



## Today's Gathering

February 21, 2016

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Aimee VanderWeide and Doug Bartel



## Transgender Issues

Pastor Doug Bartel

## For the Kids

*Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north side of the main foyer.  
See page 5 of the bulletin for more information about opportunities for Children and Students.*

# Welcome to Hillcrest

## New to Hillcrest?

If you are new to Hillcrest, we'd like to say "Welcome!" We're glad you're here this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center, following the worship service to meet one of our pastors and receive a **free gift**.

## Ready to Take the Next Step?

Hillcrest provides many opportunities to get involved with others in the church and the community. If you would like to find out more about classes, Bible studies, and small groups that are offered, stop by the Welcome Center, check out the Ministries section on our web site at [www.sioxfordchurch.com](http://www.sioxfordchurch.com), or call the church office at 371-0546.

## Our Weekly Bulletin and Devotional

Hillcrest provides this weekly bulletin/devotional to help you connect, serve others and study the Bible throughout the week.

On pages 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On page 6, you have a place to take notes from the message. Also on page 6 is a memory verse, selected each week by Hillcrest leaders.

On pages 7-12, you will find a short devotional for each day. You will read a new text, some commentary and consider some questions to further your growth, as well as a challenge to help you take what you have studied and start to live it!

On page 13, you will find a Prayer Page, where you can keep track of your daily prayers. On page 14, you will find staff contact info.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you as you study His Word and as a result, it will impact the people in your life.

Want information on even more events happening at Hillcrest? Sign up for our weekly e-mail by marking your connection card and turning it in. Don't forget to include your e-mail address!

# Connect

## Hillcrest Camping Trip

This year, our annual camping trip at Newton Hills State Park will be held June 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, the weekend after VBS. On Saturday evening, June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will also have a picnic for everyone, even if you are not camping. This is an annual tradition at Hillcrest and we encourage everyone to join in whatever way they can. In order to secure enough spots, we will need to make reservations for camping sites and cabins on March 12<sup>th</sup>, so please sign up for camping and have your **payment in no later than Sunday, March 6th**.

- Cabin - \$100 for weekend
- Electrical Site - \$19 a night; \$38 for weekend
- Tent site - \$15 a night; \$30 for weekend

Spots (especially cabins) are limited. Those staying in tents & campers may register for Friday night, only, or for Friday and Saturday night, but preference for cabins will be given to those that can stay the whole weekend. Checks and credit cards will be accepted at the Welcome Center or you can pay on-line by through the online giving option on our web site, and choosing "Events." If you would like to use SCRIP, please contact either Brian or Jennifer. There will be no refunds, unless we are unable to secure your spot. Reminder that if you do not have a yearly pass, the state park entrance fee of \$6 per day (per vehicle) will also be required at the time of arrival.

## Partnering with Parents Class

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, after services. Hillcrest is proud to present Tom Henderson, founder and president of Restoration Generation, for a parenting seminar titled "Unpacking Youth Culture: Your Role as a Parent". This seminar is geared for parents with children in elementary, middle, and high school. The cost for the seminar is \$10/couple or \$20/family. Cost includes lunch from Qdoba and childcare (for those who need it). Also, a portion of the cost will be donated to Restoration Generation. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested in attending.

## Family Bowling Night

Hillcrest's Children's Ministries invites all Hillcresters to Family Bowling Night Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM at Eastway Bowl! Cost is \$8.42 per person and includes shoes and 2 games. Sign up in the back foyer or mark your connection card if you plan to attend.

## Zumba Class

There will be a free 45 minute Zumba class open to any age (parental approval needed if under age 18). We will meet Sunday evenings from 6:30-7:15pm upstairs in the Club House. The class will run February 21st to May 22nd. There will be no classes on the following dates: March 27th, May 1st, and May 8th. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in participating.

## Dance Ministry

Looking for dancers to learn a dance to be performed on April 10th during 1st and 2nd services. Participants must be able to be at the entire practice on February 27th from 8am-12pm, and both performances on April 10th in order to participate. Any age is welcome, but it would be beneficial to have some dance training, especially if you are younger than 5th grade. The group will meet every Sunday after church for 30 minutes to review the dance. There will also be a practice April 9th from 9am-10am in the gym. Attendance at these practices is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended that you attend as many as possible for the benefit of all involved. The group will be limited to 15 people and there is a cost of \$50 for outfits and shoes. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in being a part of this performance.

## Serve

### February Mission Focus – Restoration Generation

Restoration Generation is about one thing: Relationships. Students today are living in a world where the majority of them have known nothing but broken relationships – with family, friends and themselves. Restoration Generation exists to partner with schools, organizations and communities to help Restore a Generation of Relationships.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Hillcrest will be hosting a parenting seminar presented by Tom Henderson, founder and president of Restoration Generation. Please see the Partnering with Parents section on page 3 for more information.

### March Mission Focus

Hillcrest's March Mission of the Month is Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. We'll be serving pizza for the students and staff at Children's Home Society on Wednesday, March 2. We need 6 volunteers to help serve the pizza. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested in helping out.

## Children's Ministry

*All children should stop at the Children's Check-In, located on the north side of the front foyer, before going to their classroom.*

### 9 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds  
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

### 10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds  
Bird House: 2 year olds  
Tree House: 3 year olds  
Dog House: 4 year olds  
Club House: K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Student Ministry

### 180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for snacks and games, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

### 180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School meets at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School meets from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, & games!

### 180 Events

Laser Tag – On Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Galaxy Gaming for Laser Combat at 7pm. Pay Meriah \$10 to save your spot. Spots are limited. First come, first serve.

Summer Camp – While the weather outside can be frightful, we're already thinking about summer camp at Village Creek! Your middle or high school student is not going to want to miss camp! Current high school students will be attending Senior High Camp June 19-25. Current middle school students will be attending Teen Camp 2 July 10-16. To secure the best (i.e. lowest!) price, registrations are due with a \$75 deposit by **March 10**. You can turn in registrations to Hillcrest and we'll mail them off together. Registrations are available at the Welcome Center, or at <http://villagecreek.net/summer/2016-camps-dates>. As a bonus, for every 4 registrations turned in by March 10<sup>th</sup>, one lucky camper will receive \$50 off of camp! If there are 8 registrations by the 10<sup>th</sup>, we will draw 2 winners (and so forth).

# Message Notes:

Title: Transgender Issues

Scripture: Gen 1:26; Deut 22:5; Matt 19:12; Ps 139:13-16;

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Psalms 104:24 (NLT) O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!  
In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.

# Monday

Subject: Who Do You See in the Mirror?

Scripture: Genesis 1:26–27

## Commentary:

It's one of the best-known passages in the Bible, describing God's creation of the human race. The fact that He created humans male and female is stated once—but the fact that we are created in His image is stated twice. Clearly, God does not look like us—He is pure spirit. To be made in His image goes beyond our sexual identity, just as it describes far more than our physical appearance. Every human, whether we believe in the Creator or not, carries God's image—a priceless gift.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What does it mean to you that you bear the image of God?
2. If you were to write down a list of words or phrases that define who you are, what would some of them be?

## Challenge:

As you go through your week, try to notice your actions, thoughts, or words that give evidence that you are reflecting God's image. Write them down.

# Tuesday

Subject: God's Tapestry

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16

## Commentary:

In this passage, the psalmist describes both the care God takes in creating each of us and the intimate knowledge He has of how we are made and the life we were created to live. Our lives cannot be described as accidental. We are not a mistake. God knows how He wired us, and what He has planned for us. It's true that because we have our own will, we can make decisions that may make our path deviate from that which God has chosen. But He still knows our heart better than we do.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Somedays, it feels like God certainly made a mistake in creating some part of who we are? Have you ever felt that? In what area or areas?
2. How might focusing on the role of God in creating, sustaining and shaping your life make a difference in how you see yourself and your purpose?

## Challenge:

List as area of your life in which you are disappointed. For the next week, consider how God might be using this area of perceived weakness to accomplish a greater good in you, or how you might be able to better minister to others as a result of having it in your life.



# Wednesday

Subject: Always at Work

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

## Commentary:

God starts with us by extending grace through his son, but he doesn't leave us there. In an echo of Psalm 139, Paul reminds us as believers that we are God's workmanship, created for good works that he has planned for us to do. This passage represents the balance of the Kingdom. The gift of grace, which we can't earn by our actions, combined with the ongoing actions of God shaping and equipping us to do the good works he planned. God is a patient craftsman, and we are always a work in progress.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How do you sense God is using you for work that he has specifically purposed for you to do?
2. Are you the same person you were when God saved you? How have you grown? Are you still growing or are you stuck?

## Challenge:

No matter how long you've walked with God, from time to time it's good to take a look back at what kind of person you were when you began the journey. Take time to do that this week. See what God has done, and consider where you know there is still work to do. Ask God to make you sensitive to what he has planned for you, and if you're stuck, be willing to do whatever he has in mind to get you moving again.

# Thursday

Subject: Confused About Gender

Scripture: Matthew 19:12

## Commentary:

The issue of sexual identity has become a significant discussion topic in recent days. It can be difficult to find any direct biblical guidance on this topic. One of the few examples of someone who would definitely be working through this issue is cited by Jesus in his comments to those who were challenging his tough teaching on marriage. He speaks of those born as eunuchs—without a clear physical sexual identity—and places them in the same situation as those made eunuchs by others and individuals who choose to remain celibate.

## Questions for further thought:

1. When God created us in his image, male and female, it implies that everything that makes us male and female is contained in that image. Is it possible to express more characteristics of the opposite sex than others without necessarily having a sexual identity crisis?
2. If your good friend came to you and said they were struggling with their sexual identity, how would you react to them? What if it were your child?

## Challenge:

This week, do your own research into the transgender issue. What does the term actually mean, what are the concerns of those who would identify themselves as transgender, and what inferences can you draw from the whole of scripture that might inform your opinion?

# Friday

Subject: Children All

Scripture: Romans 8:15–17

## Commentary:

Our identity is not our sin any more than it is our successes, or our jobs, or our families. Who we are, at our core, is a child of God. That is our truest identity, whether we recognize it or not. Whenever we invest too much attention on some facet of our life to the exclusion of that relationship, we risk becoming confused about our purpose here. It's also an important truth to keep in mind when we're forming our opinions of others. We are all his children, whether we're full heirs through Jesus or yet to be adopted through faith.

## Questions for further thought:

1. We all quickly form impressions of people we've just met. How can we avoid making negative judgments too quickly?
2. If someone asked you, "Strip away all the labels and tell me who you are at your core," what might your answer be?

## Challenge:

This week, pick a person that you struggle with. It could be someone you work with, a family member, an individual you interact with in church, or someone you just met. Make an extra effort, every time you encounter them, to picture them as one of God's kids—someone he loves very much. See if it makes a difference in your attitude toward the individual.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: God & Sexuality  
Message Title: Check Out My Yoga Pants  
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4; Proverbs 11:22; Matthew 5:28; 1 Peter 3:3; Romans 14:21  
Speaker: Pastor Brian Stroh

What do these passages say to you?

## Prayer Page:

Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

If you would like to receive the email prayer chain, check the box on the Connection Card. You can also submit prayer requests through the church web site or by calling the church office.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

# Staff Contact Information



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**Bill Lewis**  
Custodian

# Connection Card

Please fill out, tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**      ☐ **Keep confidential (Pastoral staff) or**    ☐ **Put on the Prayer Chain**

My next step today is to:

☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.

☐ Attend the Partnering with Parents class on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

☐ Attend Family Bowling Night on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

☐ Volunteer to serve pizza at Children’s Home Society on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

[www.siouxfallschurch.com](http://www.siouxfallschurch.com)

## Connection Card

Please fill out and tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Visit --- How did you hear about Hillcrest? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Returning Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Regular Attender \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Members \_\_\_\_\_

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

***I am interested in:***

- ☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus      ☐ being baptized  
☐ receiving the Hillcrest Informational E-mail.  
☐ joining a small group      ☐ becoming a member of Hillcrest  
☐ volunteering      ☐ praying for my Hillcrest family (received via e-mail)

*One of the pastors will contact you with information on these subjects.*

**Your Age Group:**

- ☐ 18-24      ☐ 25-35  
☐ 36-45      ☐ 46-55  
☐ 56-65      ☐ over 65

☐ Single      ☐ Married

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Names & Birthdays of  
members of your  
household**
