

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Karen Berry (*accident*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Donna Brown (*recent hospitalization due to heart-beat irregularity*), Marian Church (*neck and back*), Mildred Church (*recovering from fall last week*), Sunny Day (*sick*), Charles Goodall, Linda James (*on-going medical; will have procedure this week*), Yvonne Jordan (*knee replacement, family illnesses*), Paul Lloyd (*back, ongoing medical*), Neil Miller (*back*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), and Ken Turner (*in physical therapy*).

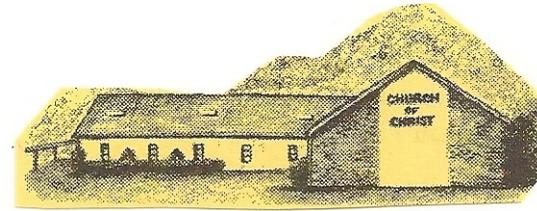
Our family and friends: Randy Brown (*Bonnie Meagher's nephew*), Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's Reynold's daughter*), Rex Coe (*Joe Anderson's nephew*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hick's father, ongoing medical*), Plen Hicks (*Larry's brother fell and broke his hip*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan (*Yvonne Jordan's husband*), Wayne Ryland (*hip, ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*), Lourdes Villalobos (*Rowena Lawson's mother*), Bob Waldron (*ongoing medical*), Phil Wharton (*Paula Sullivan's brother-in-law, heart*), Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law, heart surgery*).

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

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Ladies Bible Class: Ladies' Bible will be held tomorrow (*Monday, December 12th*) at Audrey Davis' home (*@ 7PM*). In preparation, please study lesson number VI that begins on page # 126 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Song Service: This Wednesday evening (*December 7th*) will be our 1st Wednesday night singing.



**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
Michael Sadler
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

When Tragedy Strikes

What exactly does one say to another when tragedy strikes? We all wish that we had the perfect words that will appropriately capture what everyone is feeling, words that will comfort and encourage even the most down-trodden. We want to come up with deep statements about how "this is life" and "here is what you should be thinking at this time." The reality is that we feel at a loss, unable to speak what we are feeling deep inside, unable to communicate what we think those who are suffering need to hear when likely they don't want to hear anything at all. Bumper sticker philosophy and theology hardly provides much comfort when our hearts have been torn by real tragedy. Likely, the silence before we speak is going to be the most profound and appropriate response, at least initially.

Job's friends understood this at first. When Job suffered his astounding tragedies, one after the other and no break between, his three friends

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 12/14/16

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
Opening Prayer: David Williams
Invitation: Jeremy Wharton
Announcements: Mike Sadler
Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
Recordings: Trent Stevens
Usher: Bucky Day

Sunday Evening: 12/18/16

Song Leader: Nick Ross
Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: David Williams
Recordings: Clay Sadler
Usher: Jerry Williams

Sunday Morning: 12/18/16

Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton (B)
Jerry Williams (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
Jordan Lawson
Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: David Williams
Recordings: Clay Sadler
Usher: Gus Johnson

came to comfort him. For a full week they sat there with him in silence, unable to capture in words what they were witnessing and unwilling to say what they were thinking. Yet it was during this time that they were their wisest and the most comforting to Job, for after they began speaking, Job could only say that they were miserable comforters.

Silence is sometimes the best response. Once we have had time to reflect, however, we usually can find important lessons that will be embedded in our minds from then on. If we can learn those lessons, then we can be the better for it.

When the Twin Towers in New York City were taken down by terrorists, people were in shock. It was an unbelievable event. Nearly three thousands lives were taken in one day, and the heart of the United States country was struck hard. What were we going to demonstrate that we were made of? For a time, there was a pulling together of the citizens. More importantly, there was a general recognition of the need to turn to God. Sadly, much of that faded over

the years, but this is why we need to be reminded of difficult events and the lessons that come out of them.

When tragedy strikes, we are forced to consider several important issues:

1. Why? It is not trite to say that sin has caused the tragic problems of this world. Once sin came into this world, everything changed. Everything became subject to futility (**Rom 8:20**). The mark left by sin is tragic and ugly. This is the reason the gospel is such an important part of our understanding.

2. The Relative Value of Material stuff. What does it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose our souls? (**Matt 16:24-27**) Losing stuff isn't as much a problem when we put it into perspective.

3. The Value of Loved Ones. People are always more important than things. When tragedy strikes, we look for the people we love first. This is as it should be.

4. The Value of Time. Tragedy will force us to prioritize our time, reconsider how we are using it, and try to use it wisely from then on (**Eph. 5:15-17**).

5. Our Relationship with God. Must we be reminded that there is no more important relationship than that with God? Will we use tragic events as an excuse to run from God, or will we use them to draw closer to Him? (**Psalm 73**)

6. The Importance of Eternity. What we can see is temporary; what we cannot see is eternal. Therefore, we must look to the eternal and recognize that our real goal is to please God because one day we will be brought to judgment (**2 Cor. 4:16-5:10**).

7. Our Perspective on Everything. How will we react to difficult times? What will we say to others? What will we do to cope? Will we pray? Will we meditate on God's word? Or will we be anxious, worried, and troubled? See what Jesus says about worry and anxiety in **Matthew 6:24-33**. How much we are willing to trust God speaks volumes about how we deal

with matters that cause anxiety. That may be "easier said than done," but it is the perspective we are taught to embrace.

Terrorism. Natural disasters. Crimes. Heartaches at every turn. What does it take to wake us up and make sure that we are right with God?

Tell your family that you love them. Quit the quibbling and fighting. Who cares who started what? Let's get over ourselves and seek the welfare of one another. Let us humble ourselves before God and make sure that our priorities are where they should be.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (**Col. 3:1-4**).

- Doy Moyer