

### NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Linda James, Patti James’ son (Brian), Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , June Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Hugh Sills, and Ted Penland.
- ◇ Karen Berry is out of town.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study (May 24th)
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice (*Next week*)
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class. (*May 13th*)
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class (May 26th)

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### Assignments

Wednesday Night: 5/8/13

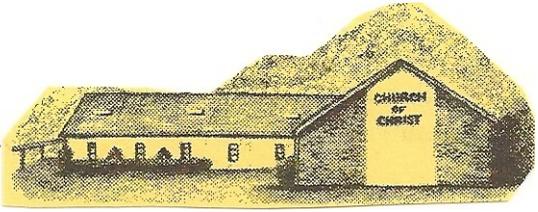
Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Invitation: Butch Morgan  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 5/12/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Lord’s Table: Bob Marschall  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Stagers  
 Parking Lot: Ed Lawson

Sunday Morning: 5/12/13

Lord’s Table: Bob Marschall (B)  
 Keith Marschall (C)  
 Serving: Ed Lawson  
 Jordan Lawson  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: OPEN  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Moses Stevens  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) James VanDoorn  
 (9:50) Sherman Johnson



## Lakeland Hills LEADER

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336  
[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com)

<p><b><u>ELDERS</u></b>          Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405          Leon Miller (863) 640-6378</p>	<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b>          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.</p>	<p><b><u>DEACONS:</u></b>          Robert Marschall          Michael Sadler          Eric Stevens          Moses Stevens          David Williams</p>
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**EVANGELIST:**  
 Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

### “THE DEMANDS OF UNITY”

The word of God pleads for unity among the people of God. The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 1:10: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* Jesus prayed for unity among His disciples upon the basis of the word of God: *“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;”* (John 17:20).

## THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT DEMANDS THAT BRETHREN AGREE

The basis for unity is the word of God (John 17: 20 – 21). All of God’s people are to walk in truth ( II John 4). Jesus said truth can be known: “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...*” (John 8:32). He also said that truth can be identified: “*Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth...*” (John 17:17). The Apostle Paul said that truth can be understood: “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is...*” (Eph. 5:17). Truth is always consistent because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). When we know the truth, understand the truth, and walk in truth, we will ***be of the same mind and the same judgment*** (I Cor. 1: 10) – ***we will agree***. All who appeal to truth for their standard in religion will come to the ***same conclusion***, when we understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5:17).

## UNITY DEMANDS THAT WE SPEAK THE SAME THING

Paul said, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (I Cor. 1:10). When we understand the will of God, we understand it alike (Eph. 5:17), and we are all to preach the same plan (Eph. 4: 4 - 6).

## UNITY DEMANDS EFFORT

The Apostle Paul said that Christians must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit: “*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:3). The word “endeavor” means to give diligence; to put forth effort; to try. This means that brethren are to work at being united on truth rather than doing and teaching things that divide them. ***We must all endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace***.

## UNITY DEMANDS THAT BRETHREN STAND FOR THE TRUTH

God’s people are to stand together against all evil. Paul said, “*Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...*” (Eph. 6:11). In Philippians 1:27, he said: “*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*” (NRV).

## UNITY DEMANDS ONENESS

The unity of the New Testament has at its foundation the word of God (John 17: 20 – 21). This unity eliminates all error (II John 9 – 11; Rom. 16:17) and prohibits division (I Cor. 1:10). Paul said in Ephesians 4: 4 – 6: “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...*” It is the dwelling

together without differences ( I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16).

In conclusion, let us consider Paul’s question to the Corinthians: “***Is Christ divided?***” The answer is “***NO!***” Christ is not divided in ***authority*** (Eph. 4:5; Matt. 28: 18), in ***message*** (Eph. 4:5; Heb. 1:2), in ***body*** (Eph. 4:4; 1: 22 – 23) nor in ***plan*** (Eph. 4: 3 – 6). Let us all be alert to the difference in ***Bible unity*** and “***unity-in-diversity***” that is so popular among so many today. This false unity is the devil’s compromise and is destroying the church of the Lord in many places. ***We must all work for the unity that is based upon the will of God*** ( John 17: 20 – 21).

Donald Townsley