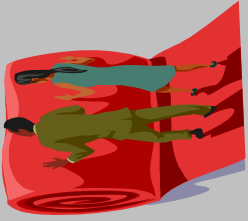


Welcome, New Members!



We're rolling out the red carpet for our new members.



Betty Montgomery



Elliott Fuller



Mark, Kim, Jordan and Xavier Trent



Richard and Shirley Barclay pose with the Exemplary Faith Award he received in the CAMA program and Eddie and Regina Ford show off the awards she received in the competition, including best choral leader.

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the running. The Christian music awards program is conducted

every two years.

It was a fitting end to a glorious Hillcrest year that saw the chorus sing all over the south, winning new friends wherever they went.

DeKalb County commissioner Stan Watson, who heard them earlier, invited the singers to participate in his inauguration.

The music awards showcase singing groups from around the country, and Al Pratt explains the importance this way. The reasons for this program are very simple: to recognize members of the Lord's body for their contributions to the furtherance of the music of the churches of Christ, and to bring attention to the church so that nonbelievers might be curious about our faith."

Music sung in the way of the early church, unaccompanied by instruments, has a power that surprised even some Hillcrest singers, as when they won the top prize against bigger instrumental groups in a DeKalb police benefit competition.

And it is appropriate for Brother Barclay to be honored, given his faithful support and promotion of the Singers, often inviting them to accompany him

around the south as he conducts gospel meetings.

For Regina, the conductor prize is only the latest landmark in a career of Christian music.

Born in Washington, DC and having grown to adulthood in the Atlanta area in a Christian home, she was always surrounded by music.

Her parents were musicians, sang in groups, and even did choral rehearsals in her home.

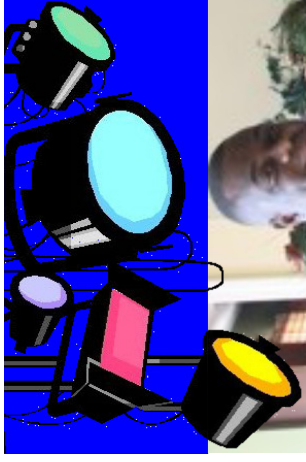
She sang and toured with the famous Spelman Glee Club, heading the alto section and earning recognition as "Miss Perfect Pitch."

That sense of pitch and her way with people combine to make her an exceptional choral leader.

For those interested in trying out for the group, Regina says she might conduct auditions later in January.

The chorus might add to their 40 or so and from my experience I know that leaders are always looking for strong sopranos who can blend and stay on pitch, and tenors who can reach the high notes.

All aspiring singers would be welcome, Regina said.



Hillcrest Youth-Seon Jones, III in the Spotlight



Football standout, Seon Jones, III, third from left, is pictured with his "secret weapon": his family, dad Seon, brother Kristion, sister Maya and his mom Kristie.

Buford High School made state history, winning its fourth consecutive state title, and eighth in the last 11 years. And Hillcrest's own Seon Jones III, senior tailback for the Buford Wolves, scored the first touchdown in the title game and led the team in rushing.

It was a fitting climax for a glittering high school career for Seon, but surprisingly, Seon surveyed his room full of awards and said his most treasured award is his FIRST state championship plaque.

"We work hard and take a game at a time, and that's how we win," said Seon, relaxing during the holidays, but there is much more to the Seon story.

Seon has not been just good. He has been a star on an exceptional football team. On a team loaded with five running backs, Seon is the speedster,

gathering 1,126 yards on 137 carries for the season. That is more than eight yards on each carry. He tied for top scorer with 12 touchdowns; he equalled the record of his bigger running mate, Dominique Swope.

But as Seon says his success has come from hard working team mates, and his own very diligent work habits inherited from his parents.

ever since then, working on foot speed, agility, balance, and inner core strength," Seon said.

His coach says, young Jones also has exceptional vision, a God-given gift that helps him see openings that he slides through with his foot speed.

With all that talent and training that separates him from the others, SJ3 has a great secret weapon. He benefits from a close-knit, fun-loving, devoted and spiritual family; they are all sports minded.

Dad Seon, a former basketball point guard, plays golf. Mom Kristie played volleyball and loves the game. Kristion, who shows up at his brother's football games wearing Seon's #4, is an ardent baseball player, and perky Maya, 7, has her eyes set on cheerleading and maybe gymnastics.

I asked big brother Seon if he ever tried baseball.

"I tried baseball and liked it, but I really can't see the ball well," he said, which makes 'il brother beam. He can do something big brother cannot do.

"I can hit. I can play outfield and shortstop," said Kristian. Which is your favorite position?

"All of them," he said in the rather matter-of-fact way of 11-year-olds.

Seon, the football player, was not always the rough, tough man he is now. He got walloped early, at age 5 and cried.

"I was going to cut him some slack," said dad Seon, but not Kristie.

"I said, 'Get up, boy, don't you quit out there!'" said his mom.

Kristie said she has always believed in standing up, even when the going is challenging.

An INNERview with Lawanna Twaites

What is your New Year's resolution ? Why?

My New Year's resolution is to read my Bible, pray fervently daily and to walk away with character-changing lessons.

You can add a holiday to the 2011 calendar. What is it (its name and what it celebrates)? On which day will it be celebrated? Why?

The holiday that I would add to the calendar would be "Meet your Neighbor Day". It would be celebrated in March and would focus on inspiring people nationwide to meet their neighbors. The goal would be to form neighborly connections and hopefully restore a sense of concern and kindness.

What do you think should be three major goals of the Hillcrest Church for the 2011 year?

The three major goals I would like to see :

1. Every member to be part of a unified and committed cell group I am grateful to have found out about our cell groups, and it has helped me to get to know an intimate group of people and to be connected.

In a large congregation, it is so important that everyone be involved/connected to another. Satan is a like a lion who works to destroy people and when we are alone he is more successful.

2. Every ministry to have an outward focus on "seeking and saving the lost."

As Christians, this is why we are here on earth, to help others not only get into an intimate relationship with God, but to grow.

3. A women's ministry that inspires the older women to train the younger ones.

In order to have a strong ministry for future generations training and building a solid foundation are key—we need one another.

Which of the following games best describes your personality, Monopoly, Scrabble, checkers, Trivia Pursuit, chess or Connect Four? Why?

The game that most describes my personality is "Connect Four." I am a relational person and in Connect Four you need to build upon the checkers to have success. Throughout the Bible we see how vital relationships are. Coming to Hillcrest required me to stretch out of my comfort zone, but I am grateful for the connections that I have made thus far and look forward to an even stronger year.

As a Christian, you are traveling down a road on your spiritual journey. What are the major cities on your route, for example Hopeville? At which do you spend the most time; the least? Why?

I would pass the following cities: Zealville, Determination Depot, and Perseverance Place.

I would spend the most time at Perseverance Place. I have had a wealth of experiences, some more challenging than others, yet I believe that God has given me an inner being of Perseverance. I have held on and pushed through many obstacles and focused on pressing toward what was ahead even though I didn't know what was ahead..



A Hillcrest member for about two years, Lawanna Twaites' family visited the congregation for approximately six months before they placed membership. Born and raised in the Bronx in New York City, she has been a member of the Church of Christ for 27 years. She is a graduate of Iona College and Hunter College. The family moved to Georgia 15 years ago, and she graduated from the University of West Georgia. She is currently in the final stages of a doctoral program. Her husband Craig is an IT operations program manager.

The couple has two delightful daughters, Kelsey, a 21-year-old junior at Kennesaw State who attends the Greater Atlanta Church of Christ and Skyelar, a seventh grader. Currently, she is an elementary school principal, but she says that she will always be a teacher at heart. She loves to read, to learn and to laugh.

Strolling Down Memory Lane

with Delores Jenkins by Eula Spivey

It all started for Delores on January 27, 1944 in Charleston, South Carolina.

There were nine of them, but three older sisters were already married and only six of them remained at home -- three girls and three boys.

Their father never disciplined the girls because he said a man didn't know his own strength so he used the rod on the boys and Mom used the rod on the girls.

One day her mother was "beating" the younger sister and they both ended up on the floor. Oh, Delores wanted to laugh so badly, but she knew not to even crack a smile.

If she had done so, she knew she'd be next. However, the strangest thing happened.

When mom noticed that she and her sister both were on the floor, she burst out laughing. That was Delores' clue and she laughed until her stomach hurt.

Relying on her father's reluctance to "whip" the girls, she decided to spend a dime of his money on candy.

Dad had taken her to the five and dime store to buy a pair of stockings, and she thought that he wouldn't miss his dime. He must have had eyes in the back of his head.

When they arrived home, he immediately went to his "whipping" belt.

He gave Delores one good whop, letting her know that was just the smoke and next time, she'd feel the fire.

Her father was a man of few words, and she knew he meant business.

Delores recalls the time when her father had to take one of the brothers back to school for getting in trouble.

This man of few words told the principal, "DO NOT CALL ME AGAIN TO BRING ANY OF MY CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL. CALL THE POLICE FIRST!!"

Her dad then proceeded to give the principal all of his children's names so that if any of those names ended up in the office for trouble—CALL THE POLICE!!

He emphasized that this was his FIRST and LAST time bringing one of his kids back to school. After that, the Doughty kids were the best behaved in school.

Delores graduated from high school in 1961. The girls had to wear white dresses and white shoes.

She and her best friend bought four-inch, skinny heels (stilettos); and she was unable to walk 15 steps.

Mom said, "You bought them and you're gonna wear them."

In those days, they walked to church every Sunday and her mother made sure that she wore those shoes.

When she'd stand up, the shoe would fall to the left. During the summer vacation, Delores' parents let her travel to New York to visit an older sister.

While packing, she made sure that those shoes were in a bag by themselves.

When that Greyhound bus arrived in New York City, she threw that bag with the four inch white shoe in the first trash can she saw. GOODBYE SHOES!!!

Delores' parents were never verbal with their love, saying "I love you," but she knew they loved each one of them by the way the children were raised. Her mother filled their lives with love and wisdom.

Memories of her mom still bring tears, and she'll forever be grateful for the things her mom did.

Yes, Delores Jenkins has many memories, but she says that one of the best was being baptized at Azealea Drive Church of Christ in North Charleston, South Carolina.

When her daughter and her family moved her to Georgia to be near her, she visited the Hillcrest Church of Christ and she says that she continues to be happy here.

Having been introduced to the Thursday morning Bible class, Delores says she is pleased to have met such a nice group of people.

Have memories that you would like to share in the Herald? Contact the church office or Eula Spivey today.



Richard L. Barclay

The Hillcrest Singers had a stellar 2010 year which culminated with an outstanding showing at the Christian A cappella Music Awards (CAMA) program held recently here in Atlanta; the singers were honored as best traditional singers and Regina Ford was named best choral leader.

I reiterate my congratulations to these talented Christians who have done much to demonstrate the power of singing as a medium for evangelizing and for inspiring. Too, I am

humbled by my selection to receive the Exemplary Faith Award and pledge to continue my support of a cappella singing as a very useful evangelistic medium.

This brings me to the point of this message.

Many of us, now almost half way the first month of the year 2011, have likely already blown our new year's resolutions; but, in the spirit of an old hymn sung in our churches, I urge all Hillcrest members to reflect on "I Am Resolved," as this wonderful song expresses a resolute attitude that we all would do well to adopt.

The lyrics preach well, urging us to turn away from the inappropriate things of the world to those that are high and noble, without lingering because the acceptable time is now: **I am resolved no longer to linger, Charmed by the world's delight, Things that are higher, things that are nobler, These have allured my sight.**

Within another verse are lyrics that inspire us to resolve to turn away from the sin and

strife of the world and to obey His words of Life: **I am resolved to go to the Savior, Leaving my sin and strife; He is the true One, He is the just One, He hath the words of life.**

A verse of the song also reminds us that we must follow the Savior, with unbending faith, submitting our lives to His will for us every day.

I suggest that no new year's resolution that any of us could word is more powerful nor more significant: **I am resolved to follow the Savior, Faithful and true each day; Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth, He is the living Way.**

Finally, lyrics of the song encourage us to invite others to service, and I urge their use as a mantra during the 2011 year: **I am resolved, and who will go with me? Come, friends, without delay, Taught by the Bible, led by the Spirit, We'll walk the heavenly way.**

"I Am Resolved" should be added our repertoire—not just as a hymn but as a way of life throughout the year.

Cadet Is Ready for Air Force Academy Challenges

by Ernest Holsendolph



Readin' Ritin' and 'Rithmetic. That is pretty much what education is, right on through college unless you happen to be in a military academy like the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

That is where young Ryan Williams is busily into his second year as an Air Force Cadet. Out there college is Super-sized.

Most of us know college as a place to read, study, meet friends, spend a lot of time in free

-for-all discussions in the dorms, and plenty of time socializing.

Here is Cadet Williams's day. He and all 1300 cadets rise and meet for breakfast PROMPTLY at 7:20 every morning. Classes at 7:50. Then lunch ALL TOGETHER. Classes, physical training, homework.

He is carrying seven courses, some 20.5 academic hours, in subjects like law, differential equations, physics, strategies, *continued on page 8*



Thomas Harrell (left) and Ray Crawford, right, presented Darryll Ford, Stone Mountain Chrysler, Jeep Dodge owner, a plaque, in appreciation for his support of the Hillcrest Golf Tournament.

Hillcrest Golf Tournament Supporter Honored

by Ernest Holsendolph

cles parked on the course, gave focus and added interest."

The vehicles, parked at two tees, could be seen by the golfers as they came through. The presence of the vehicles added a touch of class to the event, Crawford said.

Both Crawford and Ford are members of the DeKalb 100 Black Men, and it was their friendship that led to the donation of the vehicles in support of the tournament.

The tournament did several things at once. It raised more than a thousand dollars for the scholarship fund organized by Greg and Esterine Smothers, provided some wonderful outdoor exercise and gave members a glimpse at a sport new to many.

The First Annual Hillcrest Charity Golf Tournament was a stirring success in August, drawing more than 70 guests for fun and competition—all in an effort to boost the church's scholarship fund.

But the event might not have been so successful without a boost from a generous community sponsor, Darryl Ford, owner and general manager of Stone Mountain Chrysler Jeep Dodge.

Hillcrest golf enthusiasts Harrell Thomas and Ray Crawford presented Ford an appreciation plaque recently.

"Our tournament was well-organized, thanks to our leader, Thomas Harrell," said Crawford. "But the donation of two vehicles by Stone Mountain Dodge, vehi-

"As all golfers know, it is a unique sport that can develop concentration and provide exercise," said Ray Crawford. "I love it; I could play 24-7."

Joyce Eskridge said she especially appreciates the new golf ministry introduced by senior minister Richard Barclay, another enthusiast.

"Our program has been successful because we have an excellent and very skilled golf pro in Brother Thomas," Joyce said. "Harrell has been a tireless champion and organizer."

As for her personal experience, she said: "It has allowed me to hone my golfing skills and develop new friendships with other Hillcrest members with common interests."

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literature and composition, and CHINESE!

The young cadet is really intrigued by Chinese, and he will spend a portion of next summer in China, the better to use the language and sample Chinese culture.

"Life in the academy is rigorous; it is intense and it is relentless," said Ryan. "It is hard work, but mostly it is an exercise in time management. I average four hours of sleep, but my body is now accustomed to it.

As if all the activity was not enough, every Monday is Parade Day, when the cadets dress up and parade in colorful splendor for thousands of visitors.

"We are not just a college and training place—we're also a tourist attraction," Ryan.

"The cadet life makes you set priorities—set a task, complete it and then readjust the rank of all the remaining or pending tasks."

That is how our Ryan, all of 19, now talks, as he wings his way toward his goal of becoming a highly educated fighter pilot, in the service of his country.

How did this all begin? The answer is startling.

"I think I was three—that's what my mother says—when I was on an airplane for the first time. I was so fascinated, and I asked to see how the plane works. The attendant took me to the flight deck to meet the captain and watch him work," he said.

It heightened his interest in flying and helped propel him toward a military career.

"Another influence in my life was the tragedy of 9-11," Ryan said. "I determined I wanted to serve my country."

He said his parents played a lot in framing his life. When he was a teen his mom, Yvette Williams, got him hooked up with the organization of blacks in aviation in Atlanta. With them he studied flying and he earned his pilot's license.

He is now one of only 30 or 40 licensed pilots in the academy's 1300 cadets. He is so advanced that before long he could qualify as a flying instructor.

By his account, his mother was very instrumental in his evolution from a dreamy kid into an achieving adult, very focused on his future.

"A common saying was 'we do not celebrate MAR,' a UPS

acronym for minimal acceptable requirements," he said.

In elementary school, they did not celebrate getting A's; that was just MAR for him. They celebrated getting a "1" in citizenship since it was hard for him to stop talking.

His mother had a unique way to instill goal-setting. Ryan would select someone whom he admired—get to know that person and take down tips for success.

In his first year of high school in 2005, he singled out the young lady who stood out in the senior awards ceremony and "followed her blueprint."

When he got ready to select a foreign language, he asked me what might be a good choice. I suggested the language of an emerging world power, which would make him valuable in his job; he selected Chinese.

"I am very ambitious," Ryan said. "I will serve at least six years in the military, very possibly more, depending on my assignment. But eventually I want to start a company, a creative and design company in technology."

You get the feeling that is more than a dream; it is fixed at the top of his priority list.



January 2011

Hillcrest Herald

bringing good news to a loving people of purpose, power and praise



Award-winning Hillcrest director Regina Norris conducts the highly touted Hillcrest Singers.

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Hillcrest Garnerers Several Prizes in the CAMA

by Ernest Holsendolph

The mighty Hillcrest Singers finished off a successful year with an historic accomplishment, winning several top prizes in the 2010 Christian A cappella Music Awards (CAMA) here in Atlanta.

It was the first such victory by the Hillcrest Singers, in a contest that has been around since CAMA launched in 1992.

Hillcrest won the prize singing their crowd pleasing rendition of "All Night," featuring soloist James Williams.

Hillcrest also won for best traditional singing group, and their calm, cool leader, Regina Norris, walked away with the top choral leader award—letting the world know what we have known

forever: Regina is a great musician and a beautifully effective leader.

Also among honorees was Richard Barclay, Hillcrest senior minister, who received CAMA's coveted Exemplary Faith award for his years of support for the cause of A cappella music, and his gracious assistance in hosting the CAMA program during Thanksgiving week.

"Both Brother Barclay and Atlanta were so embracing, we are seriously considering Atlanta for a return visit in 2012," said Aldanzo L. Pratt, founder and chairman of CAMA.

There are two other cities in

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