

Real Living

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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One of my favorite movies, *Secondhand Lions*, climaxes when two old Texas brothers, Hub and Garth die trying to fly a biplane upside down through a barn. It was the exclamation point on a lifetime of epic adventures. One fellow just had to come see the nose of that plane sticking out of the end of the barn. He had heard tales about the brothers that he found too hard to believe. With amazement, he said to the brothers' great-nephew Walter, "So they really *lived!*"

"Yes," Walter said with a pause, "they *really* lived."

That was Paul's own sentiment in 1 Thessalonians 3:8: "Now we really live!" What did he mean? Paul's mother had given birth to him decades ago. Paul's Savior had given him new life at his baptism years ago. There was still more to life, and the way that Paul got it is the same way that you and I can get it.

The faithful apostle had endured a discouraging time. It started when he was forced out of Thessalonica not long after helping some folks there to become Christians. He was torn away from them by Satan and unbelievers, but his heart was never far from them (Acts 17:5-10, 1 Thess. 2:17-19). What had happened to these new Christians who were so quickly persecuted for their faith in Christ? Paul wondered anxiously. Lately, he himself had been mostly rejected in Athens and abused in Corinth. He had many reasons to be down. But Timothy had just come with a most encouraging report about Thessalonica's fledgling Christians, and Paul burst out, "For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord!" As F.F. Bruce paraphrased it, in all of our trials and persecu-

tions "the news of your unwavering faith and love is the very breath of life to us." Paul's own circumstances left so much to be desired. But he still held a key to really living: ***be unselfish with your care.***

That attitude led naturally to action. Another key to really living is to ***be unsparing as you share.*** Paul had labored and toiled in Thessalonica and worked night and day, spending himself up to build his new brothers and sisters up (1 Thess. 2:9-12). He had a fatherly feeling for the young disciples and did not feel like his work with them was done. As much effort as he had put into them, he wanted to do more—whatever time it took, whatever the cost.

Paul bathed it all in prayer. He thanked God for those fellow Christians night and day, he prayed for the opportunity to be more helpful to them, and he prayed that God would grow their love and devotion and get them ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thess. 3:9-13). Of course Paul prayed for himself, but he emphasized others as he gave thanks to God and asked for help from him. If you want to really live, one more key is to focus on others and ***be unceasing in your prayer.***

People who really live know that the world does not revolve around them. Christ is dear to them, church is a blessing to them, and life is happy spent in the service of others. You can *really* live! You don't have to die upside down in a biplane in a barn. Just be unselfish with your care, unsparing as you share and unceasing in your prayer.

Danny Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Tim Hayes, Wilma Hill, Cheryl Neilans, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need, often a local family. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



Devo and Donuts: The last one for this school year is next Tuesday morning at 7:00!

Loving Your Husband class will not meet tomorrow night.

The **Senior Saints** will not meet this Saturday.

May 15 is the date for our next **Third Wednesday Family Meal**. Sign up on the board in the foyer and be treated to a sub and chip meal provided by the hostess groups of Jennifer Daniels/Natalie McInturff and Ginger Murray/Mellisa Moreno.

Remember to turn in **questions** from John 17-21 and Acts 1-15 for our May 26 Q & A lesson.

Kaden King graduates from Neosho High School in May. He and his family invite everyone to join them for a come and go celebration on May 19 from 2:00-4:00 in the activities center. Please let Angela know if you plan to attend either in person, at queen43kings@gmail.com, or 439-3216.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: Danny Boggs

P.M: Danny Boggs

If you or your child are **graduating** this spring, please let us know in the office by this Sunday.

Camp: Our week at **Green Valley Bible Camp** is less than five weeks away--June 9-15! Generous Christians have made it possible for nearly all Hillcrest kids to invite a friend to go for free! See Danny to get the application for "Friends Go Free." Everyone register at greenvalleybiblecamp.com by June 2.



With storm season upon us, Barry Flint reminded us of our **storm safety procedures** if the situation arises at service time. Each of the classrooms are marked to indicate the level of safety. You will be directed to go to the safest areas. The activities center is not a safe area.

Vacation Bible School is July 21-24. Begin praying for ways to make it a successful week. Encourage your children to invite friends from school now, so that they can make plans to attend.



VBS shirts are available in the foyer. Pick up a shirt and begin wearing it. Use it as an opportunity to invite others to come. If you would like to help with the cost, \$5.00 is suggested. Whitney Thomlinson will assist you in getting the right size.

Opportunity: Friends of the **Josh and Cheryl Dodson** family are organizing a fundraiser. The Dodsons have mounting medical and travel expenses for their sons' unique health challenges. June 1 at 5:30 at the Seneca High School Commons, a live auction, silent auction, dinner and fireworks will be held. If you would like to donate items for the auction, contact Tammi and Cindy Waugh at (417) 456-9906.

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Hillcrest,

There are no words to express your generous donation to our family...but to say thank you. We are so blessed to have wonderful Christian family all over the world praying for us. We again are thankful for your help with our medical bills. It was such a surprise. It was such a blessing. A true gift. Thank you for showing us such love!!

*In Christian Love,
Justin, Ashley, Norah, Madi, Joel*

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, May 12

- AM Opening: Alec Fehring
- AM Closing: Bob Murray
- PM Opening: Kaed Thomas
- PM Closing: Fred Bukowich

Wednesday, May 15

- Opening: Peter Wald
- Closing: Miles Wolgamott

RECORDS

	05-05-19	05-06-18
Bible Study	162	128
AM Worship	209	180
PM Worship	236	152
Wednesday	119	128
Contribution	\$8,394.11	\$8,934.97
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58