

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Louise Mosley, Christine Golden’s family, Dottie Reynolds, Leon Miller, Mike Sadler, Rachel Miller, Ned Hicks, Brian James, Kathy Gray, Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Debbie Montgomery, Jimmy Johnson (member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), Paulette Sills, Dorothy Wilson (a friend of Marian Church in MI), Hal Lewis (Suzette’s brother), Karen Stanley (Bonnie’s daughter), Forrest Cunningham (Butch Morgan’s nephew), and Jerry Jordan (Ken Jordan’s brother who has stage 4 throat cancer)
- ◇ Paula Sullivan, James VanDoorn, and David & Kyoko Williams are out of town.
- ◇ **Group 2 meets tonight.**
- ◇ Please remember our shut-ins and check up on those who are absent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

* * * * *

Assignments

Wednesday Night: 11/27/13

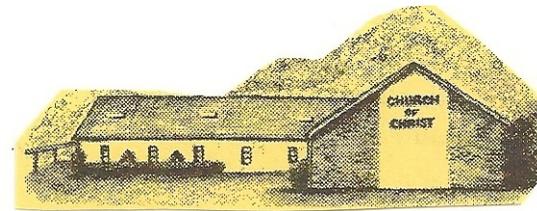
Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Invitation: Larry Wisdom
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 12/1/13

Lord’s Table: Eric Stevens (B)
 Sherman Johnson (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 James VanDoorn
 Song Leader: Charles Rawdon
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Paul Llyod
 (9:50) Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 12/1/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Lord’s Table: Eric Stevens
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn



**Lakeland Hills
LEADER**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

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

“Count Your Blessings”

With so many people taking time off to be with loved ones this week, I am certain we all have many things to be thankful for. At times though, we can begin to feel a little down because of all of the temptations and evil that surrounds. No matter what difficulties may come our way, let’s be encouraged to consider the positive things that the Lord has blessed us with. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” (James 1:16-18) Count your blessings, brethren!

Are you fortunate to have a spouse to share your life with? If so, then rejoice over the fact that the Lord has provided this blessing to you! The marriage bond is truly a blessing (Genesis 2:18-24). What a shame it is that our culture would have you to believe otherwise! “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.” (Proverbs 18:22)

“Houses and riches *are* an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife *is* from the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:14) “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies.” (Proverbs 31:10) If you’re currently married, then rejoice in your relationship and be captivated by each other’s love (Proverbs 5:18-19)!!!

Are those children within your home sometimes ornery to the point in which you are about to pull your hair out (*or what’s left of it*)? Be thankful for those little ones, because there are married couples abound who would *so love* to have children - but are unable to conceive. Therefore, be resolved to love and nurture those little ones in the Lord, knowing that they are a precious gift from Him. “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so *are* the children of one’s youth. Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.” (Psalms 127:3-5)

Is your house a frustrating mess right now? Well, first of all - count it a blessing that you even have someone to make it messy with! Then, consider how fortunate you are to have a roof over your head, clothes to wash, and dishes to clean. These are all signs that God has given you shelter, clothing, and food to

sustain you in this life! “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.” (1 Timothy 6:6-9) Count your blessings!

Are you happy in your current place of employment? I know that many feel frustrated—as though they suffer through the “daily grind”. Things may not be perfect to your liking, but consider that the Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently reported on 11.3 million people in America as being unemployed. Be thankful that you have the means to provide for your family. “Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for *it is* his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor--*this is* the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19).

The past year has seen its share of difficulty regarding the loss of our beloved brethren. Be thankful for all of the times spent with those in whom you love.

Be thankful for *all of the memories* that you have of your time spent together in this lifetime. Be thankful - most of all - that you have a hope of being with those faithful again one day! “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) If our loved ones could speak to us now, I imagine they would encourage us to stand firm, always abounding in the work of the Lord, “*knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Remember the joys spent with your loved ones, and be encouraged to remain faithful so that you too can one day enter into your eternal rest! Count your blessings...

“When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,

When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”

(Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1897)

Whatever is before you this day, take hold of God’s blessings and realize that the Lord is there for us to turn to when our perspective needs readjustment. “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

(All quotations from the New King James Version)

- I.R.