

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*arm fracture*), Karen Berry, Norman & Margaret Blackburn, Joe Brown, Kelly Cochran, Marian Church (*sick*), Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Rowena Lawson (*new convert*), Paul Lloyd (*back*), Leon Miller, Bonnie Meagher, Butch Morgan, Wayne Ryland, Suzette Stevens, Ardis Tucker, Ken & Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead (*recently restored*).

*Our family and friends:* Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Bob Elston (*the Rice's neighbor; cancer*), Diane Fields (*Keri Rice's mother*), Brian James (*cancer*), and Ardis Tucker.

**Ladies' Bible Class:** The next ladies' Bible class will be April 11th (*tomorrow*), at Kyoko Williams' home (*at 7PM*). In preparation, please study the lesson that begins on page number 101 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

**Afternoon Singing:** Our afternoon singing is today (*@ 5pm*) in the auditorium.

**Bible Class Review:** The next Bible review class for the kids will be May 1st, shortly after the evening services.

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

**Rejoice with those who rejoice:** Cobly and Kaitlyn Sadler have been blessed with the addition of a healthy newborn daughter to their lives. Macie Belle Sadler was born on Wednesday afternoon at 5:30pm; weighing 8lb., 5oz., and 21 inches long! Let's pray for them as they adjust to parenthood.



**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 4/13/16**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Invitation: Keith Marschall  
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Leon Miller

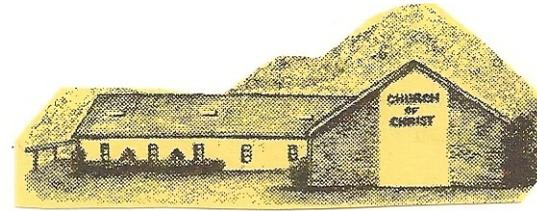
**Sunday Evening: 4/17/16**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Nick Ross  
 Lord's Table: Keith Marschall  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd  
 Recordings: Bucky Day  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

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**Sunday Morning: 4/17/16**

Lord's Table: Keith Marschall (B)  
 Sherman Johnson (C)  
 Serving: Norm Blackburn  
 Jerry Williams  
 Song Leader: Charles Rawdon

Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland  
 Recordings: Bucky Day  
 Usher: Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**ELDERS**

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 Larry Wisdom (863) 583-4311

**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  
 Charles Rawdon  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***The Profitable Word***

It certainly makes sense for one to suggest that man should study the Bible. The Bible is a revelation of the will of God. This revelation includes His authoritative commandments which man must obey if he would please his Creator, and it includes the exceeding great and precious promises concerning the good things laid up in heaven for the faithful. **(2 Peter 1:3-4)** We may observe that every transgression and disobedience receives a just recompense of reward. **(Heb. 2:2-3)** He chastens every son whom He receives that strength of character may be developed. **(Heb. 12:6)** How could one carefully examine the profitable word and not be impressed by the goodness of God? God is love **(1 John 4:8)**, and those who would know of His mercy and of His plan for man may learn from His revealed will.

***A FIRM BASIS***

Man is capable of having many similarities to a vicious wild animal, but he is also capable of being a lively stone in the temple in which God dwells among men. **(1 Peter 2:5)** Man can so follow the example of Christ that purity, unselfishness, and strength of character can remind us that he was created in the image of God. There is an indescribable difference in the man most like the wild beast and the man who best exemplifies the image of his Maker. What is the difference? One is taught of God. The other follows the leadings of his carnal animal nature.

The sacred writings are able to make one wise unto salvation. **(2 Tim. 3:15)** They completely furnish man the instruction he so sorely needs, since the way of man is not in himself. **(Jer. 10:23)** The way that seems right unto man may lead to destruction and ruin. **(Prov. 14:12)**

The same holy scriptures are able to furnish the motivation for the good life. The goodness of God leads to repentance. We love Him because He first loved us. The example of the Christ in His life on earth and the love revealed in His death on the cross draw men to Him. Many have died for their faith. Many have given all that they might gain Christ and lay hold on the hope set before them. It follows, as night the day, that those who have hope, as sons of God, of obtaining the prize of the high calling of God purify themselves. There is no stronger pull toward righteousness than that exerted by the gospel of Christ. It is able to save. **(Rom. 1:16)** It attracts one into the way that leads unto life.

Is there sufficient evidence that the Book is of God? Did the holy men speak as they were moved by the Spirit of God? **(2 Peter 1:21)** These men gave the world the perfect standard of righteousness. They were holy men, and they said they obtained it by revelation. Would liars write such a book? Surely they were not pathetically deceived.

Would ignorant men have given such a wonderful standard of behavior? The influence of the Bible in this scientific age in America is still as wholesome in the hearts of those who are led by it as it was nineteen hundred years ago in Palestine. The test of the pudding lies in the tasting. Those who know most about the Bible appreciate it most. It will bear acquaintance. When we see the lives most influenced by it, we are led to glorify God.

The well proven fact of the resurrection, other miracles, fulfilled prophecies, along with the unity and perfection of the message give us a firm basis of hope. What more could He do than He has done to give us a written revelation? No men on their own in any generation could have approached its perfection.

### ***PLANTING IS NECESSARY***

The word is the seed of the kingdom. **(Luke 8:11)** America could have the word, but few there be that find the way that leads to life. **(Matt. 7:14)** Many who have eyes have never read from its pages. Many who could have heard many sermons were not listening. Their hard hearts were engrossed in arrogant fulfillment of the lust of the flesh and in the search for money by any means. Animals they are, and without the wholesome influence of the powerful word.

Preaching to some is like casting pearls before swine, while some hunger and

thirst after righteousness so they receive the word with all readiness of mind. If men have no love for truth, but have their pleasure in unrighteousness, God will send a strong delusion that they may believe a lie and be damned. **(2 Thess. 2:10-12)** The lake of fire is for the unbelievers as well as for the liars. **(Rev. 21:8)** The flaming fire of vengeance is for those who know not God as well as for those who obey not the gospel. **(2 Thess. 1:8-9)**

Many men say they appreciate the Bible and believe it to be the word of God, but they remain babes in knowledge. They evidently do not desire the milk or the meat of the word. They are without excuse for their lack of skill in the use of this great discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Ignorance is alarming even among those who should be teachers. **(Heb. 5:12-13)** They are not rooted and grounded, but they are as unstable and as easily tossed about by the winds of doctrine as the wave of the sea by the winds of the storm cloud. **(Eph. 4:14)** The wave is fastened by nothing. The willingly ignorant are in no position to give an answer to those who may ask a reason for their hope. **(1 Peter 3:15)**

### ***AWAKE FROM SLEEP***

The night is far spent. **(Rom. 13:11-12)** It is high time for America to awake to righteousness. The atomic bomb is not the only thing that can destroy America. The increasing number of burning, looting, angry

anarchists can do it. It may now be too late to preserve this land as a land of opportunity for the free. It is not too late to try to save it.

The gospel was not given to make America or any other country great. Christ came to seek and save the lost. **(Luke 19:10)** The gospel is God's power to salvation, but, as a by-product, Christians receive a hundred fold in this life. Their righteous lives are as the saving and lighting influence in a crooked and perverse nation. **(Phil. 2:15)** This nation needs salt.

Let more people meditate on the law day and night. **(Psa. 1:2)** This is our way up from the gutter in which we now find ourselves. The church is in distress, the nation is in confusion, and the world is in turmoil. What can help? The profitable word always leads to the abundant life here and here after. It is the word of God. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" **(Rom. 11:33)** We need to open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things in His law. Is there anything more important for us?

- By Irven Lee