

News & Notes

Men's Class: Men's class is today at 4:30pm, and will be conducted at the building.
Young Adult Class: Next class will be December 5th, 7:30pm, at Chet & Daniel Sheffield's home.
Ladies' Class: Next one will be December 8th, 7:00pm, at Audrey Davis' home.
Prayer Requests: Please continue to pray for our brethren: Kayla Cunningham (Pregnancy), Bonnie Meagher (She *is* doing better), Martha Smith (Recovering well from her fall), Christine Ryland (She is having a tough time recovering from *her* fall), and the Groenhof & Ross families (Both families have newborns), and also Lilah Wisdom (Has been sick lately).
 Our friends and family: Ted Penland (Butch Morgan's son-in-law), Heather Tyer (Family friend of Butch Morgan), Janelle Hastings (Diagnosed with cancer), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Jeff Sprout, and Noot Ross.
Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship.
Worthy of Note as well as Prayer: It warmed many hearts to see sister Ahreah Miller come forward last Sunday as the invitation was extended. Let us take note of her tender heart, and seek to do better, ourselves. Let's continue praying for her, and all of the flock, to continue moving in the right direction!
Out of Town: Lots of members will be traveling this week. Out of town are the Blackburns, Bob & Steph Marschall, Kirk Marschall, Paula Sullivan, and David & Kyoko Williams. Larry and Cindy Hicks, and the Rice family will also be traveling this week.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 11/26/14

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Invitation: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 11/30/14

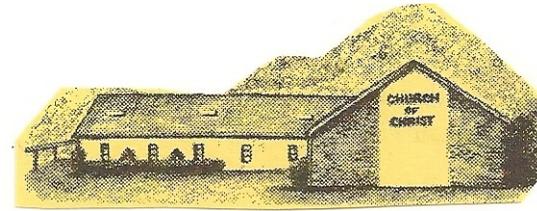
Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 11/30/14

Lord's Table: **OPEN** (B)
 Serving: Jeremy Whitehead (C)
 Jordan Lawson
 Clay Sadler
 Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Mike Sadler
 (9:50) Ed Lawson

**** Charles Rawdon will be preaching next Sunday morning; and we'll also have a 5th Sunday night Song Service in the evening.***



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

Are We Too Isolated?

In Matthew 28:18-19, we read of the Great Commission to the Lord's apostles. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". The reaching out to lost souls and teaching the gospel to others is what the Lord commanded, but this mission was not just given for the apostles. Jesus continued in His orders for all, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." (Matthew 28:20) The church has a mission in saving souls, and our congregation here has many converts, but *are we* seeking to evangelize the lost as we should? Maybe there are some things holding us back from doing our duty that we can address.

One of the things that I believe holds us back from sharing our faith is that we sometimes feel unprepared. Maybe we feel as though we don't know enough of the Bible for ourselves, so as to give an earnest defense of the gospel. If such is the case

for you, then understand that no evangelism workshop or fancy pamphlet to hand out, is necessarily going to do the trick. Study aids and/or tracts to hand out do serve a purpose, and can be a good tool, but what will save souls today is the same thing that saved souls in the 1st century – the word of God! If you feel as though you are inept to proclaim the gospel, then get busy reading your Bible, and pray more. I believe that many times we make things more complicated than they really are. If you are a member of the Lord's body, then you surely know the necessary conditions of salvation! Share your faith with your loved ones and neighbors, and be determined to go into the world with a purpose. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" (1 Peter 3:15) Let us make preparations and follow through with the opportunities given to us, brethren.

Maybe another factor in the Christian's lack of reaching out to others can be traced back to our own fears of rejection. The apostle Paul knew firsthand what it is like to have the gospel reject-

ed, as he was the messenger in Corinth (Acts 18:1-7). Perhaps he was hurt by the rejection of the Jews there, or maybe Paul just needed reassurance. "Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." (Acts 18:9-10) Regardless of what Paul was feeling at the time, God gave him assurance that many would listen. I do not anticipate God speaking to me in a vision tonight, but I do take comfort in Him knowing who His people are. God knows who will have a tender heart in this city, who will listen to sound preaching, and who will respond accordingly. We DO know that some in this city will listen, as we have witnessed people being baptized and restorations being made. Let us do in Lakeland as Paul did for the citizens of Corinth, continuing and teaching the word of God among them (Acts 18:11).

Another reason that we may be neglecting our duty in teaching others is that we are simply too isolated. There IS A DIFFERENCE between providing positive influence to the world, ver-

sus becoming partakers of evil deeds - and I don't believe that concept is too hard to grasp. We must be determined to influence the world for the better (Matthew 5:13-16), and be around others to the extent of which will provide opportunities to teach. Paul told the Corinthians, "I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world." (1 Corinthians 5:9-10) DO NOT put yourself in a situation where you'll be tempted to sin, but DO engage yourself in wholesome conversations that will demonstrate to others -- your concern for their souls.

Perhaps YOU can be doing more in the way of reaching out to others, sharing the gospel message that converted YOU to Christ? Are YOU too isolated? If so, then get busy engaging yourself with others! Do you fear rejection? Just remember, we are to simply sow the seed and/or water; God will provide the increase (1Corinthians 3:6-8). Let's prepare, take advantage of all the study aids we have (there ARE corre-

spondence lessons at both entrances of the building), and put our confidence in the ultimate tool that God has given to accomplish our mission – His word! "For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (Romans 1:16; **Emphasis** mine)

-Ian Rice

(All Bible quotations provided from the New King James Version)

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."
(Matt 10:32-33)

"But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."
(Luke 12:48)