

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Kelly Cochran, the Day family, Betty Eubanks (*out of town*), Mary Henderson, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Rowena Lawson (*new convert*), Paul Lloyd, Steph Marschall (*bulging herniated disc*), Leon Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, the Ross family, Wayne Ryland, Ken Turner & Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead.

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

Ladies' Bible Class: The ladies' Bible class will take a break during the summer months, and pick back up in the fall.

Out of Town: Jordan Lawson, Charles & Vernita Goodall, David & Kyoko Williams, and Audrey Davis. Keri Rice's flight was cancelled Thursday, so she will be flying back home tonight.

Bible Class Review: The next review class for the kids will be June 5th (*next week*), shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

Afternoon Singing: The next afternoon singing will be June 12th at 5pm.

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

Area Meetings: There summer series to be held every Thursday night at the Lutz Church of Christ begins this week. Please see the announcement flyers in the foyer for details.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 6/1/16

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Invitation: OPEN
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: OPEN
 Recordings: Nick Ross
 Usher: Ian Rice

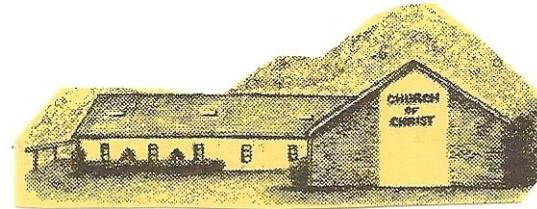
Sunday Evening: 6/5/16

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Larry Wisdom
 Lord's Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Bob Marschall

Sunday Morning: 6/5/16

Lord's Table: Mike Sadler (B)
 Trent Stevens (C)
 Serving: Bucky Day
 Norm Blackburn
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Joe Brown
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: David Williams
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Bob Marschall



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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ELDERS

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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
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Five Reasons to Remain Positive

We are to “rejoice always”, yet sometimes the troubles of this life get the best of us. Although trials do come, there will always be more reasons than not for us to remain joyful. I do not propose we begin ignoring the issues in our lives; nevertheless, here are five reasons for maintaining a positive mindset!

As a Child of God – I am SO Blessed!

I have every reason to be happy and thankful for my relationship with God, as all spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Eph. 1). To reflect on that should bring about within me an earnest thanksgiving. Maybe we can be more grateful for all that we do have - instead of dwelling upon what we perceive is lacking? As the Psalmist says, “*Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation!*” (Psalms 68:19). Recognize the blessings in our lives, and we’ll express our gratitude more appropriately, “*giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Ephesians 5:20). I will to focus more on the things that bring about true happiness, brethren. What did Paul tell his brothers and sisters...? “*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report,*

if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9) As children of God, we are the most blessed people on earth!

Things WILL Get Better

Even if you (or a loved one) suffer through hardship, we still have reason to rejoice. God does not promise a life of ease for the Christian, but He does promise a better day in the hereafter. Think of how God, through the prophet Jeremiah, told His people of the things in store for those who would faithfully endure. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11-12). A future and a hope! Thoughts of peace! Those are thoughts the Lord also has for YOU and ME!! Though we may not have all we "want" sometimes, God *always* provides His faithful ones with the tools *needed* to accomplish His will, as Paul wrote, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) We have all we need spiritually; and though troubles do come in this life, Jesus wills for us to not grow dismayed. He told His disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.² In My Father's house

are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:1-2) If you are having difficulty facing your struggles, trust that things WILL get better. In His time.

Remember – God Loves YOU

Are you your own worst critic? Do you ever beat yourself up (mentally & emotionally)? Maybe you just feel insecure sometimes. Unatoned sins in your life may cause one to have a troubled conscience. If that be the case, then seek God's conditions of pardon. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) Maybe an aching conscience is not what's ailing you right now. Have you merely have fallen on "hard times"? Have you grown discouraged by life's circumstances? Perhaps your hearts purest desires have been unfulfilled?! Whatever the case may be, understand that God loves you like no one else can! There is nothing that a spouse, your brethren, or anyone can do for you -- more than God Himself! Sometimes we simply need to remember -- that God loves and cares for us. As our Creator, He knows our hearts desires -- even better than we do ourselves! "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)

What's the Worst that can Happen?

Stressing over things beyond your control? Do you look at situations and sometimes "play out in your mind" all of the potential disastrous outcomes... Wringing your hands in the anxious expectation of the *inevitable*? Whatever is on your mind, never lose faith in the Lord's command of every situation. Next time you think of how bad things "might get", remember the comfort provided for those who would literally suffer the loss of life and limb. "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39) Christians in the first century remained faithful in the direst of circumstances. With that in mind, I can do a much better job of keeping my "problems" in perspective. What's the worst that can happen, brethren? Even if we are one day called upon to die for our faith, we will have an eternal reward in heaven!!

Opportunities to Help

Want a better sense of self-worth? Want provide a positive difference in the lives of others? Then reach and help someone! Jesus said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is

the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12) Not only will you support others when reaching out to those who are in need — it'll do *you* some good, also. Even if all we can do is to provide others with words of encouragement, the truly grateful recipients will warm your heart in return. When a genuine servant's mentality is manifested (Philippians 2), we all benefit! The next time you wish to be uplifted, think of the next person... They need uplifting, too! I really do believe that some of the best connections we make are born out of the simplest expressions of concern for one another. Let us take better advantage of those opportunities.

These are matters to incorporate into our thinking, in order that we remain optimistic. I pray that they will help us all, brethren. We have so much to be thankful for! Therefore, "Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.²⁰ Do not despise prophecies.²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-21)

(All Bible quotations taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible)

-Ian Rice