

News & Notes

Men’s Class: Class will be conducted at the building today (4:30pm).

Kid’s Review Class: Next week, shortly after the Sunday evening worship service.

Afternoon Singing: Next singing will be Sunday, February 8th (5pm).

Ladies’ Class: Next class will be February 9th, at Ruth Miller’s home (7pm).

Prayer Requests: *Our brethren:* Karen Berry, Kayla Cunningham, Mildred Church, Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Leon and Ruth Miller, Ahrea Miller (Her brother-in-law, Johnny Robinson, passed away last week), and Butch Morgan.

Our friends and family: Please continue in prayer for the Hastings family, as well as for Larry Wisdom’s mother (Canera Wisdom; cancer in advanced stages), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, (Paula Sullivan’s brother will be having his fourth knee replacement this week), DeeAnn Sprott, Pat Dickey, and Waylon Townsend.

Out of Town: Nick Goenhof, Colby Sadler, and Larry Hicks have been tending to work responsibilities. Paula Sullivan is traveling to visit family and will be back toward the end of the week..

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship.

Annual Sing: The Trilacoochee church of Christ is having their annual sing this Friday, January 30th, at 7PM. Many brethren from there support our annual sing; so let’s attend and support them.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 1/28/15

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Invitation: Ronnie Henderson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Keith Marschall
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

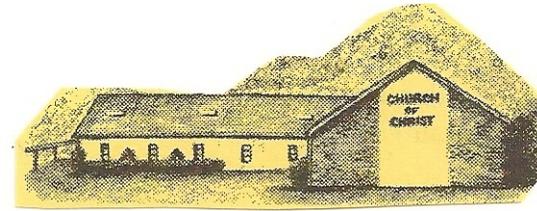
Sunday Evening: 2/1/15

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler
 Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

Sunday Morning: 2/1/15

Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon (B)
 Ben Cunningham (C)
 Serving: Eddie Lawson
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall

Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland
 Parking Lot: (9:00) David Williams
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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ELDERS

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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
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“Things to Pray For”

Recently, I proposed a method to aid in developing a more purpose driven approach to prayer (See bulletin for 12-21-14). *This* article proposes more thoughts to consider before making *supplication* to God for our various needs and wants. What type of things are we to pray for?

We Can Pray For Ourselves

In His “model prayer”, Jesus told His disciples to pray for “*this day our daily bread*” (Mathew 6:11). Therefore, our prayers should consist of petitions for God to meet our most basic physical needs. That said, we should also be praying for God’s forgiveness (Matthew 6:12), as well as for strength to grow as we should in Christ. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote, “*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*” (Colossians 1:9-12). Pray for yourself! Turn to God and express your need for Him to sustain you both physically and spiritually!!

We Can Pray For Our Family

Family usually tops the list of those in whom we love. We can (and should) be praying for our loved ones. Your spouse, your children, grandchildren, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and in-laws can all be part of your prayers. We can pray for anything they might need, but we especially ought to pray for them to be brought “*up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*” (Ephesians 6:4) Turn to God and express your need for Him to sustain your loved ones!

We Can Pray For the Church

Jesus told His closest followers, “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” (John 13:35). He would pray later, “*I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*” (John 17:20-21). Let us be busy praying and striving for love and peace to prevail among us; and let’s also be praying for the spiritual growth of each member of the Lord’s body. “*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by*

Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11) Also, I ask that you be praying for each member to have/take opportunity in spreading the gospel to others (2 Thessalonians 3:1)!!

We Can Pray For Those Who Are Ill

When we come together during the assembly, we often make mention of the sick who are struggling with various health concerns. That’s a good practice, as we read the instruction, “*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*” (James 5:14-15). Praying for another’s physical well-being is also in connection with instruction to pray for another’s spiritual well-being, “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*” (James 5:16). Restoration of physical health, spiritual health, and peace of mind are things in which we can (and should) be praying for with regard to our beloved.

We Can Pray For Our Community

The Old Covenant was no longer in effect when Paul wrote of his Jewish compatriots, “*Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be*

saved.” (Romans 10:1). Let us pray for our community; and let’s take the opportunities to reach out to our neighbors with the gospel as zealously as Paul. Moreover, let’s pray for those involved in the effort of teaching... Paul asked for such prayers from his brethren, “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*” (Ephesians 6:18-20). I encourage us all to be more active in fervent prayer for unbelievers; and pray for all who endeavor to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

We Can Pray For Our Community/ National Leaders

Blessing can come to a nation whose inhabitants serve the Lord God Almighty. “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.*” (Psalms 33:12). That said, the righteousness versus the wickedness is contrasted very succinctly in Proverbs 14:34, “*Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.*” It disturbs me to see that so many neighbors have given themselves over to sin. The Divided Kingdom & Judah Alone Periods of Bible history demonstrate how leadership can influence nations in a very profound way! “*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplica-*

tions, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4) Be sure to pray for our community and national leaders.

This article is not an “end all, be all” list for things to pray for (See Matthew 5:43-48). However, this article is meant to aid you in putting together a strategy for prayer that is Biblical. Whatever tools we utilize to better our own prayers, let us make sure that our attitude and approach is according to the Father’s will (Luke 22:42). As you consider all of the “*things to pray for*” in our list, can you appreciate that most of it pertains to spiritual matters? Let us reflect on that, as we consider all of the “*things*” that we pray for.

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.

-Ian Rice