

**News & Notes**

**Men’s Class:** Men’s class will be conducted at the building next week, Dec. 28th (4:30pm).

**Afternoon Singing:** Our next Sunday afternoon singing will be at the building on Jan. 11th (5pm).

**Ladies’ Class:** Next class will be on Monday, Jan. 12th, at Karen Berry’s home (7pm).

**Young Adults’ Study:** Next study will be at Colby and Kaitlyn Sadler’s house on Friday, Jan. 23rd (7:30pm)

**Prayer Requests:** *Our brethren:* Kayla Cunningham (Please continue to pray things go well during her pregnancy), Bonnie Meagher (Bonnie has been battling illness for a long time), and Martha Smith. Norman Blackburn, Larry Hicks, and Stephan Marschall have been sick over the last week. Also remember Linda James and Butch Morgan, as they have ongoing health issues. *Our friends and family too:* Leon and Ruth Miller’s daughter (DeeAnn) had successful knee replacement surgery last week, but will need time for recovery and rehab. Larry Wisdom’s mother (Canera Wisdom; diagnosed with cancer in the advanced stages). Remember also Ted Penland (Butch Morgan’s son-in-law), Heather Tyer (Family friend of Butch Morgan), Janelle Hastings (Hospice is in home), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Jeff Sprott, and Waylon Townsend.

**Group Meeting:** Group (1) meets tonight after worship.

**Out of Town:** Kirk Marschall is traveling for work and Ruth Miller is visiting with family.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 12/24/14**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Invitation: Kirk Marschall  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Nick Ross  
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

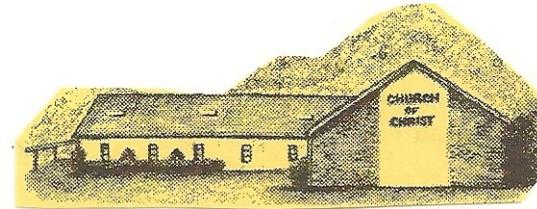
**Sunday Evening: 12/28/14**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Lord’s Table: Clay Sadler  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

**Sunday Morning: 12/28/14**

Lord’s Table: Clay Sadler (B)  
 Eddie Lawson (C)  
 Serving: Jordan Lawson  
 Keith Marschall  
 Song Leader: Charles Rawdon  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.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

With New Year’s approaching, I am confident that many of us are setting fresh goals for the upcoming calendar year. One of my goals is to read the Bible and pray every day with a more purpose-driven approach. While reading an article written by John R. Gibson in “Biblical Insights”, I was given an idea that I’d like to pass along to you. This approach is referred to in John’s article titled, “Praying your Daily Bible Reading”, and it appeared in June’s issue of that publication.

Whatever reading plan you choose will work, but the idea is based upon allowing God’s written Word to direct your thoughts for all supplications directed back to Him. You are 1<sup>st</sup> to read the specified chapter, and then write a few thoughts down in prayer to God. (Keep in mind that David wrote many of his own prayers out.) I have found this practice to be of great benefit, and believe that it can aid us seeking God’s will above our own. The following are entries that I’ve written to help you see how the format works. (I am following a reading plan that requires reading from various sections of Scripture)

**“Matthew, chapter one)** Lord, help me to be more like your servant Joseph, who was mindful of his wife’s (Mary) public reputation (Mt 1:19). Help me to be more judicious in how I treat/speak of others, so as to enhance their reputation, rather than to hurt it. Help me to lift up my wife in the eyes of others too, that she may be well established spiritually and emotionally. Help me to be obedient to your commands as Joseph was, too (Matt 1:24).

**Genesis, chapter one)** Lord God Almighty, You indeed are the Creator of all. I cannot fathom Your true greatness, and am humbled by reading of your power in Genesis, chapter 1. Help me to do better at acknowledging Your greatness as I go through my everyday living. Help me to notice your awesomeness in merely observing all things because of light, seeing the beautiful blue sky, the waters and land having their boundaries, the beautiful trees and flowers, sun, moon, and stars, birds of the air and fish in the sea, all of the earth's grand animal species, and the wondrous gift of human life. Help me to appreciate that you've made me in Your own image, Lord. Thank You!

**Romans, chapter one)** I am thankful that you enabled the apostle Paul to preach and spread your word to the Gentiles. I look around in my country, and see so much of what I read in Romans, chapter 1. Please have mercy on me, and keep me from the temptations that plague our society! I am so sorry to You for my own sin of idolatrous ways... Let me not forget my past, in a sense that I learn from my mistakes. Please help me to stay strong and grow every day, so that I do not come across, even as approving of such heinous practices, as described in Romans 1.

**1 Thessalonians, chapter 1)** God, I am also thankful for all of the lessons in 1Thessalonians. I am encouraged when I read of how the newer converts that Paul wrote to became examples so quickly. Help me to become a follower (imitator) of Paul, as he imitated the Lord, and may I truly become an example for

others as You would have me to be. God, help me to be the man You want me to be, now!

**Job, chapter 1)** Job was blameless and upright, one who feared You, and shunned evil. Satan afflicted him so hard... I shudder to think of what Satan would wish to do to Your servants today, so please shield me from temptations that would over-power me. Also, please have mercy on me... Even if You deem it necessary to test my faith. Lord, give me strength to be faithful through thick and thin, so that I can be like your servant Job, who, even in all of what he suffered through chapter 1, did not sin!

**The 1st Psalm)** Help me to meditate on your word both day AND night! I at times feel so weak. Please allow me to stand, delight in your Law, and prosper in all things! Let me not be anything like the ungodly. Please give me the strength to stand, and to know the way of the righteous.

**Joshua, chapter one)** As You were with Moses, as You were with Joshua, I ask that You will be with me! Please be with me and do not ever leave or forsake me! I am nothing without You, oh Lord! Please give me strength and courage, that I may observe to do all, according to the Law which You have commanded me! Help me to walk the straight path that I, too, may prosper wherever I go! Let not your Word depart from my mouth, but let me meditate on it day and night, that I may observe to do according to all that is written in it! Then you will make my way prosperous, and I'll

have good success. Let me not be afraid or dismayed, the Lord my God, You have commanded me! Be with me, wherever I go!! God, let me be strong and of good courage!

**1 Chronicles, chapter one)** While reading 1Chronicles 1, I had some difficulty reading through the list of names. I understand that Your word includes those names for a reason, and I pray that you will help me in enunciating the names better, as well as to better appreciate who those people were, as individuals. I know that many of the names aren't given stories in the Bible text; that they are there many times to merely provide proof of genealogy. Lord, I pray that over time You will allow me to see the greater significance of these names, and for me to appreciate why they are included in the Bible text (2Tim 3:16).

**Jeremiah, chapter one)** God Almighty, I know that you formed Jeremiah, and that before he was in his mother's womb, You knew him. Lord, do You have a purpose for me, in which I can be of true value to Your cause? I am like Jeremiah, in that I feel so very inadequate to speak for You. I do thank You very much for allowing me to preach Your gospel. I pray that I may do better in the task you've allowed me to do. Send me to others that I might speak what you've commanded, and let me not be afraid of their faces. Be with me to deliver me, Lord. Touch my mouth Lord, may I prepare and arise (1:17), and speak to others all that you've commanded. Please make of me a fortified city and an iron pillar. Even if others do fight against me, I pray that I will remember, You are with me, to deliver me, God.

**Acts, chapter one)** My Lord and God, I want to love You, more like You love me!! Please help me to truly be a "Theophilus". May I truly be convinced of your infallible proofs. I thank You for the story... I imagine Your Son ascending up into heaven, and I want to eagerly wait for You, just like Your disciples did in Jerusalem. Help me to think and act like more earnestly, as they did, continuing in one accord in prayer and supplication. I thank You for the witnessed testimony of Your specially appointed men, who You sent to preach and spread the gospel. Lord, You know the hearts of all (Acts 1:24), please choose to bless Me as You see fit, and may I be better equipped to do Your will!

In Jesus' name, Amen."

One of the best helps in talking to God is to begin by listening to God. The idea is that when we spend time in reading and reflecting on His word, prayer will come more easily from hearts already focused on the Lord. Hopefully, you can see how this approach can be of benefit for you. No matter what reading plan you use, let's all prepare in diligence to have a sense of purpose in growing spiritually. Perhaps in following a similar approach to the one described in the article, we can allow God's will to supersede our own.

-Ian Rice

*"When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, <sup>11</sup> Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you"*  
- Proverbs 2:10-11 (NKJV)