

**NEWS AND NOTES**

- ◇ Please remember in prayer— Linda James, Suzette Stevens, Diana Jordan, Jim Abrams, Ruth Miller, Joe Brown, Patti James’ son (Brian), Debbie Montgomery (At Blackburn’s house), Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , June Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Hugh Sills, and Ted Penland.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice (*Today*)
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class.
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

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**Assignments**

Wednesday Night: 4/17/13

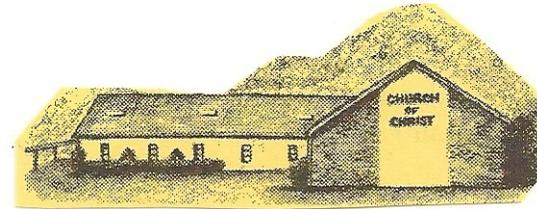
Song Leader: OPEN  
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Invitation: Leon Miller  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Parking Lot: Paul Loyd

Sunday Evening: 4/21/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Lord’s Table: Mike Sadler  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Eddie Lawson  
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

Sunday Morning: 4/21/13

Lord’s Table: Mike Sadler (B)  
 Colby Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Kirk Marschal  
 Keith Marschall  
 Song Leader: Nick Ross  
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram  
 (9:50) Norm Blackburn



**Lakeland Hills  
LEADER**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

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**ELDERS**

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405  
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378

**SERVICES**

Sunday  
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.  
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.  
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.  
 Wednesday  
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

**DEACONS:**

Robert Marschall  
 Michael Sadler  
 Eric Stevens  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Nehemiah’s Prayer”***

When we are first introduced to Nehemiah, he was the cupbearer for King Artaxerxes. Earlier the southern kingdom of Judah had been taken into Babylonian captivity. With the falling of the Babylonian empire, word came from some of the survivors of the captivity that the city of Jerusalem was in great distress—its walls had been broken down and its gates burned with fire. Upon hearing this sad news, Nehemiah was greatly distressed. Apparently, he had never been to Jerusalem, but had learned about it from his Jewish brethren. The same can be said of us today concerning heaven. We haven’t been there yet, but we, by faith, long for it (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 6:19; 11:16). Nehemiah “sat down and wept, and mourned for many days...praying and fasting before the God of heaven” (Neh. 1:4). He decided to request of the king that he be allowed to go to Jerusalem and rebuild its walls. Permission was granted, and upon Nehemiah’s arrival in the city, he began to view the conditions of the city at night, telling no

one of his plans to rebuild its walls. As the story develops, he leads a group of men in the task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. There were many obstacles and enemies that had to be overcome, but in fifty-two days, the walls were finished (Neh. 6:15). One of the major reasons why they were so successful is evident from what they said as they approached the task of building the walls— “So they said, ‘Let us rise up and build.’ Then they set their hands to do this good work” (Neh. 2:18).

Throughout the book, we have references to the times when Nehemiah prayed to God. He prayed to God before he made the request of the king to go to Jerusalem (Neh. 1:5-11; 2:4). Three times he asked God to remember him. Among the many impressive things about Nehemiah’s faith and great service unto God, is the last phrase recorded in the book that bears his name. Nehemiah’s prayer was simply: “Remember me, O my God, for good!” (Neh. 13:31). His humble desire was that God would remember all the good things he did, and truly, he accomplished a lot during his life.

Nehemiah’s request brings to mind several questions: What can be said of our lives? What are some of the good things we are doing for the Lord and His people that would give Him reason to remember us for good? Are we showing enough evidence that we are His servants for Him to recognize our claim that we belong to Him and are His children? Are we seeking to do good all the days of our lives? The inspired Scripture has been given so “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). James tells us— “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (Jas. 4:17). Please consider the following good that we can be practicing:

- ⇒ Being present for all the services of the church. (Hebrews 10:25)
- ⇒ Being truly interested in teaching our friends, family and neighbors the gospel. (Mark 16:15-16)
- ⇒ Being sincerely dedicated to living a godly life separate from worldly, sinful fleshly lusts. (Galatians 5:19-23)

- ⇒ Growing as Christians. (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- Preparing ourselves to serve to an even greater degree in the Lord’s church. (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1 - 2)
- Diligently studying, praying and living as we should. (1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12)
- Genuinely loving the Lord with all our heart, mind and soul. (Matthew 22:37)
- Restoring those brethren who have fallen into sin. (Galatians 6:1-2)
- Filling our lives with good works. (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Timothy 5:10)
- Doing good to all, especially to those who are Christians. (Galatians 6:10)
- Giving, out of a heart of love and joy. (Acts 20:35)
- Following the instructions of Colossians 3:23— “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men”?

- Living a life of obedient faith and works, realizing that it is by works that faith is made perfect. (James 2:14-26)
- Always following the example of Jesus, “who went about doing good” (Acts 10:38).

Is there enough good in us to be able to pray the prayer that Nehemiah prayed? Jesus tells us that the key to greatness is service— “whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant” (Matt. 20:26). Great men and women humbly and totally commit themselves to good works in service to God and others. Nehemiah was a man who stepped up and served out of love for the Lord and His people. He did not strive to be great in the eyes of men, and ultimately did not ask God to remember him as great, which is interesting. He simply asked, “Remember me, O my God, for good!” (Neh. 13:31).

-R. J. Evans