



**HILLCREST
COVENANT CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT

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INTERIM LEAD PASTOR

BRAD BERGFALK

Dear friends:

I arrived at Hillcrest Covenant Church to begin serving as your Interim Lead Pastor on March 1, 2020. After receiving a warm welcome from the congregation for the first two weeks after I arrived, the coronavirus pandemic required us to discontinue worshipping together in person and forced us to quickly move most of our ministry to an online video format. During those early weeks, the staff and leadership attempted to create a sense of normalcy with the hope that this “new normal” would be over soon.

Here we find ourselves six months later still hoping that we can return to some semblance of the ordinary. In addition to holding our online worship on Sunday mornings, we have added an outdoor worship experience on the lawn. This experience has been well received and we intend to continue this worship experience as long as the weather permits. The fact that the founding members of Hillcrest Covenant Church gathered on the hill to dedicate this property in service of God’s kingdom over sixty years ago has not escaped me.

When I arrived to begin my ministry with you, I was fully aware of the difficult situation concerning my predecessor. The sudden loss of a pastor under any condition is challenging. Saying goodbye to a pastor when various members of the congregation hold vastly different points of view, can increase the intensity of the circumstances. While I do not intend to rehearse that episode in the life of this congregation here, I want to remind you that Hillcrest Covenant Church’s future is not dependent upon any one person or pastor (including me). And for that reason, I have confidence that God will use this difficult season to reveal God’s kingdom through us for many years to come.



The role of an Interim Lead Pastor is unusual in that I am expected to perform many of the ministry tasks that a typical long-term pastor fulfills, while at the same time, engage the leadership, staff and congregation in a deliberate process of conversation and reflection that prepares Hillcrest for their next pastor. COVID-19 and the subsequent cultural crisis around racial reconciliation has naturally limited my ability to work with the Hillcrest Governance Board and the larger congregation.

As I look to the near future, it is necessary and important for the leadership and congregation to consider three big questions: 1. Who are we? 2. Who is our neighbor? 3. What is God calling us to do? This fall, we will hold either in-person (or online gatherings) to address each of these questions in preparation for the next season of ministry. In the meantime, please know that Roxi and I are delighted to walk with you during this season of change and spiritual growth. We look forward to meeting many of you in person for the first time when the circumstances allow it.



One year ago, none of us would have foreseen the changes experienced in our church, our community and in our world. I know that God allows changes in our lives to encourage us to seek and grow closer to him. I hope that each of us can say that Jesus seems nearer

than ever before – our world changes, but he never does!!

Roughly 9 months ago, I felt God asking me to step further in service to our church. Shortly afterwards, I was asked to be considered for the Hillcrest Governance Board. I know that this wasn't just to serve Hillcrest, but to grow and change me.

Life at Hillcrest looks different these days! I know God has good things in store for us – and there will be more change. What does not change is God's plan for his church. Romans 12 has a lot of wisdom on what the church is to look like:

- In Christ we, though many, form one body; and each member belongs to all the others.
- We are to be devoted to one another in love.
- We are to live in harmony with one another.
- We are to practice hospitality.
- We are to be faithful in prayer.

We look now to the future of Hillcrest Covenant Church. Though we have a wonderful 59-year heritage, our future depends on how we follow God's Word and how we walk it out.

Some ways of walking it out:

Discipleship – Many of us may need to change the way we approach our “church life.” “Old ways” may not meet the “new needs.” I hope that we all desire to see God's Kingdom expanded, to see disciples made in every age group. So that we all will know Jesus better, God may be calling you to form a small group and in new creative ways!

Leadership – As I age, I understand more and more how important it is for ALL ages to come alongside those younger than themselves to help them take on leadership and stewardship of God's church. God may be calling you to step in to serve as a volunteer, to mentor others or lead something.

Prayer – No church is strong without it. God calls us all to pray and ask for prayer. Pray for our Staff, our Governance Board, our Senior Pastor Search Team, and pray for each other.

Change is inevitable, and it will continue to come at us faster and faster – and that can be a good thing! If we can embrace the changes around us while keeping our focus on what Christ is doing in us and through us, God will continue to use Hillcrest for his purposes in the world.

What can never change is who we put our faith and hope in, and that is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

A one-word summary for 2019-2020 in Children's Ministry would be: **EVENTFUL!** What a year of change, growth, and rethinking. As you read, we invite you to join us as we thank God for his provision, shaping, and movement he is doing within the next generation of our church.

Mission:

HCKids exists to cultivate intimacy with God and to foster family and intergenerational relationships in order to live like Christ.

Our Four Initiatives for 2019-2020: 1. Create a relational culture that fosters safety and inclusion. 2. Equip leaders. 3. Equip Parents. 4. To know God and encounter intimacy with him.

WINS for 2019-2020:

1. Create a relational culture that fosters safety and inclusion:

- Hillcrest Weekday Preschool is a place where all preschoolers feel at home and have a real sense of community within their classrooms. Parents develop relationships with other parents, Gretchen and her team support the whole family all along the way.
- In September, the elementary students participated in a talent show on Sunday mornings. All talents were welcomed. The kids were brave in their talent sharing and their peers were all supportive of their performances. We saw growth in inclusion and safety in how the kids opened up to share with one another.
- Kids participated in the Christmas Eve services with worship and storytelling.
- We saw the need to split the elementary kids up for their Large Group Time (Biblical teaching time). We offered 3 different Large Group Times. K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th. This allowed for deeper teaching and worship at age appropriate levels.

2. Equip leaders

- In November we held a volunteer appreciation, training and equipping evening. We talked and explored how being personal and going deeper makes a lasting impact with children and parents.

- We spent the year creating community and relationships with our volunteers by fellowshiping and praying together before the start of each Sunday.
 - Weekly emails held the community together and continued with updates.
- #### *3. Equip Parents*
- We pivoted to an online platform through our website where families can access weekly activities and biblical teaching to do at home.
 - HCKids expanded our online reach by creating Instagram and Facebook accounts.
 - Our team made phone calls, emails, text messages and sent postcards to all families. This was fun and a new way to think about ministry.
 - Our team and some amazing volunteers hand delivered a care package to each family in May.
 - In June we held a Family Parade drive by to facilitate connection.
 - We also served as a connect point for kids at the 4th Friday Concerts in June and July.
 - Our MOPS year was deep as we explored ways to connect with God, with family and become better moms together.
- #### *4. To know God and encounter intimacy with him*
- We had 6 families participate in Baby DB (dedication/baptism). They are making deeper connections with one another and are investing in their child by inviting others into their child's life for the long haul.
 - We held a few prayer and worship evenings in September, November and December of last year for kids preschool through youth. These nights were a special time of worshipping God and going deeper into the story by learning about God through play and crafts.





As a youth and adult ministry, God has been so good to us over the past 12 months as we have navigated a really hard but fruitful ministry year. One of the stories from scripture that I have seen lived out in both youth and adult ministries was the story from Matthew 7 where Jesus tells a story about two houses that were hit with a powerful storm. In the story Jesus makes a point of saying that the house that was built on a foundation of sand got reduced to a pile of driftwood (my words not his) and the one that was built on a solid rock foundation survived without enduring any damage. Jesus' point was not to teach his listeners a lesson on architecture but to teach them about the realities of life. You see it's what we do leading up to these storms that actually make all the difference when the storms of life hit us. Using Jesus' words, *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

As a ministry we are all about setting and building a solid foundation. Not just through words, but words coupled with actions. This foundation doesn't just prepare us for the current storms we are facing but the storms to come. Whether we participate in a small group, an adult community, Hillcrest Wednesday Nights, men's or women's outreaches, the Missions/Community Life food drive shown above, weekly studies with larger groups, student ministry events or just life on life discipleship with a mentor we know, God doesn't waste any of it. His Word is everything we need for all circumstances life throws our way. And through it all (even the Zoom meetings) we know and trust that listening to his voice and putting his words into practice will make all the difference in whether or not we survive and thrive in the future.

As I close, I want to say a big thank you to all of you who weathered storms with us and participated and served in various ways over the past year. God used your prayers, time, energy, sacrifices, and so much more to help build a solid foundation for years to come!

CONNECTIONS

JANIE TYLER

Hillcrest's Connections Ministry provides generous hospitality to our church family and our guests through a variety of people on our volunteer teams. Sunday morning serving teams include Start Here, greeters, ushers, the Connection Center and the Coffee Center. Our volunteer receptionists make up our weekday volunteers. Connecting people to the Hillcrest community in areas of ministry and service happen through a variety of ways and through a variety of people—but none is better than the personal invitation.

That personal touchpoint has never been more important than it has during this past year, especially with COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders that began in March 2020 and with the continuance of recommendations from healthcare professionals. Though our church building experienced closure during this past fiscal year, ministry did not—and has not—stopped!

Our Prayer Shawl ladies, who knit and pray each week, continued their weekly devotions when they could not meet. Tabitha, our monthly ministry to senior women, continued their monthly devotions as well. Checking in and caring for each other is in the DNA of these groups, as it is with many groups in other ministry areas of our church.

Besides phone calls and cards, many in our church family received extra touchpoints from our staff and volunteer teams. During December, small poinsettias were delivered to doorstops of many in our church, including those who are homebound. The week before Easter, "Easter Boxes" filled with special treats were delivered to homes of our Tabitha senior ladies, as

well as many other others' homes. Then on the first of May, "May Day Geraniums" made their way to over 150 front steps of several in our church family and to our Hillcrest neighbors. In addition to the 55 who indicated their willingness to help others as needed during the shelter-in-place time—and did!—many more in our church family reached out to others in their Hillcrest groups to touch base and care for one another. That is the church being the church!

Having an online Connection Card in place when our Sunday services transitioned to worshipping online-only helped identify guests and aided in finding connection. Our Intercessory Prayer Team continues to pray weekly for the prayer requests received through the online card, and our pastors follow up with those requesting it.



#hillcrestonline



During this last year, our social media presence has moved from "choice" to "necessity," as it's increasingly important to be where people are—and people are overwhelmingly on social media. Our increased presence has been an additional way to reach multiple audiences to share scripture, help connect people, and to point people to Jesus.

The Main Thing (My overarching goal)

I believe the greatest challenge any church faces is to keep (make?!) the main thing the main thing. I am convinced if any church will do this, it will be overtaken by what other churches spend most of their time, energy and resources going after. In light of the above, I have decided to make the main thing the main thing in my life and ministry, and to include anyone else in this pursuit who wants to give it a shot. In Luke's account of Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus said only one thing is needed. He describes proximity to him as that "one thing", and clearly states that it is a matter of choice. So, as a worship team, we are making a careful, concerted effort to choose well. We are relegating everything else to secondary status and setting our hearts to seek the Lord in all we do, individually, and in our role as worship leaders. This is no small task, as we are countering the culture, both in (sadly) and out of the church. But the little progress we've made to this end has been encouraging enough to whet our appetite for more, and to convince us there's an alternative to the church worship culture as we've known it. To paraphrase Craig Groeschel, in order to experience what no one else is experiencing in worship, you've got to go where no one else is going in worship. By God's grace we will go there.

Who is the Worship Team?

A team of 30+ volunteers helps me facilitate the congregational worship at Hillcrest. Divided into 4 teams, they serve faithfully, each once a month, and have a lot of fun doing it! I believe pastoral care and discipling of this team is fundamental to the quality of congregational worship.

Sunday Services

- Staffing, rehearsing and recruiting teams.
- Sunday mornings include an extended devotional/discipleship time with the worship team.
- Work with the worship planning team (staff) to create service structure and plans.
- Preparing logistics and the team for the launch of Saturday night services.

Training and Equipping

- Including a co-worship leader each Sunday for training and equipping.
- Worship Watch and Wait – Extended worship and prayer times from time to time.
- Relational mentoring – periodic breakfasts, lunches with members of the worship team.
- Involving members of the Hillcrest worship team in my outside ministry and conferences.

Excellence in Audio/Video Presentation – Sanctuary, Online and Student Center

- Upgrading sanctuary sound systems – both for the congregation and the worship team.
- Recruiting trained, experienced audio engineers for sanctuary and also control room (for the sound that streams online).
- Stage logistics arranged and managed to enhance musical creativity for the team, increase the quality of our musical experience, minimize distractions for the congregation, and efficiency and flexibility to accommodate Pan y Vino.

Pan y Vino

- Managing the ongoing challenges of another congregation utilizing our stage space.

COVID-19 Interruption

Although some elements of our community interaction have been interrupted for a few months, we have adapted and continued to do what we do with great joy. And we look forward to regathering with renewed vision and purpose very soon!





The Soul Care area of ministry focuses on efforts for finding wholistic connection with our Triune God for growth and healing. Following are the studies, services, and offerings in this area for 2019-2020.

Trauma Healing Group – This was a 6-week group facilitated by Mel Bockelman (trained by the Sending Project) in which people addressed their deep wounds caused by trauma and found significant healing and freedom going forward in their lives.

Daniel Brymer and I designed our Service of Remembrance in early December for those who had lost loved ones and for whom the holidays are particularly difficult.

The group Spiritual Practices for Peace was held utilizing Zoom in the spring with the focus on disciplines and practices for finding stability and peace during this time.

Lectio Divina – this weekly gathering has met Tuesday mornings in the Chapel and now online to spend extended time reflecting on a particular scripture and sharing.

Midweek Connect with God – this group had been meeting weekly for a time of scripture reflection and practices and was discontinued due to the virus.

Visio Divina – this has been offered every other month at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to practice seeing our Creator’s hand in the creative visual works at the

museum. It is now offered on occasion online due to the temporary closing of the Nelson.

Spiritual Direction – We have grown to five certified Spiritual Directors who meet with individual men and women with the purpose of helping to “direct” people’s attention to where God is working and speaking in one’s life. Directors have met in the Prayer Room until we needed to adjust due to the virus to now meeting in other ways such as over phone, Zoom, and in outdoor spaces.

I partnered with Janie Tyler and a group of humble servants as we created prayer cards attached to geraniums which a large group of volunteers delivered to and prayed for our people who needed some encouragement during this season.

For National Day of Prayer on May 7, I compiled prayer resources for our people to participate as they signed up to pray in ½ hour segments from 6 AM to 6:30 PM.

In response to the racial violence and subsequent repercussions, our staff worked together to compile resources, some from our denomination, for prayer, education, RightNow media resources, and ideas for Christ-like engagement.

In my role I also compile resources of programs, places and people to connect our people for healing, help, and support outside the walls of our church.

MISSIONS

LARRY WILLIAMS

The past year has been a challenging one for Hillcrest Missions. A reduction in the Missions budget caused us to make some difficult adjustments in missionary support. We were able to use Hillcrest's three areas of mission focus; Muslims/refugees; indigenous ministries; and Hillcrest "homegrown" missionaries, to inform these critical decisions. In the midst of these times God still moves his Kingdom forward around the world. We, at Hillcrest, are privileged to be part of God's global movement. Here is a list of some of the ways Hillcrest has been engaged in missions over the past year:

- Financial support to 36 missionaries and ministries.
- God seems to be continuing to call us to strengthen our missionary care efforts. Over the past couple of years, several of our supported missionaries experienced life and ministry difficulties that made it clear that we must do more than "send a check" when special needs arise. The ministry of personal presence is an important element in caring well for missionaries, especially for missionaries who do not have sending agencies that provide good "member care."
- Hillcrest's people engaged with our Advent Conspiracy 2019 campaign, which provided \$65,125 to help Kitoben Orphanage in Kenya build a larger and better kitchen and dining hall for the 130 children living there (required by the government), repair their rain water collection system (which also mitigates erosion problems around their buildings), and purchase a tractor.

- A team from Hillcrest served in the Republic of Georgia in the summer of 2019. It was the only adult missions trip this year. The team helped Hillcrest missionaries David and Kristi Chan, conduct a much-needed retreat for Christian leaders in this former Soviet Republic. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to sending short-term teams to mission partners who request our help once the COVID-19 pandemic passes.
- Hillcrest conducted two drive-thru food donation drives in May and June which enabled Freedom Fire Urban Ministries to provide many hundreds of meals to people and families struggling to find enough food to eat.
- Our "Stimulus Check Donation Drive" this spring provided over \$23,000 to help people in our city who were affected by the pandemic. These funds were distributed through Briarwood Elementary School, New Community Church (a Covenant church plant in KCMO with whom we partner) and through our own Hillcrest Refugee Ministry.

In 2019-2020 we were able to host several of our mission partners including:

- Andrew Sweeney – Young Life, France
- Jim and Laura Propst – AIM, Kenya who have now retired
- Ryan and Monica Reeves – CRU, Kansas City
- Eugenia and Pia Restrepo – Covenant Latin America Region
- Dave and Mel Murray – Joyn, Asia
- Bruce McGregor – Freedom Fire, KCMO
- Drew Williams – Covenant Youth of Alaska

We know that it is the prayers of God's people that sustains the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world. We are grateful for the Missionary Prayer Team at Hillcrest that gathers prayer requests from our mission partners and distributes the list weekly, and for those who faithfully pray.





The care of property at Hillcrest is under the care of the Property Team.

Highlights in Properties

2019/2020 was a very unusual year for Hillcrest. We had a very successful fall all-church clean-up day at Hillcrest, preparing the facility for winter and the holiday season.

Our spring all-church clean-up had to be canceled due to COVID-19. We did an online sign-up to complete some of the tasks needed around the church. A small group of workers came to help with masks.

Due to restrictions, regular Sunday services and other uses of the building have had to be online, on Zoom, and outdoors on the hill. Utility bills went down this year due to lack of facility use and the installation of LED light bulbs throughout the main building.

We did keep the cleaning crew busy during the shutdown by using the regular hours to deep clean the facility.

Special thanks to all who stepped up to keep our facility ready for company. There are many ways to help. If interested, email Roger Larson at rlarson@hillcrestcov.org.

We want to praise God for his gracious provision and the Hillcrest congregation for your generous giving during the past year. Despite not reaching our budget, we had a very good year and should be able to continue sharing the good news of Jesus in the days ahead.

Financial Update

Faithful generosity combined with sound expense stewardship has supported the ministry priorities reflected throughout this annual report. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on everything this year including giving and spending at the church. Hillcrest tithes and offerings exceeded \$1,939,000, and because expenses were well managed, our deficit for the fiscal year was only \$3,929.

Hillcrest continues to be debt free. We applied for and received a PPP loan from the government during the year, and technically this money is considered a loan at this point. We hope to apply for loan forgiveness and will have little or no loan amount at the end of 2020. The current operating cash reserves support general ministry operating expense as we continue investing in the mission and vision of Hillcrest.

Other Updates

Future Needs – The church leadership continues to seek God’s direction for maintenance and care of our church building and grounds. The exterior façade maintenance is under review among leadership and professional experts. (The capital reserve balance at year-end was \$256,901.)

Budget Preparation for 2020-2021 – The Finance Team developed a top-line giving expectation based on review by team members and church staff. The staff developed the ministry budget based on our vision and priorities. The proposed budget was reviewed by the HGB and is being shared tonight with the congregation.

This Year – Due to the virus and the changes that we are incurring, we expect a decrease in giving from year to year. We have planned for this and adjusted our spending accordingly. With the grace of God and the support of the congregation, we expect to be financially stable through the next year and hopefully reach as many people if not more than we have in the past.

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>6/30/20</u>
ASSETS	
General Fund	\$ 398,074
Capital Reserve	\$ 256,901
Missions	\$ 65,183
Benevolence	\$ 46,068
Savings	\$ 148,509
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 914,735
Investments	\$ 106,752
Fixed Assets	\$ 4,684,390
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,705,877
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities - PPP Loan	\$ 188,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 188,500
NET ASSETS	
Fund Balance	\$ 5,003,700
Ministry Fund Balance - Designated	\$ 218,156
Capital Expenditure Reserve	\$ 274,049
Net Surplus	\$ 21,472
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 5,517,377
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 5,705,877

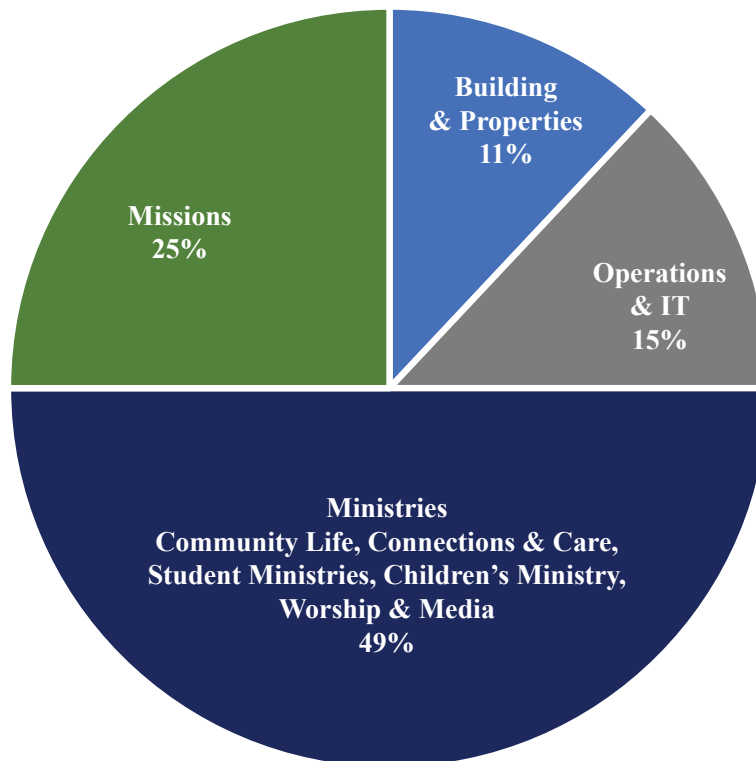
Statement of Activities

	<u>Actual</u> <u>6/30/20</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2019-2020</u>
Giving	\$ 1,939,183	\$ 2,125,000
Ministry & Operating Expenses		
Personnel Expense	1,102,844	1,169,500
Properties	153,668	180,188
Operating Expense	122,738	109,528
Community Life	12,390	28,000
Children	22,908	38,100
Connections and Care	13,893	23,300
Student (Middle School & High School)	16,303	27,850
Worship & Music	38,352	46,312
Media	10,844	20,625
Information Technology	38,293	45,700
Missions	393,731	428,109
Missions Reserves		(12,212)
Capital Expense & Operating Reserve	17,148	20,000
Total Ministry & Operating Expense	\$ 1,943,112	\$ 2,125,000
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (3,929)	\$ -
Other Income / (Expense)^	\$ 25,401	\$ -
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 21,472	\$ -

^ Non-operating budget ministry items that fluctuate annually (i.e. Missions, Preschool, Benevolence, etc.)

Hillcrest Covenant Church - Budget Comparison

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2019-2020</u>
Giving	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 2,125,000
General Fund - PPP Loan Proceeds	\$ 150,000	
Ministry & Operating Expenses		
Personnel Expense	1,103,305	1,169,500
Properties	159,826	180,188
Operating Expense	108,816	109,528
Community Life	19,650	28,000
Children	28,575	38,100
Connections and Care	21,300	23,300
Student (Middle School & High School)	19,900	27,850
Worship & Music	35,012	46,312
Media	7,825	20,625
Information Technology	44,443	45,700
Missions	401,348	428,109
Missions Reserves		(12,212)
Capital Expense & Operating Reserve		20,000
Total Ministry & Operating Expense	\$ 1,950,000	\$ 2,125,000



Hillcrest Governance Board

Brad Bergfalk, Interim Lead Pastor
Jeff Kurtz, Chairman
Kirk Wolters, Treasurer
Michael Gossenauer
Jackie Shaver
Carol McEldowney

Baptisms

10/13/19 William Paul Duin; parents - James and Anna Duin

10/13/19 Clara Eileen Coughenour; parents - Brian and Eileen Coughenour

10/13/19 Gabriel John Trimborn; parents - John Trimborn and Tatsiana Khvitsko-Trimborn

2/2/20 Kaitlyn Ortega

Dedications

10/13/19 Nora Ellen Withrow; parents - Greg and Emily Withrow

10/13/19 Fenton Gregory Withrow; parents - Greg and Emily Withrow

10/13/19 Jude Eugene Hauser; parents - Jon and Naomi Hauser

Births

8/15/19 August Julia Eliana Weiner; parents - Jes and Ian Weiner

7/26/19 William Duin; parents - James and Anna Duin

8/28/19 Clara Eileen Coughenour; parents - Brian and Eileen Coughenour

9/19/19 Sophie Grace Struble; parents - Jesse and Joanna Struble

9/23/19 Miriam Belle Mahan; parents - Jill and Mark Mahan

1/31/19 Gabriel John Trimborn; parents - John Trimborn and Tatsiana Khvitsko-Trimborn

11/5/19 Baker Samuel Blue; parents - Adam and Mallory Blue

11/12/19 Michael Joseph McClanahan; parents - Emily and Daniel McClanahan

3/31/19 Ella Marie Sparks; parents - Jenna and Eric Sparks

5/14/20 Amelia Grace Lundy; parents - Katie and Brackon Lundy

5/15/20 Eden Phoenix Guthrie; parents - Trenton and Nicole Guthrie

6/10/19 Avril Ivy Dunteman; parents - Gabriel and Hannah Dunteman

Deaths

8/2/19 Ed Olson, 8/2/19 Guy Daniel, 8/23/19 Tom Kelly, 9/20/19 Joan Mathis, 11/6/19 Margaret McCown, 11/13/19 Eleanor Scutti, 11/13/19 Dick Olson, 3/18/20 John Erickson, 3/29/20 Bruce Donelson, 4/15/20 Jeanne Schmidt, 4/23/20 Mike Hurt

New Members

10/27/19: Ji Chung, Noella Chung, Allie Goodrich, Debra Hauser, John Hauser, Jack Purtell, Judy Purtell, Bonita Rosey, Kyle Stagnito, Laura Stagnito

2/9/20: Jim and Raye Beaty, Diane Beckley, Brent Betz and Ashley Hunt, Eldon and Kathy Brown, Claudia Burford, Andrew Carnes, Kelby Cluck, Bruce Donelson, Denton and Kate Eaton, Roger and Deidre Eilts, Atlee and Emily Gafford, Tim and Janie Godfrey, Rebecca Goulart, Brian Haner, Lisa Kramer, Laura Lucas, Pamela Lucas, Grant and Susan Mong, Larry and Lisa Osborne, Nancy Peterson, Ralph and Beth Richardson, Steve Rovenstine, Art and Donna Schlaikjer, Eric Schlaikjer, Graham Schlaikjer, Bob and Terri Schuchardt, Joe Schuchardt, Sarah Signer, Haley Spears, Sunny and Susie Sundberg, Stan and Amy Welch, Keith and Bonnie Youngdale

PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

HILLCREST

Doug Anderson

Doug has been a part of Hillcrest Covenant since the church began in the early 1960's. His parents were charter members. The Anderson family (Dennis, Doug, Dave, and Dick) were actively involved at Hillcrest. Doug's brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Ruthie, are also members. Over the years he has been involved in youth and children's ministry, choir, men's ministry, ushering and has served HCC in a volunteer human resources advisory role when requested. Doug and his wife, Paula, have been married since 2008. Both were employed by Hallmark and have since retired. Doug worked in Hallmark Human Resources and management during his 40-year career.

Kate Eaton

Kate, husband Denton, and son Eli have been a part of Hillcrest for 3 years. Kate is a former personal trainer with an emphasis in post-rehab strengthening and a fitness instructor. Kate has been a part of MOPS, Bible studies, small groups, and volunteered for Nicole Guthrie in children's ministry administrative tasks.

Jim Ingram (co-chair)

Jim and Kathy have been members of Hillcrest since 1987. Laura and Matthew, their married children, grew up at Hillcrest. Jim's service at Hillcrest includes church chairman, vice-chairman, member of the Vision Team, small groups elder, 4th grade Sunday school teacher and adult community leader. He has participated in previous search teams for the Blue Valley pastor and worship leader positions. Jim is in IT at Garmin.

Jeff Kurtz (HGB representative)

Jeff was voted on the HGB in January and is currently serving as the Governance Board Chairman. He and his wife, Lisa, have been members of Hillcrest since 1994. Their two married children, John and Molly, grew up and were both confirmed at Hillcrest. Jeff previously served as elder of personnel for the 2007-2008 Council (now called HGB) and was on the Senior High Pastor Search Committee when we called Tim Ciccone. Jeff has also served in small groups, AWANA, nursery, elementary Sunday school, various men's programs, properties, co-chaired our last capital campaign "Branching Out, Bearing Fruit", and is a

marriage mentor. Jeff has been employed by Black & Veatch for 36 years and is currently a vice president/client project director.

Judy Lemaster

Judy has been attending Hillcrest with her husband Joe since they moved to Kansas City in 2011. She previously worked in Nepal as a nurse/midwife in medical missions for 15 years and has helped lead short-term medical trips there with Hillcrest members for several years. At Hillcrest, Judy has volunteered in the nursery and preschool programs and is a member of the Prayer Team and Nominating Committee. She is (mostly!) retired from nursing, but still volunteers to help Bhutanese refugees and teach health to seniors at a local community center. They have two adult children, Luke (adopted from Nepal, now in Washington state) and Claire (living in England).

Doug Liljegren

Doug and his wife, Becky Kelly, have attended Hillcrest since 2008. Their three grown children live in Kansas City (Amanda), Portland (Kat) and Albuquerque (Rob). Doug is a ready volunteer and has served in a variety of roles at Hillcrest including small group leader, Safety Team, Block Party Kit, Branching Out Bearing Fruit capital campaign, Abigail House and local missions. Over the years, he has led or supported evangelistic mission efforts in New York, France, Honduras, Turkey, Los Angeles, Columbia, Georgia and Tajikistan. Doug operates a boutique consulting firm that implements cloud-based software solutions.

Heather Whalen (co-chair)

Heather and her husband Thad have attended Hillcrest since 2007. They have three children who have grown up at Hillcrest. Stella is 16, Sophie is 14, and Jude is 11. Their family has participated in small groups and Bible studies at Hillcrest. Heather has volunteered in Children's ministry for many years, several times serving as VBS director. Heather is a teacher with a heart for the urban core. She has taught in Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO and currently sits on the Board of Directors for Hope Leadership Academy, which is affiliated with The Hope Center.

**Hillcrest Covenant Church
Annual Meeting August 9, 2020**

“To bring every person to life in Christ”

Opening Song – Daniel Brymer

Opening Prayer – Jackie Shaver

Chairman’s Report – Jeff Kurtz

Ministry Reports – Pastors

Financial Report/Budget Presentation – Kirk Wolters, Treasurer

Larson Award – Jeff Kurtz

Introduction of Search Team – Jeff Kurtz

Closing Prayer – Michael Gossenauer

Closing Song – Daniel Brymer