

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Henderson, Linda James (*shut in*), Shawn and Francesca Johnson (*in need of encouragement*), Yvonne Jordan, Paul Lloyd, Kirk Marschall, Ahrea (*her sister, Nancy Delong, recently died of a heart attack*) & Neil Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), and Danielle Sheffield (*nearing end of pregnancy; has had various complications*).

Family and friends: Tonya Bryan (*Dottie Reynold's daughter*), Laurence Cutts (*recovering from recent stroke*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Ver-nita's son*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*in the hospital; heart issue*), Lisa Ross (*Robyn Day & Nick Ross' mother*), Wayne Ryland (*medical*), and Ardis Tucker.

Out of Town: Bob & Stef Marschall (*back July 8th*) are out of town. The Rice family will be traveling this afternoon to High Springs, Florida (*& will be back Saturday*).

Group Meeting: Group 1 will meet tonight after the evening worship service.

Kids' Review: Class will be *July 16th* in classroom number 7, shortly after the evening worship service.

Preaching: Ronnie Henderson will preach during the PM worship service this evening.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/5/17

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Invitation: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Bob Marschall

Sunday Evening: 7/9/17

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 7/9/17

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)
 Jordan Lawson (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Clay Sadler
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.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
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“Dealing with Flattery”

An article in the October, 2016, AARP Bulletin revealed the efforts of casinos to urge senior citizens to gamble. How do they do that? One tactic in particular: "Casino hosts often lavish personal attention on high-rolling older charges, asking about their health, reminding them to take their medicine and eating meals with them ... For older people, the host becomes their friend, giving them attention they may not be getting from their children or friends" (20). Melynda Litchfield, who lost her life savings by compulsive gambling, says, "They gave me so much personal attention and TLC that you get the false impression these people — who are milking away all of your money — actually care about you" (ibid). That's a pretty good working definition of flattery.

The Flatterer

Flattery is more than an insincere compliment. It is the attempt to take advantage of someone by lying to gain their confidence. For example, Proverbs refers to the "seductress who flatters with her words" (2:16; 7:5). "With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him" (7:21). The flatterer's only interest in their target is to use them as leverage for selfish gain.

Sadly, there are some in local churches who act this way. Paul says of those who cause divisions, "For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). Thayer defines eulogia in this context as "language artfully adapted to captivate the hearer." Those intent on stirring up strife inevitably try to sway others to their side in order to build an influential base. The sweet talk used to woo the naïve often turns vicious when addressing their opponents.

The Flattered

Who among us has not been taken in by a flatterer? Perhaps we were talked into buying something we didn't need by a smooth-talking salesman. Or maybe we were persuaded to do something ill-advised by a flattering friend. What makes us vulnerable to flattery? In a word, pride. Flattery is an appeal to the pleasure of hearing good things spoken about one-self. And in the euphoria of praise we easily conclude that someone so astute as to recognize our superior qualities can't be all bad! This can be something as inane as complementing our appearance. No doubt the seductress mentioned above preyed on her male victims by appeals to vanity (which she uses with the next dupe, and the next, and the next ...). Or we might be told how great we are as parents, or how wisely we handled a business deal, or ...

So How Do We Combat This Particular Brand Of Lying?

- 1) Don't flatter. Don't inflate praise to gain an advantage. That advantage may appear small: defusing an awkward situation or appeasing a critic. Stick with the truth. Praise others, but mean it.
- 2) Don't be a sucker. Insecurity leads to vulnerability. Make God's approval your first priority. We all want to be liked and acknowledged for our good qualities. But don't be so taken with yourself that the flatterer can manipulate you via insincere praise.
- 3) Be honest. Is someone going overboard in their praise? Are they giving undeserved complements? Do they mean it? Or are you in a situation where the other will benefit from your good will? In congregational strife there is always the ringleader or instigator, and there is the supporting cast. Don't be in either category.

- By Jim Jonas

"My Prayer"

Lord, help me never to become callous of heart. Help me to be sensitive to the pains and hurts of others. Let me feel a genuine thrill on truly thrilling occasions: when two young Christians are joined in marriage; when some young man preaches his first gospel sermon, or when some new convert leads his first prayer; when a newborn baby cries, or when some elderly person successfully passes one more milestone in his life; when a sinner responds to be baptized, or when a brother returns.

Lord, I do not want to shut out from my own life the sorrows of others. Make me to weep when tears are in order: when a doctor has just given a frightening report; when parents grieve over their delinquent child; when tears flow from the eyes of a motherless child, or of a childless mother; when a struggling brother or sister has slipped back into sin; when a man has just been forsaken by the wife of his youth; when all hope seems gone among those who had hoped.

Help me to be excited over the successes of others: when someone achieves something that I've never been able to achieve; when some worthy man is appointed an elder of the church; when someone's son is graduated with honors;

when some couple moves into that long awaited new home; when some young man's preaching ability has obviously surpassed mine. Above all, Lord, don't let me be jealous.

Lord, help me to be like Thee: compassionate, kind, merciful, gracious, slow to anger, plenteous in mercy, touched with the feeling of others' infirmities, able to weep, ready to rejoice, emotional, loving. Let me deny self, and esteem others better than myself.

And, Lord, let me never become hardened to sin. Help me to hate sin, to weep blinding tears over my own sins, to maintain a conscience void of offense. May I be repulsed and grieved over the sins of others.

Lord, help me never to become callous of heart, for should I do so, I could no longer render effective service to Thee or to my fellow man, and I would forfeit all hope of real happiness, both in this life and in that which is to come.

- By Bill Hall