  
Justin Hutchins, 1st  
Logan Hill, 2nd  
David Reynolds, 3rd  
Scarlet Cormack, 6th  
Erin Magoon, 7th  
Mary Jo Reynolds, 9th  
Ronnie Riggs, 9th  
Fred Palmerton, 10th  
Regina Ice, 19th  
Randy Zweerink, 19th

## March anniversaries

David & Lisa Reynolds, 21st



“Thank you to my church family for all the prayers and cards of support as I recover from the injuries suffered in my recent accident.” Fred Palmerton



On February 14th, the Marion C. Early School district in Morrisville honored Wayne Keltner by naming their gymnasium after him. Wayne taught history and coached every high school and middle school sport at Marion C. Early from 1957-1966. After his retirement, he and Pat moved to their farm located

at Morrisville. The two of them still attend events and games in this very special community.



Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> we will be taking the girls from Ashley House to lunch at **Rader Manor at noon**. The Manor is located at 924 N. Main Street (off Chestnut Expressway). We hope that you will join us and help make this a very special day 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. If that is not in your budget, any amount you would like to contribute would be appreciated. Please contact Regina Ice or Nancy Hackett to contribute.

Thanking you in advance for supporting these girls.  
The Outreach Committee



### Make the Church Sparkle & Shine Day

Mark your calendars --  
On Saturday, **April 13th from 9am-noon**

Breakfast snacks and drinks will be provided. Cleaning supplies will also be provided so just bring you!

## January Financials

Beginning Balance	\$7,785.57
Decrease	- \$1,036.46
Ending Balance	\$6,749.11

### Building Load Balance

12/4/18 \$317,768.60

### Building Fund Balance

\$ 15,925.30

2019 Offering Envelopes are available in the Northex

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Both of these things are available to help you in your giving.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



The **Men's Breakfast** is March 9th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral

**Book Club** will meet Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00pm to review "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" by Fannie Flagg

The **Session meeting** is Monday, March 18th at 6:00pm.

March 31st is **5th Sunday Dinner** The Outreach Committee is providing the chicken, please bring side dishes and desserts.

# Women of the Bible - Sarah

The scene is Hebron, 2000 years before Christ. Sarah laughs, but not because she is happy. She laughs, because of what she has heard – that she, a woman of 89, would give birth to a child! A son. Impossible! She and her husband are too old for a baby. It is biologically impossible that she could bring forth a child although they had been waiting for many years. They had been convinced that God Himself had promised them a son 25 years ago, but the promise had not been fulfilled. They must have been mistaken. Sarah reflected back on those years....

They had lived in Ur, a center of culture and commerce in South Mesopotamia. Though Ur had passed its peak in history, it had still provided a flourishing existence. Its craftsmen were surpassed only by those of Egypt. The ships in the harbor brought goods from the East in exchange for locally grown grains. Many citizens were rich and lived in spacious homes. She and Abraham had enjoyed their time there, living among relatives and friends. But one day their lives were radically changed. God had appeared to Abraham. His appearance had been so glorious that it had removed all doubt as to who He was. This was the true God, not the moon god Sin, who Abraham's forefathers had worshipped.

God had ordered Abraham to leave his land and relatives to go to a country which He would point out. The order had been linked with a promise, "And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Abraham obeyed immediately. And Sarah had adjusted to the decision. They had suddenly become semi-nomads, instead of citizens of a wealthy, comfortable city. As with most women, she hadn't found it easy to leave her home and loved ones behind to face an unknown future. But she had obeyed her husband and trusted the God who had spoken to him.

But then she had become impatient. Taking into account that her childbearing years were past, she had suggested that Abraham take Hagar, the Egyptian maid as a concubine. Outwardly, she had adapted herself to the customs of the time. But what she had done was wrong because it lacked faith. The consequences were evident almost immediately. The sin of unbelief and impatience had begun bearing fruit even before the child was long in Hagar's womb. The patriarchal home had been torn by discontent and lack of peace. Hagar had developed a feel of superiority, so Sarah humiliated Hagar so deeply that if God had not interceded the young woman probably would have died.

Thirteen years later, Abraham was very busy waiting on his guests, who had suddenly come from nowhere and stood before him. During their visit Sarah helped by preparing the meal staying in the background. Her attention had been aroused when she heard one of them ask, "Where is your wife, Sarah?" This had caused her to start musing as she walked toward the entrance of the tent. Who are these men? How do they know my name? What further do they know about me? She wondered. Abraham had told her, "she is in the tent." Then she had come the surprising statement, "I will return to you in a year; and behold Sarah, your wife, shall have a son." Suddenly her musing was over as she was brought abruptly back to reality. Startled, she heard her unspoken thoughts said in words. The man asked, "Why did Sarah laugh, asking, 'How shall I bear a son at my age?'" He followed immediately with impressive words, "Is there anything too difficult for the Lord?" The Lord? The she recognized Him, as Abraham had already recognized Him. Hadn't her husband addressed the three people in the singular with "My Lord?" The Lord Himself had descended from heaven to talk to her, to confirm the promise to her personally.

The first woman in the portrait gallery of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 is Sarah. She is recorded with honor because the faith she did have, not because of her failures. Her faith, majestically illustrated at the birth of Isaac, grew during her long life. Life had requested many sacrifices from Sarah. She abstained from many things she loved and wanted. She experienced hardships and disappointments all without murmuring. She was flexible in changing situations. She adjusted herself to her husband. By her obedience to Abraham, she allowed him to obey God.



Sunday Services:  
 Worship Service 10am  
 Sunday School 9am

☘ birthdays  
 ♥ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 ☘ Harold Heer ☘ Justin Hutchins World Day of Prayer	2 ☘ Logan Hill
3 ☘ David Reynolds	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday 6pm Service Chor, 7:00pm, AA, 8:00pm ☘ Scarlet Cornack	7 Shooting Fellowship, 5:30pm Meals on wheels The Hills ☘ Erin Maggon	8 International Women's Day	9 Men's Breakfast at Golden Corral, 8:00am ☘ Mary Jo Reynolds ☘ Ronnie Riggs
10 Day Light Savings 2pm AA ☘Fred Palverton	11	12	13 Outreach, 5:30pm Chor, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	14 Meals on wheels The Meesters	15	16
17 Happy St Patrick's Day ☘	18 Abon Bible Study Session, 6:00pm	19 Discipleship, 6pm Book Club, 7:00pm ☘ Regina Ie ☘ Randy Zwerink	20 hello spring! Chor, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	21 ☘ David & Lisa Reynolds Meals on wheels The Palvertons	22	23 Leadership Retreat 9:00 am—3pm
24 THIRD SUNDAY LENT	25	26	27 Worship 5:30pm Chor, 7:00pm AA, 8:00pm	28 Meals on wheels Barb & Nancy	29	30
31 5th Sunday Dinner "Chicken" FOURTH SUNDAY LENT						

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# Spring Has Sprung!

## Faith journey

A family was heading on vacation: two little ones were nestled in car seats; the van was packed. As Dad locked the house and Mom secured the garage, an adult neighbor the kids knew walked up and spoke through an open window. "Where are you going?" The kids shrugged. "Well, what road are you taking?" the friend asked with a knowing smile. Of course, they had no idea. "Do you know where you'll eat today, or where you'll spend the night?" Blank stares. Then the friend asked, "Who are you traveling with?" The children broke into grins and shouted, "Mommy and Daddy!"

On the journey of faith, we don't know precisely where we're headed or how all our needs will be met. But we know who we're traveling with our loving God who is fully aware of the twists and turns ahead; the loving Father who promises to care for us wherever we go.

