

**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*), Linda James (*shut in*), Shawn and Francesca Johnson (*in need of encouragement*), Yvonne Jordan, Paul Lloyd, Kirk Marschall, Ahrea Miller (*recovering/ rehabilitation from hip surgery at Wedgewood*), Neil Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, Colton Sadler, Suzette Stevens, Arlena Turner, and Ken Turner.

*Family and friends:* Tonya Bryan (*Dottie Reynold's daughter*), Roger Church (*Marian's husband*), Laurence Cutts (*recovering from recent stroke*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son*), Denise Jacobs, Brian James (*cancer*), Lisa Ross (*Robyn Day & Nick Ross' mother*), Wayne Ryland (*medical*), and Ardis Tucker (*admitted to LRMC last week with pneumonia and congestive heart failure*).

**Out of Town:** Bob & Stef Marschall and the Ross family are out of town.

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

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

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 6/14/17**

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
 Invitation: Jordan Lawson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Keith Marschall  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

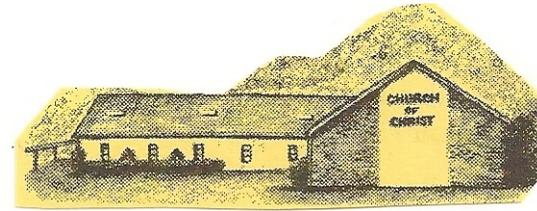
**Sunday Evening: 6/18/17**

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

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**Sunday Morning: 6/18/17**

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: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**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

***But What If They Won't Be Drawn?***

“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die.” John 12:31-33

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Rom. 1:16

What wonderful news—the crucified Lord is to draw all to Himself and His gospel is God's power to save! Yet some are not interested in the gospel and feel no need for Jesus in their lives, for the lifted up Christ and His teachings do not appeal to them. So what are we to do? This is an is-sue of real concern to all who care about the lost, who constitute the vast majority of people around us, often including friends and family. People are headed down the broad way and seem to have no interest in the message we are proclaiming, so what are we to do?

Many, with all good intentions, have largely given up on reaching the souls of men and have come to emphasize providing for the physical needs of people. They stress ministering to the homeless, helping the poor, bringing about social justice, etc. Certainly every Christian should do good as he has opportunity (Gal. 6:10), but this is never pictured as the kind of work New Testament churches did. In fact, as collective bodies their benevolent activities were limited to relieving the needs of saints (Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-31; et al). Though Christians on an individual basis may give assistance to anyone, to lose our emphasis on the salvation of souls is to forget the very reason Jesus came to the earth (Luke 19:10) and to fail to supply that which people need most. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26

Others are still very interested in reaching the lost and saving their souls, but because those whom they seek to reach seem disinterested in the gospel, they begin by trying to soften the hearts of the lost and create an opening for the gospel through things they know to be appealing to people. Rather than simply holding forth the crucified Christ, they offer food, fun, and "fellowship" as a means of attracting one to the church assemblies or creating an opportunity to talk about Jesus. While we do not question the motives of many of those

who have turned to such attractants, we do strongly question the biblical validity of offering food and fun as evangelistic tools.

First, we have no record of any church or individual using food and games as "door openers." Study carefully Acts and its accounts of conversion, and you will find people preaching the word, reasoning in the synagogues, teaching publicly and privately, talking of God in the market, etc., but you won't find any indication they appealed to the flesh in seeking to save souls.

Second, shouldn't we learn something about the carnality of this approach from Jesus' refusal to provide more loaves and fishes in John 6? The day before, while the Lord had miraculously fed a great multitude, He had not enticed them with the promise of being fed. However, the next day when they came and made it clear they expected to be fed again (John 6:26, 30, 31), Jesus refused to feed them and told them they had missed the point of the previous day's miracle.

"Jesus answered them and said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.'" John 6:26, 27

The feeding of the 5,000 on the previous day was intended as a sign; i.e. evidence that would point them to Jesus as the Son of God and the One who could give them the true bread of life, but they had missed it. All they seemed to see in Jesus was One who could fill their bellies and He refused to accommodate them. When that day ended, Jesus had not offered more or better food, but simply watched as the carnally minded "went back and walked with Him no more" (John 6:66).

Closely related to this is the approach that so fears people turning away that it ends up failing to challenge people with the true demands of the gospel. While it is imperative we not bind what God has not bound (cf. Col. 2:20-23 with its manmade restrictions), are we not to do as Jesus who challenged the great multitudes following Him to bear the cross, count the cost, and forsake all (Luke 14:25-33)? Does our Lord really want us to soften the gospel that it accommodates those He compared to thorny ground? It is sad when the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life have more appeal to people than the crucified Lord, but Jesus would have us to continue to simply preach His word and allow men's hearts to determine their response. Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

If we are like our Lord we want all to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9), but if we believe our Lord we know it won't happen (Matt. 7:13, 14) and to change His gospel and its approach to make it happen is to be accursed.

"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:8, 9

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- John R. Gibson

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### ***"Leftovers"***

Leftovers are such humble things,  
We would not serve them to a guest,  
And yet we serve them to our Lord  
Who deserves the very best.  
We give Him leftover time,  
Stray minutes here and there,  
Leftover cash we give to Him,  
Such few coins as we can spare.  
We give our youth unto the world  
To hatred, lust and strife;  
Then in declining years we give  
To Him the remnant of our life.

- Author Unknown