

## News & Notes

**Upcoming Events:** Men's Bible class is **today at 4:30pm**, & Women's monthly Bible study resumes on October 13th.

**Prayer Requests:** Please keep Jerry Williams in mind, as he has lately been feeling the effects of severe vertigo. Also continue to be mindful in prayer of Linda James, Ken Jordan, Kassandra Groenhof, Leon Miller, Butch Morgan, Dottie Reynolds, and Nick & Emilee Ross. Please also remember Pat Dickey (attends the Southwest church of Christ; diagnosed with colon cancer), Naydene Fields, Brian James, and Jerry Jordan with their various struggles.

**Out of Town:** Kirk Marschall and Larry Wisdom are all out of town. *(It is good to have David and Kyoko back with us.)*

**Group Meeting:** Group (1) meets tonight after worship. Please continue to be involved with the group meetings. Much good is being accomplished through those efforts of encouragement.

**Gospel Meeting (s):** The Seffner church of Christ is holding a meeting from September 28th -October 3rd with Dennis Allen of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Also, there is an upcoming meeting with the Trilacoochee church of Christ; running from October the 5th - 9th, with Ed Brand of Russellville, Alabama preaching. Let us seek to attend when possible.

## Assignments for Worship Service

### **Wednesday Night: 10/1/14**

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham  
 Opening Prayer: Eddie Lawson  
 Invitation: Nick Ross  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

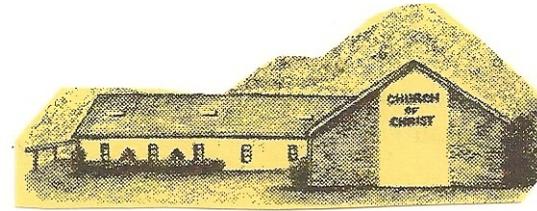
### **Sunday Evening: 10/5/14**

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan  
 Lord's Table: Nick Ross  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Ben Cunningham  
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

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**Sunday Morning: 10/5/14**

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)  
                   Bucky Day (C)  
 Serving: Ben Cunningham  
                   Eddie Lawson  
 Song Leader: Charles Rawdon  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Leon Miller  
                   (9:50) Norm Blackburn



# 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

## *“True Happiness”*

It has been rightly said that “Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” (Some have attributed the quote to Abraham Lincoln.) As if it were not bad enough that they deprive themselves of joy, some people also make life miserable for others around them. In this article, let us offer some practical suggestions for Christians to be happy.

**1. Trust in God.** The individual who places his faith and trust in God has a source of strength and delight that unbelievers do not understand. Solomon tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding...And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he” (Prov. 3:5; 16:20). People who worry and fret may call themselves Christians, but their attitude mirrors a lack of faith and trust in God.

**2. Love the Word of God.** “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:97). “How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psa. 119:103). The Word of God is the truth (Jn. 17:17). The precious Word of God provides hope, comfort, and joy to all who are lovers of truth. Do you love the truth? (See 2 Thes. 2:10-12.)

**3. Live righteously.** “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy all you upright in heart!” (Psa. 32:10-11). “The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory” (Psa. 64:10). By way of contrast, those who are transgressors and fail to live righteously, the wise man tells them— “the way of the unfaithful is hard” (Prov. 13:15).

**4. Worship God regularly.** True worship is a joy and delight, and it is through worship of God that our hearts are lifted. David said, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’” (Psa. 122:1). “Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before him, all the earth...Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad” (Psa. 96:9, 11). As we worship God, our minds should be completely centered upon God, not on children around us, someone’s clothing, others getting up, texting nor surfing the internet on our iPhone, etc. Worship is for the glory of God and for the joy and strength of His children. Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:24). Thus, we should see clearly why, as Christians, we are told— “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).

**5. Keep a good conscience.** When standing before Felix, Ananias the high priest, and the Jewish elders, Paul remarked, “This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience with-

out offense toward God and man” (Acts 24:16). Timothy was instructed to hold on to faith and “a good conscience” (1 Tim. 1:19). When we are scripturally baptized, which “saves us,” it is “the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Pet.3:21). Thus, when you obey the gospel you allow the blood of Jesus to “purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:14).

**6. Learn contentment.** Some constantly murmur and complain. They gripe about their wages, their job, the government, the weather, and whatever else comes to mind. Some professed Christians complain about the elders, the preacher and his preaching, the song leaders, the Bible classes and teachers. Their attitude bears little resemblance to the disposition of heart that the New Testament teaches. Paul wrote, “Do all things without murmuring and disputing...Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Phil. 2:14; 4:11). May we all take note and learn from the example of the Apostle Paul. A contented Christian is a happy Christian!

**7. Stay busy in constructive work.** Idleness breeds gossip and discord (1 Tim. 5:13). Happiness comes to him who works persistently, consistently, and diligently in the service of the Lord. The happy Christian is “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord” (Rom. 12:11).

***Are you a happy Christian?***

- By R. J. Evans

## ***“The Perk Up Sheet”***

A very young preacher showed me a couple of drawings, done in color, which I took to be the product of the Junior Bible Class — but which turned out to be the preachers special project for stirring the congregation to active service. One pictured a man at rest, with Sunday paper draped across his face. The other showed this man knocking at a door, presumably to invite a neighbor to Bible study. Somehow, these two drawings, when attached to the bulletin board with appropriate headings, were supposed to remind brethren that they should not neglect their opportunities to go into the world and preach the gospel. It all seemed so childish — very much like a promotion poster in a Grade School Library — that I found it difficult to maintain a civil conversation. Then, I remembered — A young preacher who used a coffee pot as the trademark of the church bulletin he published. (He called it Perk up!) The drawings, and promotional gimmicks of that paper were — well, pretty good, now that I recall that I was the editor. Strange — how sensible they seemed then (25 years ago) and how immature they seem now.

Please do not understand me to say that youth justifies claptrap in religion (showy but cheap device or expression, as insincere sentiment, designed to excite

applause), nor do I believe we are to defend a practice because it was a part of our early and immature efforts, no matter how sincere. But sober reflection may make us a bit more understanding and patient with today’s young man.

And I wonder this change in my concepts of propriety. Am I really that much older? I hasten to deny it. Some say my **youth** is reflected in Plain Talk. (Give the man a quarter!) No, it is something else. Add several years of study, blend with reflection and meditation, test with experience, and hone the edge with heart-breaking mistakes, past correction but all too easily recalled — and a man sees matters in a different light.

I believe we come to appreciate the gravity of our condition, and of the remedy Christ offers. If our faith has endured, it has fiber, is more meaningful. The good news of gospel has passed the light bubbling stage, and its deep joy becomes the peace that passeth understanding. And we are just a little bit offended by a less sober consideration of God’s truth. Let our hard-gained advantage be a guide to youth, not a stumbling block. If we have learned something, let us hope we have learned to use it wisely.

-Robert F. Turner