

News & Notes

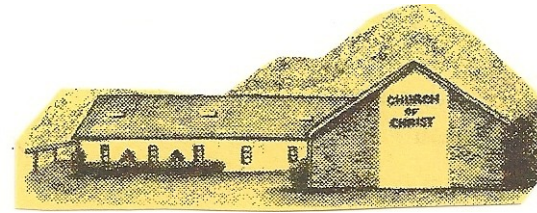
Upcoming Events: Men’s class is today at 4:30pm in the auditorium. The next young adult bible study will be on Nov. 7th at the Rice’s home. Our next monthly sing will be Nov. 9th at 5pm, and the next Ladies’ bible study will be held on Nov. 10th at the Rice’s home.

Prayer: Please continue to pray for and encourage those in whom prayer has been requested: Charles Goodall, Linda James, Neil & Ahrea Miller (Sick), Butch Morgan (Doing much better lately), Dottie Reynolds, and Jeff Sprott. Remember the Ross family as they are adjusting to parenthood. Let’s also be praying for the expecting mothers, Kayla Cunningham and Cassandra Groenhof (San’s due date is November 11th—right around the corner).

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, Mariam Church, Diana & Ken Jordan, Kirk Marschall, and Chet & Danielle Sheffield.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Gospel Meeting: The Lake Gibson church of Christ is holding a meeting with Dan Petty that starts today and runs through Wednesday evening (October 26th-29th). Let us seek to support their efforts by attending. The meeting times for Monday and Tuesday begin at 7pm.



**Lakeland Hills
Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
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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
Eric Stevens
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 10/29/14

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall
Invitation: Clay Sadler
Announcements: Mike Sadler
Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 11/2/14

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
Lord’s Table: Ben Cunningham
Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

Sunday Morning: 11/2/14

Lord’s Table: Ben Cunningham (B)
Jerry Williams (C)
Serving: Clay Sadler
Trent Stevens
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof

Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
(9:50) Mike Sadler

The Church Mimicking Society

It is amazing how the attitudes and actions of "Christians," who are especially involved in movements away from the New Testament pattern, manage to mimic secular and political movements in the world around them.

As the early apostate church evolved into the Catholicism it’s organizational structure became more and more patterned after the Roman government. The Pope paralleled the Emperor. The Cardinals paralleled the Senate. Then the various levels of authority from there on down to the parish priest had their counterparts in the government of Rome.

The "liberal" and "conservative" views of political authority is often mirrored by similar mind-sets in the church in this country. Both vocally express respect for the authoritative documents that are supposed to govern our behavior. In national affairs, it is the constitution. In church affairs, it is the Scriptures. The political

conservative believes that as a country we can only do what is expressly permitted by the constitution. The political liberal believes that as a country we can do anything that is not expressly forbidden by the constitution. When it comes to the document itself, the liberal is a "loose constructionist" while the conservative is a "strict constructionist." The conservative believes in following the "letter" as well as the spirit of the law. The liberal believes that following the "spirit" of the law is sufficient. In the church and spiritual matters, the conservative believes we can only do what is expressly permitted by the Bible. The liberal believes we can do anything not expressly forbidden by the Bible. The similarities between the two views in both the political and religious realm is in deed striking.

In recent years, I have noticed a striking parallel in a movement in society that is mimicked among some in the church. It is the hippy movement. Those of us who are a bit older can remember the height of the hippy movement. It was a movement that

professed to see all the wrongs of our society, or as they often called it "the establishment." It was a movement to act differently and to appear differently from the rest of society – mostly different for the sake of being different. They found creative ways to show their disdain for anything they considered "mainstream." They loved being known as non-conformist, yet they came be conformists in that they all conformed to a similar attitude, a "non-conformist" dress code, a kindred spirit and similar M.O. wherever they were found.

As this movement declined we have seen a parallel movement in the church. It is the so-called "non-traditionalist" movement. An element arose, and is still very much with us, that seems to have a disdain for anything that has been practiced in congregations for more than as long as they can remember. Like their counterparts in society, they are short on solutions but long on what they see as wrong in the way things are being done. They seem not to know the difference in being differ-

ent as a natural consequences of doing right in the midst of a crooked world; and marching to a different tune just for the sake of being different. The Apostle Paul did the very opposite. He was unwilling to be different just for difference sake. On the other hand, he conformed to the customs (that did violate the word) of those among whom he worked for the overall good of the Cause. (1 Cor. 9:19-23). Would he yield or conform in those things that would harm the gospel and the church? Never. (Gal. 2:5). But, in those things he could, he yielded for the good of the Lord's church.

Before I quit, let me point out something about "tradition." Tradition just means it is something that has been handed down. There are the traditions handed down by the Bible writers that must be kept. (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6). There are traditions handed down by men that set aside the commandment of God that must not be kept. (Matt. 15:2,3,6). Then there are traditions or customs that have been handed down over a long period of time that are not wrong within them-

selves. Most of these involve unspecified ways and means of carrying out the traditions received from the Apostles. Many of these were developed over many years and are still practiced because they have proven to be effective. There is something to be said for "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." It seems to me that one would have to be some kind of egotist to think that replacing expedients, that have proven effective over many years, with his unproven and untried "new" way of doing things (because it is more "meaningful" to him) – especially insisting on it to the disturbance congregational peace.

I need to note also that these new hippies, in some cases, have gone beyond disdain for old ways (expedients) of doing things, to a disdain for old traditions (doctrines) handed down by the Lord through His apostles as well.

- By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.