

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Brecken Cunningham (*good news received on test results*), Betty Eubanks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Paul Lloyd, Leon Miller (*hip*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Wayne Ryland (*admitted to hospital; family asks for no visitors*), and Ken & Arlene Turner.

Our family and friends: Leon and Ruth have requested prayer of behalf of *David Paladino's family*, who just passed away last week. Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Sbut-in*), Diane Fields (*Keri Rice's mom*), Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), Denise Jacobs (*Jim Abram's sister*), Rowena Lawson's mother, Ardis Tucker (*now at Arbor Hills, room # 221*), and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law is now in critical condition & in need of a heart transplant*).

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, Charles and Meaghan Rawdon.

Bible Class Review: The next kid's review class will be October 2nd, shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

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

Gospel Meeting (s): The Brandon Church of Christ has a meeting planned for Sept. 11-14; South Bumby the 11th-14th (*both this week*); and the Plant City Church of Christ has a meeting planned for Sept. 25th-30th. Our meeting will be here before you know it. Terry Benton will hold a meeting with us from October 16th through the 21st. Mark your calendar.

Congratulations! The Ross family was blessed last week in welcoming a new addition to their family! Nola James Ross was born on 9-7-16 at 4:40pm; was 7lb 6oz; and 20 3/4 inch. long!

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/14/16

Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Invitation: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 9/18/16

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: OPEN
 Recordings: Nick Ross
 Usher: Bucky Day

Sunday Morning: 9/18/16

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)
 Trent Stevens (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Eddie Lawson
 Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Nick Ross
 Usher: Bucky Day



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

A Factious Man

"A factious man after a first and second admonition refuse; knowing that such a one is perverted, and sinneth, being self-condemned." (**Tit. 3:10, 11**). The factious man is a promoter of strife, a sower of discord among brethren. The symptoms are uniform. He is purblind to his own faults, but meticulous in his demands on others. He will lead his ass to water on the Sabbath and be "filled with madness" at Jesus for restoring a withered hand on the same day. He is usually energetic with tongue and pen, in the interest of his factious plans. Laziness is not one of his sins. Berkeley says: "The factious man is apt to mistake himself for a patriot." In religion he is apt to mistake himself for a martyr when he encounters opposition.

"Such a one is perverted." A state of unsoundness exists in him. If he is not exactly rotten, he has deteriorated until he doesn't smell good. He is to be avoided. It is useless to argue with him. The spirit of faction has upset his reason. It is perverted also. He is apt to answer argument with insult. One or two admonitions is as much as you can risk on him. A bird hunter often sees his fine pointer dog wal-

low in the putrid remains of some carcass. It seems to be natural with the brute. He is soon thereafter slapped away when he jumps up on his master. Should a man act as does the dog, it would indicate a perverted or depraved taste. A factious man is perverted. He is forever messing with things he ought not to. You need not be his enemy, but it is a splendid idea to avoid him for reasons that are spiritually sanitary.

"Such a one sinneth." It is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. God says so, and it is his will that they do so. "There are six things which Jehovah hateth; yea, seven which are an abomination unto him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that deviseth wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (**Prov. 6:16-19**). "He that soweth discord among brethren" is in dangerous company. He is an abomination to God along with murderers and fellows. How hideous is sin! Paul numbers "enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions," among "the works of the flesh," and says "that they who practice such things shall not

inherit the kingdom of God." (**Gal. 5:19-21**.) The church is the body of Christ. It is a precious thing. "The body is one," and "there should be no schism in the body." God will not deal gently with the man who rends ugly and painful wounds in the body of Christ. Such a one sinneth."

"Such a one is self-condemned." His own conduct condemns him, and his guilt is apparent to all observers except himself and those blinded by his influence. He and they mistake his party zeal for holiness unto the Lord. They are self-deceived as well as self-condemned. Give a factious enough rope and he will hang himself, which would be all right, if he didn't manage to hang others with him who were not wise enough to avoid him. His own bitterness and rancor condemn him. A factious man is often a mean man. He will do anything or tell anything to accomplish his unholy purposes. "But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth. This wisdom is not a wisdom that cometh down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed." (**James 3:14-16**.)

Christ promises blessings upon the peacemakers, not the troublemakers. Christians must seek peace and pursue it. It is worth hunting for and running after. "So then let us follow after the things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another." (**Rom. 14:19**.) "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace." (**James 3:17,18**.) "Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord: looking carefully lest there be any man that falleth short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby the many be defiled." (**Heb. 12:14, 15**.)

A root of bitterness is a poison plant. Should one come up in my yard and my child should eat of it and become poisoned, I would dig up the poison thing and cast it away. And I would look carefully for signs of more like it. Factious and profane men are troublesome and poisonous in a church. They should be dug up before they go to seed.

- by Cled E. Wallace

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

- ◇ Jesus taught obedience (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Matt. 28:20)
- ◇ Jesus taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins (John 10:31-39)
- ◇ He taught repentance (Luke 13:3; 24:46-47)
- ◇ He taught confessing Him before others (Matthew 10:32-33)
- ◇ He taught baptism as a necessity (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:5)
- ◇ He teaches faithfulness unto death (Revelation 2:10)