

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jim Abram, Reagan Cunningham, Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Kirk Marschall, Butch Morgan (*has been advised not to drive*), Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland, Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead.

*Our friends and family:* Susan Bebbly (*Bucky Day's sister diagnosed with cancer*) Joe Brown, Diane Anderson (*Linda's sister*), Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*shut-in*), Marian Church (*has been sick lately*), Jim Fields (*Keri Rice's dad recovering well*), Brian James (*cancer has reappeared*) Shelby Sprott, Ardis Tucker, Bobbie Walker (*Marian Church's daughter; also, Marian's sister-in-law*).

**Ladies' Bible Class:** The next ladies' Bible class is going to be on January 11th at Christine Ryland's home (7PM). In preparation, please study lesson number XII (12) that begins on page # 78 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (See the sign-up sheet in the foyer)

**Afternoon Singing:** Our next afternoon sing will be on January 10th at 5pm (Next week).

**Kid's Review Class:** January 10th, shortly after the evening worship service in room # 7 (Also next week).

**Out of Town:** The Sadler families have been in North Carolina to the Browns in moving.

**Group Meeting:** Group (1) meets tonight after worship.

**Newborn Baby News:** Let us continue in prayer for the Lawson family (*Eddie & Rowena*), and seek to encourage them with the addition of their newborn daughter. Leah Kendall Lawson was born on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, at 11:46pm. She weighed 6lbs 13oz, and was 19.5inches at birth. Congratulations, and may their child be faithfully trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 1/6/16**

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham  
 Opening Prayer: Wayne Ryland  
 Invitation: OPEN  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Paul Lloyd

**Sunday Evening: 1/10/16**

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan  
 Parking Lot: David Williams  
 Recordings: Jim Elliot  
 Usher: David Williams

**Sunday Morning: 1/10/16**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)  
 Clay Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Norm Balckburn  
 Bucky Day  
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson

Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Nick Ross  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Ed Lawson  
 (9:50) Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Jim Elliot  
 Usher: Jerry Williams



**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)

**ELDERS**

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405  
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378  
 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

***Happy New Year!***

2015 is now in the books. We've entered a new calendar year, and many (I'm sure) have already made some big resolutions. Hopefully, you have also taken a look at the past year & have taken stock of your spiritual wellness. Reflecting on the year gone by, let's stay determined in making some adjustments.

Thinking about the last year, has your relationship to God and Jesus Christ improved? Something to think about along those lines may be for us to examine *how often* it is that we pray. And in doing so, how often do we *express* our *thanksgiving* to God? Also, have we been *fervent* in our prayers? Has our "prayer life" improved, or digressed, over the last year? How about listening to God through faithfully reading His word? Can we say that we drew nearer to God last year if we have not been dutifully communicating with Him? *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:8-10)*

How about your relationships with our *brethren* over the last year? Has your love for the brethren improved over the course of 2015? We really should ask ourselves, “*Are we closer to one another that we were a year ago?*” “*Have I invited others into my home?*” “*Have I gone to others’ residence when they offered a chance for me to visit?*” I know that many of you here are *so very* hospitable, and truly seek to grow in your relationships toward other faithful brethren. However, we *can all improve* in manifesting our love for one another. The apostle Paul sought for the brethren in Thessalonica to grow in that very way, even though they’d been doing a good job up to the point in which he wrote, “*But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; <sup>10</sup> and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;*” (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

Another area in which we can take stock would be for us to consider how our relationships have im-

proved/ digressed/ or stalemated with our *neighbors* over the last year. As New Testament Christians, we bear an important responsibility toward those within the world - who are without Christ. Are we influencing others around about us positively? Are we developing meaningful relationships with them? Are we allowing Christ to *be seen* in our manner of living? Have we been communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are lost in their sins?? God expects for us to have a positive influence on all that we come into contact with. Jesus says, “*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* (Matthew 5:13-15)

When looking over the last year, have we made good use of the time God has given us -- or have we squandered it? As I go into 2016, I’m reminded of the fact that I am one

year closer to the day of my death, or to the day the Lord returns. *We are all closer now* to the day in which we will stand before the Lord in judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10). It is likely that we all have plenty a room to grow in the areas we’ve considered; but my goal is to encourage us in making better use of the time we have left, and to prepare us for the day of reckoning that awaits us all (James 4:13-15; Ephesians 5:15-16). Be encouraged by the example of Paul, “*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.*” (Philippians 3:13-15)

Pressing forward into this year, many have resolutions in which *we want* to stick with, but I encourage us all to consider these simple ones, also. May we be determined to draw near to God by faithfully reading our Bibles daily, by being more diligent in prayer, and by genuinely being a

more thankful people. May we too, resolve to grow closer to our brethren & being more hospitable to one another. May we also determine to show our neighbors true gentleness & kindness, and seek to build *meaningful* relationships with them that will foster opportunities to share the gospel of Christ.

These suggestions are simple, but if we implement them earnestly; I really do believe *they will go a long way* in producing the kind of lifestyle that is becoming of sincere Christians. May we abound more and more in our daily efforts to glorify God, love one another, and become a blessing to our community. Amen.

*All Bible quotations provided by the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.*

- Ian Rice