



# Hillcrest Herald

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



Hillcrest senior minister Richard L. Barclay congratulates Teddi Baskfield for her stirring rendition of "It Will Come to Pass."

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Jesus, the true messianic vine, and his Father, Jehovah as the vine dresser, were central to his messages.

Using the Vineyard as a metaphor, Jesus states that those that abide in the Father will be pruned and bear abundant and lasting fruit.

God dispenses Grace to Christians even though it is unmerited and undeserved.

However, Grace should not go unappreciated and without response.

"We are commanded to take action," Brother Crenshaw said.

Brother Crenshaw spoke from the heart and used many personal experiences to add substance and weight to his revival messages on God's grace and mercy.

On Monday night the West End Church came out in full force, bringing well over 150 guests.

The Golden Voices did a fantastic job lifting spirits through song and praise.

Brother Orpheus Heyward issued the call to worship, and the rest of the program was supported through the fine efforts of the West End brethren.

On Tuesday the Rock

Springs Church contingent, led by Brother Nelson Hare, lent their exuberant and energetic support to the spring revival.

Their youth group and adult choral groups did a superlative job sending praises soaring to the rafters.

And finally, on Wednesday night, Hillcrest led the songfest.

The worship service was directed by senior minister Richard L. Barclay and the Hillcrest brethren.

The Hillcrest Singers did a marvelous job as usual showcasing their extremely varied talent through a diverse selection of new and classic songs.

In "It Will Come to Pass," Teddi Baskfield took the audience to a fevered pitch of praise as she rocked them through song and testimony.

Brother Crenshaw delivered his final episodic sermon on the Vine Dresser's amazing grace, bringing the Hillcrest Church of Christ Spring Revival to a well done conclusion.

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Some of the 40 Hillcrest members who recently took a fitness trek around Stone Mountain pose for a photo.

## Hillcrest Members Take a Hike!

by Ernest Holsendolph

At a recent men's bonding breakfast, over a delicious meal of eggs and bacon and grits and pastries, Bobby Brown said, how about a change of pace. How about a fitness walk instead, like maybe a hike around Stone Mountain? Or maybe even a climb to the 800-foot peak?

Full of bacon and eggs, the men said, uh ok. And Craig Smith took the leadership and organized it.


Well, the guys, joined by some very fit sisters, joined in the walk. Moreover, they did the walk in support of Brother Brown, who had been diagnosed with illness.

And Bobby LED the spirited walk.

Some of the super-fit showed off. Gary Williams did the mountain outing carrying weights. Athletic Darius Johnson ran the route. James Webb arrived 15 minutes late, caught the other walkers and passed them. And some of the seniors, well, they finished it.

Bill Stultz had not gotten the word and came expecting bacon and eggs. But being a good sport, he walked and liked it.

The hikers started and ended with prayer for Bobby's health. And congratulated themselves for rising that frosty morning and taking the walk, proving it could be done, and so encouraged they vowed to do it again, April 30!



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## From the Minister's Desk



Richard L. Barclay

The writer Anne Bradstreet wrote, "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."

This year's winter in the Atlanta area was especially challenging, and we endured unprecedented severe weather—record ice and snow and bone-chilling

temperatures.

Now, we welcome the shift of seasons, and we have begun to shake off winter's heavy boughs to receive the glorious gift of spring renewal.

Our efforts were certainly enhanced through our recent spring revival, featuring guest speaker Arnelious Crenshaw.

Every year, this season brings talk of spring cleaning, but, as Christians, we must focus on more than merely eradicating the dust bunnies under our beds or cleaning our windows or sprucing up our lawns.

We need to use this period of transformation to renew our faith and our zeal for service to Him.

I urge you to conduct your own spring revival by giving attention to the aspects of your life that may feel dense or dull from

the cold "winter months."

Remove things of your life that have potential to bury your energy and your dedication and replace them with things that create warmth and inspiration.

Become more involved the Hillcrest ministries and regular church activities.

Also, think about your spring revival as a fresh start for your body, remembering that it is a temple for God's service.

If you have neglected exercise in the past few months, the upcoming Hillcrest Biggest Loser Challenge is just what the doctor ordered! Sign up for it.

This spring, I encourage you to let go of those aspects of your life that lack enrichment, and nurture the seeds that provide you needed sustenance for your Kingdom work and release the rest into the wind.

## Hillcrest Spring Revival: Four Unforgettable Days!

by Joyce Eskridge

Hillcrest's Annual Spring Revival, in four unforgettable days in March, was a magnificent display of edifying preaching, soul-stirring singing, and superb fellowship, averaging more than 500 in attendance every night.

A special aspect of the meeting was the splendid support by other congregations, including Rock Springs, and a huge outpouring by West End.

Record numbers of supportive saints each evening buoyed the spirits of Hillcrest and guest speaker, Arnelious Crenshaw.

Crenshaw, a renowned and respected minister in the brotherhood, hails from the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Brother Crenshaw, who takes



Spring revival guest speaker Arnelious Crenshaw, center, visits with two attendees following a service.

pride in his storytelling, dynamically explored manifestations of God's grace through

episodes and revelations in John 15 as the reference text.

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## Annual Event Honors Seasoned Saints

# The "Ultimate Construction Crew" Feted

by Ernest Holsendolph

With customary style, and a touch of humor, Hillcrest honored the seniors with a banquet in early March, resplendent in colorful interpretive dance, passionate singing by Eunice McKenzie, and a graceful poem for the occasion by Mildred Eskridge.

The two-hour program was anchored by hosts Sabrina and Dale Holmes, who testified that with his recovering injured leg, he was confident the seniors could outrun HIM.

Becky Davis, celebrating the occasion, said the annual program was "to honor our seniors, who guide, bless us with their wisdom and advice—whether we want it or not!"

In that same lighthearted vein, in her delightful original poem, Sister Eskridge said, in part:

*How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went,  
But in spite of it all I am able to grin,  
When I think of the places my get up has been...*

In an address to the audience of more than 200, Nelson Hare, minister to the Rock Springs Church, praised the special resources senior members bring to the Lord's work.

Seniors are, he said, a blessed "ultimate" construction crew, armed with wisdom, strength, patience, loyalty and the ability to hold "a plumb line from heart to heart."

Said he to the seniors, "You don't need a hard hat... you wear a crown."

In his salute to the seniors, senior minister Richard Barclay said the building by the seniors is not brick and mortar.



Among those attending the event were seasoned saint Ernest Holsendolph and his chaperone Yvette Williams.

"The reason why the crew's work is so important is their product—no fancy mansions or skyscraper buildings—they help to construct Christian LIVES. What's more, the primary tools they use are love, concern, wisdom and understanding."

Brother Barclay said the senior banquet and the opportunity to honor those special guests "has always been one of my favorite activities at Hillcrest."

By custom, there was also a somber moment during the dinner when homage was paid to the seniors who passed on in the last year.

The list, highlighted by Karen Law with pictures and tributes, included Gertrude Adkins, Lucille Bailey, Joyce Davis, Willie Davis, Helen Farmer, Noel Powers, Corene Woods and Ed Zahler.

A special highlight of the evening was presentation of the service award to the senior most distinguished for service to the church.

This year it went to Jesse Webb, the church's faithful photographer, on hand for all the events, large and small, chronicling the continuing story of Hillcrest.

The night's proceedings ended with door prizes and the ever popular stroll down memory lane showing pictures of the seniors in the bygone days of youth.

The planning for the banquet was conducted by a host of members, including chaperones, youth who escorted seniors to their tables, and a planning committee composed of Shirley Barclay, Carolyn Brown, Sharon Britton, Natasha Brown, Jacqueline Calhoun, Becky Davis, Kai Dean, Joyce Eskridge, Davette Giddens, Twyla Giddens, Janice Evans, Karen Law, Vickie Jordan, Janice Little, Kathy Ludy, Spring McBryde, and Millicent Williams.

The beautiful purple theme in table decorations and furnishings were designed and provided by Sister Ludy.



A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Gerald Anderson was baptized into Christ at the St. Augustine Street congregation in 1982.

He has been a member at Hillcrest since January 2008, and he serves in the children's Bible hour ministry. Gerald has been married to his wife Tammy for 12 years; the couple has 5 children – Gerald II (11), Tamira (10), Geanna (6), Talia (4) and Gerran (2). A criminal justice profession, he currently serves as the chief of police for Life University in Marietta, Georgia.

**The country recently switched to Daylight Savings Time. You have been given an assignment to come up with a similar practice of switching time for Christians. What is it called? When do they make the switch? Why is it important?**

Since Daylight Savings Time deals with increasing sunlight/daylight for energy conservation, it is used for increased outside activities. I would suggest a practice called: Christian Fellowship Experience Time. The switch will be made in April and will last until September. We would start evening worship services at 4pm rather than 5pm, this additional time will allow for increased Christian fellowship. This is important because it will extend the time the congregation spends with each other and we are extending our worship to God and fellowship with each other.

**You are one of the rides at a carnival. Which of the following are you: a Merry Go Round, a roller coaster, a Ferris wheel or a bumper car? Why?**

I would be a roller coaster because just like life, there are slow and fast times, up and down times, even tears depending on the highs and lows, but if I remain in the seat and obey the rules of the operator, everything will eventually come to a peaceful stop!

**You are an eraser. What do you remove from the world today?**

I would remove the classification of races.

**If you were a tree, what kind would you be? Why?**

I would be a cedar tree because it is adaptable, has many uses, and it is my favorite color—green.

**Millions of people use Facebook and MySpace. What name would you give a social network for Christians? Why?**

ChristNMe; the name itself speaks to the fact that Christ is living within me.

**Noah has applied for a position in your company, Luxury Ocean Liners, Inc. What are some of the questions you would ask him when he interviews for the job?**

The questions would vary depending on the position applied for, but questions such as Do you work well with your hands? Have you ever been arrested for (NUI) Navigating under the Influence? Would you allow any unregistered or unauthorized people or animals to board the ship without the Captain's approval? Is there anything in your past that would embarrass you if others found out?

**Which Biblical character do you think would be more likely to play an April Fools Day prank? Why?**

Absalom. Because he was very charismatic and he would think of something very realistic and funny that people would believe.

**What does the spring season mean to you as a Christian?**

It reminds me of how I am continually changing and growing in various areas of my life. Spring brings about the end of the past and beginning of the new.

by Ernest Holsendolph

Jesse Webb is ubiquitous, on the scene wherever things are happening at Hillcrest.

He and his familiar Nikon have captured politicians, saints, our youth, and memorable events of all kinds.

And that is one of the reasons why, to huge applause, Jesse was honored with the annual Hillcrest Service Award at the seniors dinner last month.

"I just enjoy taking pictures," he said, "and seeing the looks of people when they see themselves."

One of the few times Jesse was without his camera, was at the senior's dinner, when he handed his precious Nikon to Craig Smith.

Craig did his best Jesse imitation, knocking off some 190 pictures in two hours!

"I told Lynn (Craig's wife) she'd better be ready, Craig's gonna want a camera," Jesse said with a smile.

Jesse, who is retired now, picked up photography years ago when he was an Atlanta middle school teacher.

"We photographed students in certain shop classes, such as plastics and engraving, and we found that the pictures made good brochures for the school to publicize our program," he said.

Now his work publicizes the comprehensive Hillcrest program through the Herald, including activities as diverse as women's seminars, appearances by our prize-winning Hillcrest Singers, theatrical productions like *Waiting for the Gospel Train* and many others.

Jesse is successful because of his friendly personality that helps photo subjects relax for the

camera.

In the process, Jesse said, he has acquired some loyal subjects for his lens, including Ann Smith and Urenna' Crawford, who love to be photographed by him.

Jesse and Gloria met in school in Memphis, he said, actually in a science lab dissecting frogs, he said with a laugh.

The Webs, who celebrate 39 years of marriage in July, have three grown children.

They include a daughter

trained in graphics at Florida A&M, an accountant son who went to Morehouse, and a Georgia Southern-trained son who teaches science.

One of his Atlanta students was Richard Dent, the great Chicago Bears defensive end, who enters the Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer.

"He was not only a fine player, but he was and is a fine person," said Jesse, who also played football.



Jesse Webb poses with his Nikon camera with which he chronicles a variety of Hillcrest events.

# Welcome, New Members!



Carleen Baptiste



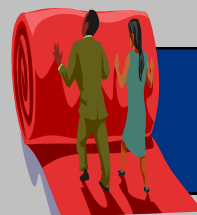
Sylvia Williams



Sherry Davis



Jaxton Johnson



*We're rolling out the red carpet for our new members. Please welcome them.*



*Members of the Hillcrest Cub Scouts pack and their cub master listen attentively to the speakers for the event.*

## Cub Scouts Hold Blue and Gold Banquet

*by Ernest Holsendolph*

Hillcrest Cub Scouts strutted their stuff last month, handsome in their uniforms and looking eager to learn from their leaders. The occasion was the annual Blue and Gold Banquet.

After their presentation of colors, led by Cub Master John Talley, the youngsters heard words

of wisdom from den leaders like Jonathan Smith and Thad Dean, Otis Tillman, a Hillcrest elder, and a keynote presentation by Greg White, Hillcrest youth minister.

Addressing the scouts, their friends and family, Talley said: "Cub Scouts stand for strong moral values; you read a lot

about kids getting into trouble every day, but youth instilled with moral values would not be among those in trouble."

He said scouts develop strong personal values and also help spread the values in the community.

Picking up the values theme, Greg White, urged the scouts to stand for cleanliness, and keeping the neighborhoods clean.

He also urged them to be wary of how they use social networks like Facebook

"Be spiritual in all that you do," he said, "including in media like Facebook. Not only is that the right thing to do," he said, but the record you leave on pages of Facebook follow you in life and even act as your resume when you apply for a job.

Discussing his own background as the son of a dedicated librarian, Greg urged the youngsters to fall in love with learning.

"Learn your history and be mindful all of us today stand on the shoulders of others," White said.



# Focus on Family: The Comers

*by Nicole Lee*



It was summer in Chicago in the 1980s, and Robin McGhee was wrapping up her final days on the job at a Pearle location in the Windy City.

While enrolled at the Illinois College of Optometry, she was working there during the school break.

Working nearby at a construction site, Alex Comer, an engineer, had grown tired of wearing glasses.

He constantly dropped them and had broken enough pairs to motivate him to give contacts a try.

So, he made his way to the Pearle location about a block away.

Robin was on staff that day and helped Alex select a pair of contacts.

He proved to be one of her toughest clients because he couldn't quite get the hang of correctly placing the lenses over his eyes.

Alex also thought Robin was cute and asked for her phone number.

She said no.

Undaunted, he tried another

tactic—making Robin laugh.

Humor seemed to do the trick.

The Comers will celebrate their 20th anniversary in March.

Building and maintaining a solid marriage—not to mention being parents—is definitely a challenge, but they say a spiritual foundation is key to marital.

"We always knew (our faith in God) had to be the foundation, which is critical," Alex said.

Alex grew up in the Church of Christ. Robin had a Baptist upbringing but came to understand, and converted to the Church of Christ through her husband.

Robin was baptized in 1991 at the West End Church of Christ where they were members for almost a decade.

Although it was very tough to leave West End, the Comers, who live in Stone Mountain, said the commute made them decide to look for a church closer to home. They placed their membership with Hillcrest in 1999.

The couple pride themselves on attending every sporting and academic event in which their daughter Tyler, their only child,

has participated.

This year's homecoming queen at Tucker High School, Tyler, 18, has kept her parents busy through her activities with cheerleading, BETA Club, the National Honors Society and Young Life, a non-denominational Christian ministry for teens.

Communicating and planning their days are integral in the Comers' supporting their child.

The couple joked that punctuality is important in order to avoid explaining to their daughter why they didn't arrive on time to an event.

The family uses dinner time as an opportunity to talk to each other and stay connected whether the meal is eaten at home or at a restaurant.

She hasn't officially selected a school, but the Comers are fairly certain Tyler—a senior and a 2011 Georgia Merit Scholar—will attend Hampton University.

Alex, an engineering graduate from Southwestern Christian College, earned a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from the University of Houston. He is a senior watershed manager for the City of Atlanta.

Robin, who an undergraduate degree from Fisk University, earned a doctorate in optometry; she operates a Lens Crafters store in Stone Mountain.

Despite their busy schedules, the family tries to vacation when they can and look forward to taking a cruise to the Bahamas soon..

Before they travel, they make sure to pray for safe passage and give thanks for their blessings.

"There isn't much that we do that doesn't involve prayer," Alex said. "That's the center."