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HILLSIDE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Church website.....www.hillsidecc.net

Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:15 a.m.
Sunday Night Services.....6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

Cable Channel 13 * Local 25
 Worship Service.....8:00 a.m.
 Sunday & Wednesday Evening.....8:00p.m.
 Church Office:273-1278

From the Mess on the Desk of Van



Well, believe it or not, 2011 is over and 2012 has arrived. Most ministers will take the moment and use this column to look ahead. I'd like to take a look back over this last year and share some positives from my perspective.

1. Robin, Alex and I began our first year in ministry together as I have taken on my first Senior ministry. It has been rewarding for me as I've had the opportunity to preach and teach the Word of God. I've loved and been loved by each member of this congregation. Our smallest, our teens, our middle age and our seniors have loved me and my family. The challenges and sacrifices that lead up to 2011 are now nothing compared to the joy I have serving this congregation and living in Nowata.

2. I hear many of our members who are faithfully reading and studying and being transformed by the living and revealing Word of God. Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear people speak of their fresh awareness of God and Jesus through Bible Study. Bible Study is the key to lives changing and the growth of Christ-likeness in the Hillside Christian Church.

3. I sense and see happiness in peoples lives. A spirit of joy, unity is prevalent. Enthusiasm about this church fulfilling our mandate to seek and save the lost is growing.

4. Every Sunday we have people visiting our Sunday service that are from the community. Two hundred twelve folks came among us this past year and heard the Word and were loved. Amen! Some of this number now come regularly.

5. Our ultimate goal is to "Baptize into Christ" as many as will follow Him. In 2011, eleven were baptized and six placed membership with us. We are so grateful for each new person that has come our way.

May 2012 be a year of much, much more of the same.

—Van

THE
CHALLENGER
HILLSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Love God and Serve Him Faithfully

Volume 27

January 2012

Issue 1

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
 With new opportunities to explore
 Doors will open for new experiences
 New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things
 The things of this past year
 The Lord will do new things in us
 Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
 As we put out trust in Him
 And He will guide our every step
 By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts

We find we'll be able to do
 If we look for the opportunities
 We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
 But rise up and take our place
 And be all that God wants us to be
 With a fresh touch of His grace

© By M.S. Lowndes



**volleyball
Season
Begins
Soon**

Sign up on the table in the overflow area if you are interested!

A big "Thank you" to all who donated items for the College Students Finals boxes.

MISSION MOMENTS

COOKSON HILLS CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Our missions focus this month is Cookson Hills Christian Ministries located just south of Kansas, Oklahoma, on Hwy. 10. This ministry was formed to provide homes for troubled youth. It has grown to also include schooling through high school, some trade schools (such as auto mechanics), and therapy programs.

Rick Bayless is the current director of the ministry. Rick is very familiar with the ministry as he grew up there when his dad was the director. Rick also served as director several years ago before leaving and going into other work. Rick and his wife, Melinda, returned to Cookson a few years ago and under his leadership the ministry has been strengthened.

In a recent letter Rick shared the story of a young woman named Lauren and how her life has turned around since coming to Cookson Hills. Rick goes on to say:

"You, as a ministry partner, are part of the network of support that surrounds Lauren and hundreds of other at-risk youth who come to Cookson Hills for help, hope, and healing.

"I'm sure you believe, as I do, that every at-risk child deserves the same chance Lauren received. A chance to know that they are loved and capable. A chance to develop their God-given abilities and to use them productively. And, a chance to develop a relationship with a trustworthy God. . .

"With your continued investment, we will continue to provide help, hope, and healing to our Cookson kids. Thanks again for being part of the trustworthy network of support that surrounds Lauren and can help transform many more like her."

Rick then added this note that Lauren had given to his wife, Melinda:

"Thank you for all you've done for me. Thank you for all the advice you've ever given me. Thank you for always listening to me. Most of all, thank you for being there and encouraging me through everything. It really paid off in the end."

In a recent newsletter Cookson Hills made the announcement of plans to upgrade their facilities. Their current facilities and systems were built over 40 years ago, so there is much that needs to be done in upgrading and/or replacing current systems and facilities. There are four phases to the plan. The first phase will be a new educational facility. They will also improve their water and sewer systems. Other phases include a new dining hall and new child care residences. More information will be available at a later date.

For more information please go to their web-site at: cooksonhills.org. Their e-mail address is cookson@cooksonhills.org.

Thank you, Hillside, for your faithful support to this important ministry.



From the Desk of Larry Osborn

I would like to say thank you to the board and the congregation here at Hillside for the wonderful gift that we received this past Sunday. Over the past four and a half years you have been a blessing to my family and I as well as to the ministry that God has called me to.

Most businesses or companies at the end a year or season will take a look back to review what went well and what did not and where to make some adjustments, I would like to take a quick look back at some of the things that we were involved in that went well. Our spring season we had a very productive Wednesday Nite Live, The Worship Under the Stars was great with Frontline and David Vobora from the St. Louis Rams. We had a great summer with the Fun in the Sun and Summer Camp which we sent a record number of students to (31). This fall we started a mentor program that has been a great success for both the adults and the students.

As we continue to move forward as a congregation in 2012 I am looking forward to see what new challenges and adventures God is going to lead a guide us through. Please continue to be in prayer for both our Children's and Youth Ministries as we prepare for this next year.

We are planning a winter retreat for January 13-16 for our middle school and High School. The theme is called "The Big Picture" The cost will be 20.00 for the weekend. We will be heading to Hidden Haven Camp and have a great time. Make plans now to attend and bring a friend.

Looking forward to an awesome new year!
Larry

Feasting on God's Word

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts could serve as a reminder that we need to also feast on God's Word. If you are already reading the Bible daily, please continue in 2012. If not, why not make this your New Year's Resolution?

In addition to our daily bread, it is refreshing to 'eat out' occasionally. Sunday School is a great time to feast on God's Word, together with fellow believers. We need a variety of spiritual food. Please make a commitment to attend a Sunday School class each week, if at all possible, throughout the coming year. Don't forget the importance of gathering for worship and receiving a challenging sermon each Sunday morning.

Please review Hebrews 10:23 - 25 sometime today.

"I love Sunday School!" —
Charles Hawkins



NOTICE

The church office will be closed on December 26th and January 2nd.



Notes of Thanks

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the beautiful cards, etc. helping me celebrate my 90th birthday. Also for honoring all the November birthdays at the Arc dinner.

Jean Wood

Dear Hillside Christian Church,
Thank you very much for the financial help that you have bestowed upon me. It helps so much and I appreciate your generosity for my education.
Thanks!

Annah Osborn

Dear Hillside Family,
Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus. I love working in the office and each one of you have made my job so enjoyable. Again thank you for your generous gift!
Laurinda Boultinghouse

Thank you!
To the Board and all members of this church family. The Christmas gift/bonus was very much appreciated by the Longbons family. It has been a wonderful year for me having come along side of you all and becoming your minister. Thank you for this opportunity for it has been a joy and privilege.
Happy New Year from Van, Robin and Alex