

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Jim & Mary Elliot (*taking care of Jim's ailing sister*), Mary Henderson, Linda James, Yvonne Jordan, Paul Lloyd (*Still at LRMC in room B512; going to rehab facility this week*), Leon Miller (*been sick*), and Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Tammy Sadler (*been sick*).

Family and friends: Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's Reynold's daughter*), Roger Church (*Marian's husband*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan (*Yvonne Jordan's husband*), and Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*).

Out of Town: Larry & Cindy Hicks, Colby Sadler, Paula Sullivan, and Jim Abram.

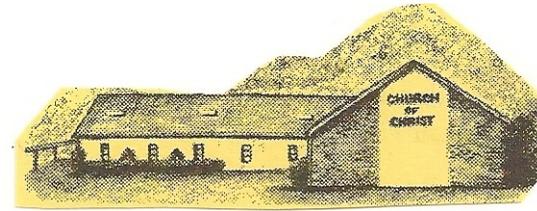
Group Meeting: Group 2 will meet next week after the evening worship service.

Ladies Bible Class: The last class of the season will meet May 8th at Keri Rice's home (@ 7PM). In preparation, please study lesson XI that begins on page # 155 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Kids' Review: Class will be May 7th, shortly after the evening worship service.

Fourth Sunday: Next Sunday will be the fourth Sunday of the month; Clay Sadler will present the sermon during our pm worship service.

Gospel Meeting: The Fortune Road Church of Christ will have a gospel meeting next Sunday-Wednesday (*April 23-26*), with Tommy Hagedwood of Leesburg, Florida. Please see flyer in the foyer for more details (*Mon-Wed times begin at 7:30*).



**Lakeland Hills
Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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
Michael Sadler
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

The Easter Holiday

Today, most all denominational churches will be having Easter sunrise services. Many families will be attending a religious service for the first and only time this year. Easter is supposed to be a holy day "celebrating" the resurrection of Christ. While the resurrection of Christ is of great significance, as we will note later in this article, there is just no biblical authority for us to be observing Easter in our worship of God today.

Jesus has authorized a weekly memorial of His death—the Lord's Supper. In the New Testament, the Lord's church observed this memorial each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Thus, we must follow the pattern of what was instituted by our Lord. In this memorial, Jesus gave thanks for the bread which represents His body that was given/broken in His death; then He gave thanks for the fruit of the vine which represents His blood that was shed in His death. We must follow His example in giving thanks for the bread and cup as we partake in remembrance of Him each first day of the week. In fact, the Apostle Paul said, "For **as often** as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death (emp. mine, rje) till He

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 4/19/17

Song Leader: OPEN
Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall
Invitation: Trent Stevens
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Joe Brown
Recordings: Clay Sadler
Usher: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 4/23/17

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall
Lord's Table: Jordan Lawson
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
Recordings: Trent Stevens
Usher: Jerry Williams

Sunday Morning: 4/23/17

Lord's Table: Jordan Lawson (B)
Trent Stevens (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
Nick Ross
Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: David Williams
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
Recordings: Keith Marschall
Usher: Gus Johnson

comes" (1 Cor. 11: 26). See Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26.

The word "Easter", as found in Acts 12:4 in the King James Version, is actually a flagrant mistranslation. It was never used in the original scriptures. Albert Barnes, a noted Presbyterian commentator said, "There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this." (Barnes Notes on the New Testament, Acts, p. 190) The original Greek word here is "pascha" which means "Passover". Most all other Bible translations correctly read "Passover" in Acts 12:4. The Passover celebration did exist under the Law of Moses, but we no longer live under that law today (Gal. 2:14-16; 4:10-11; Col. 2:14-17). The term "Easter" is of Saxon origin, Eastre, and can be traced back to a Teutonic goddess of Spring and fertility, named Eostre. Pagans offered sacrifices to this goddess during the month of April. Many of the modern customs associated with Easter (the same as with Christmas) are rooted in pagan traditions and practices. As it relates to Easter, here are a few examples: Eggs—a symbol of fertility; Easter bunny—a symbol of life and reproduction in great numbers. The celebration of Easter, as we know it today, can be traced back to the Roman Emperor, Constantine, and

Roman Catholicism during the fourth century. This was a time when they would transfer pagan gods, practices, traditions, and customs by simply giving them a "Christian" significance or name. The exact time for the celebration of Easter led to many long and bitter controversies. At the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., it was ruled that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. This is still followed today. The date for the celebration of Easter varies between March 22 - April 25. (I suspect that the average person is not aware of the above bits of information. To obtain a thorough background and history of the pagan origins of Easter, you can refer to major encyclopedias, the internet, Bible dictionaries and commentaries.)

In the Bible, we do not read of any of the following which are associated with Easter, such as: Mardi Gras, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter Sunday. There is no authority found in the new covenant for an annual celebration of any kind.

Let us make sure we are not misunderstood. Are we saying that the bodily resurrection of Christ is insignificant?

Absolutely not! It is the crowning point of proving that Jesus was who He claimed to be— "and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4). The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart and core of the gospel—see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. If Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we would have no hope of being raised from the dead, and as stated by the Apostle Paul— "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable" (1 Cor. 15:19). Also, it must be noted that when we are baptized into Christ for the remission of our sins, it is in the likeness of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ—see Romans 6:1-6.

While individual Christians may choose to enjoy some of the Easter customs—hunting eggs, baskets of candy, new clothes, etc.,—there is no authority for Christians or the church to be celebrating this man-made holiday ("holy day") as spiritual, religious service unto God. By doing so, we would be engaging in that which is unauthorized in Scripture, and would be much like those Paul wrote to in Galatians 4:10-11: "You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have labored for you in vain."

- by R.J. Evans

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)