

## News & Notes

**Upcoming events:** Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice (Today). Ladies' Bible class is held on the 2nd Monday night of every month (Tomorrow night). The men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (Will be on the 26th this month).

**Pray for the Sick:** Larry Wisdom, Groenhof family, Stef Marschall, Leon Miller (Recovering from knee surgery), Mike Sadler (Recovering from neck surgery), Linda James, Brian James (Patti's son), Jimmy Johnson (long-time member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), and Karen Stanley (Bonnie's daughter). Let us be sure to keep these people in our thoughts.

**Group Meeting:** Please make the effort to be involved with our group meetings. Many continue to comment on how well they've been encouraged through the efforts put forth in those meetings. Group (3) meets tonight.

**Please remember:** Our shut-ins and check on those not accounted for being absent in the announcements.

**Quick Note:** A new design is up for our website. We hope that the information provided within the site will promote additional study of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Invite your friends visit.

### Assignments for Worship Service

#### **Wednesday Night: 1/15/14**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan  
 Invitation: James VanDoorn  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

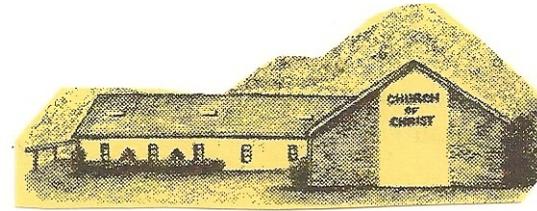
#### **Sunday Evening: 1/19/14**

Song Leader: Nick Ross  
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Lord's Table: Nick Groenhof  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Bob Marschall  
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

#### **Sunday Morning: 1/19/14**

Lord's Table: Nick Groenhof (B)  
 Clay Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Daniel Staggars  
 Jim Abram  
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



# Lakeland Hills Leader

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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#### ELDERS

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

#### EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

#### 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

### *“Good Works that Glorify”*

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***” (Matthew 5:13-16, Emphasis mine) Within this text, Jesus is saying that all followers of God must be different from the world and He stresses that our impact and influence upon others ought not to be suppressed. But rather, let your light shine in such a way that men will see your good works and glorify God! Let's consider some practical applications from God's word and see how we might ***glorify Him by doing “good works”***. How might we allow our light to shine thru the deeds in which we do?

Let's start with the matter of obedience. If we expect that we are going to even *have* a light *to* shine in the world in the 1<sup>st</sup> place, then we must be following (and obeying)

Jesus. In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” *We should follow after Jesus and His example to obtain the light of life.* Consider that in the second chapter of Philippians, the apostle Paul would tell the saints that they were to follow *Christ’s example in the attitude of humility and obedience.* “**Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death**” (Philippians 2:5-8, Emphasis mine) If you would like to glorify God as Jesus did, be willing to **take on the form of a bondservant**, humble yourself and **become obedient to the point in which you put to death the old man** (Romans 6:1-6). Once you’ve done that, continue to grow in humility, be willing to repent and pray concerning your failures in obedience (Daniel 9:10, Acts 8:22-23). Also, continue displaying a willingness to be taught by others (Psalm 119:35; Psalm 143:10), study so as to be certain of

God’s will for you (Acts 17:11), and work toward bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Your setting the proper example with regard to humble obedience will go a long way in helping others to see their own need to obey and glorify God!

Another area we might consider when seeking to allow our light to shine in doing “**good works**” would be for us to – pursue righteousness. Thayer says that the word “righteousness” in the original means “in a broad sense: the state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God”. In Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul told the saints that they were to imitate their Father (God) as children are supposed to do (Ephesians 5:1-2). He went on to write “For **you were once darkness**, but **now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **finding out what is acceptable** to the Lord. And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**” (Ephesians 5:8-11, Emphasis mine) We live in a prosperous nation with all sorts of temptations to contend with. If you watch television and/or have internet access, you will notice that there is a concentrated effort to market

worldly riches and promote fleshly lusts toward us -- and toward our children!! Those sorts of pursuits are what drives many of our neighbors too. God appeals through His written word for you to be aware that this world is full of temptations and distractions (1 Timothy 6:6-10). That said, God also appeals for you to strengthen yourself in Him and overcome these temptations (1 Timothy 6:11-12) Let your light shine through the pursuit of righteousness; be encouraged to **influence others through your pursuit of righteousness** (2 Timothy 2:2-3). Be an example to others, and if they despise your efforts and persecute you, then meditate on passages like 1 Peter 3:13-17.

Yet another way in which we might allow our light to shine “in deed” would be through an extension of love. An extension of love is exhibited through “good works”. I can tell my wife every day that I love her, but what do my actions say about where my heart truly is? Jesus says, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15) We can say that we love Jesus, but do we really mean it? I might say that I love my brethren, but do I really mean that? “**Be kindly affectionate** to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference** to one an-

other; **not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord**” (Romans 12:10-11, Emphasis mine). We can provide a positive influence for others when we put forth the extension of love toward others. **In other words, we can say that we love our brethren, but do our actions display it?** God says that if you love one another, you will be glad to see something good happen to your friend and you will not envy. If you love one another, you won’t brag when you have something your friend doesn’t have. Also, love doesn’t keep a list of grievances. “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Everything that we do has the potential to glorify God (Colossians 3:17). We’ve been given a wonderful opportunity! I pray that God’s word will inspire us all to better let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works in these areas, and therefore glorify our Father in heaven.

(All quotations provided from the New King James Version)