

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*), Yvonne Jordan, Paul Lloyd (*will hopefully be going home on the 18th*), Ahrea Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), and Suzette Stevens.

Family and friends: Roger Church (*Marian's husband*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son*), Brian James (*cancer*), Lisa Ross (*Nick Ross' mother*), Wayne Ryland (*medical*), and Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*).

Out of Town: Charles and Vernita Goodall are out of town.

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

Ladies Bible Class: Will resume in the Fall.

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

Upcoming Meeting: The Trilacoochee Church of Christ will have a Gospel Meeting with Ian Rice, May 21th-26th (*Mon thru Fri services will begin at 7:30pm*).

Preaching: Ronnie Henderson will preach during the AM service, and Jordan Lawson will preach during the PM service next week.

New Addition: Congratulations to the Sadler family, who welcomed the birth of Colton Shane Sadler on Friday (*5-11-17*) at 12:30PM; 9 lbs., 13 oz.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 5/17/17

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Leon Miller

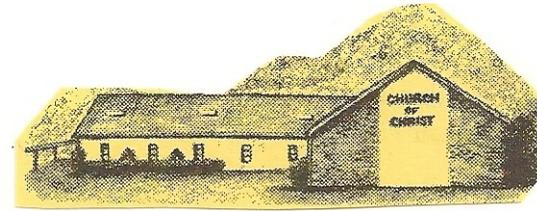
Sunday Evening: 5/21/17

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Lord's Table: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 5/21/17

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)
 Jordan Lawson (C)
 Serving: Keith Marschall
 Jim Abram
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

Instrumental Music in Worship

The Community church of Christ in Hendersonville, Tennessee began using it on special occasions -- via a CD recording. The Norway Avenue congregation in Huntington, West Virginia first started using praise teams to "capture the attention and imagination of young people" but has now moved to the use of instruments in order to "adapt appropriately to culture." The Max Lacado-led Oak Hills church in San Antonio refrains from the use of instruments on Sunday morning because of "the absence of instruments in New Testament churches," said Vic King, church minister of missions. Oak Hills, however, uses instruments on Sunday nights and other occasions.

These three congregations are indicative of a trend among progressive churches catering to cultural demands. It is not limited to these three or only to those seeking membership in trendy groups. I would encourage every gospel preacher to re-study this important question and address the subject with seriousness and resolve. It is not going to disappear but will become an issue that will disturb and divide brethren all over again. Could it be that we see a generation bearing the fruit of weak convictions because of a failure to sow the truth on this important subject?

The Key Issue: -- Have you tried to buy a gift for someone but had no idea what to purchase? You have two options: 1) you can pick something you like (no guarantee they will like it) or, 2) you can seek the advice of others with insight into the expressed will of the recipient. There is a big difference in the two approaches. We either buy what we want or we buy what they want. The same principle works when we offer gifts of praise to God. What is it that God wants?

After having read much of the current lines of argumentation justifying the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, it is apparent to me that it comes down to the age-old issue of selfishness. As one person said, "I want it because I like it." The me-first generation has spoken.

Six Essential Scriptures: -- 1 Cor. 2:9-13. It is impossible for you to know the mind of God unless it has been revealed. All of which means we must dispense with the "I think..." and focus on what the Author has expressed.

Eph. 3:1-4. God spoke, the apostles wrote, and we can read and understand. All of which means: if the apostles didn't write it and we can't read it, God doesn't want it. That's true whether you are discussing infant baptism or instrumental music.

1 Cor. 14:15. Written in the context of a worship assembly, Paul addresses two important parts of man's worship: praying and singing.

Eph. 5:17-19. Paul addresses the WHO: "speaking to one another" -- everyone is in-

involved, the WHAT" "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" -- not popular and pop songs, and the WHERE: "singing and making melody with your heart" -- the melody making instrument is specified.

Col. 3:16. We are to lift up our voices and sing with thankfulness.

Heb. 13:15. God tells us what He wants -- "the sacrifice of praise...the fruit of lips that give thanks..."

How anyone can read these verses and conclude that music in the early church was anything other than congregational and vocal is beyond my understanding. Did Paul make a mistake by not saying we should play with the understanding? Or did he accurately convey what God wanted?

The Principle Of Silence: -- I believe religiously minded people understand the principle of silence -- when they want to. If I propose to a nearby Christian Church that they add fish to the Lord's Supper because 1) the fish symbol reminds people of Jesus, 2) there is nothing inherently wrong with fish, and 3) the Bible doesn't specifically prohibit it, the arguments they would make against adding fish would be the same arguments I would make against adding play to sing. It is not any different. If you can "add" play to sing, I can "add" fish to the Lord's Supper.

Those who argue in favor of its use via Old Testament teaching display a Sadducean misunderstanding of Scripture (Matt. 22:29). By what authority (not to speak of logic) does

one choose flutes and harps (electric guitars and drums?) to the neglect of animal sacrifices and incense burning? Who gives you the right to pick and choose--unless...it really is all about me?

There is no instrument like the human voice. When saints gather and sing, as they ought, it produces a sound unequaled by any symphony. Shall we bring forth a mechanical reproduction or the real thing that God desires to hear? Will we worship as we will, or as He wills?

-By Wilson Adams

They're "Too Conservative"

Someone who was about to move into a new community happened to mention that they were giving consideration to attending a particular congregation in that area. Certain brethren warned, "Don't go there, they're too conservative!" What is meant by such an accusation?

Is it so that the brethren at that congregation have begun to teach things that are not found in the Bible? Are they binding certain traditions that are not in the Word of God? Are they insisting that others follow their own personal opinions in areas where they cannot find specific scriptural authority? If so, those brethren aren't really "conservative" at all! They are not "abiding in the doctrine of Christ" (2 Jn. 9). In a sense, they are actually "liberal" in their approach because they have ceased to produce "book, chapter, and verse" for their practices. Let their errors be fully exposed, and let brethren be rightfully warned about attending such a congregation.

In reality, it is far more likely that the church that was described as "too conservative" is actually a congregation that stresses strict adherence to Biblical authority. They probably insist that folks "do Bible things in Bible ways." There is most likely a strong emphasis on personal purity and morality. Constant reference is made to the Bible and its teachings, and members are encouraged to "come out from among them, and be ye separate" (2 Cor. 6:17). And while the positive, "feel good" aspects of Christianity are no doubt taught, the so-called "negative" themes - the warnings of the Scripture - are also included. False doctrines and false teachers are sometimes - by necessity - called by name just as in the first century (1 Tim. 1:18-20). Such an approach is not popular in the world today. Therefore some dismiss a congregation like this with the charge that they are "too conservative." What we are saying is that this accusation most often comes from weak, compromising Christians who themselves refuse to take a stand for the truth.

It is really impossible to be "too conservative." The moment a church violates scriptural authority - by either failing to uphold and practice the truth, or by binding what God has not bound - they have become "liberal" in God's eyes. Instead of throwing out prejudicial 'labels', give the evidence that a congregation is violating scriptural authority (Col. 3:17) and be ready to prove your allegations. Otherwise, we suggest you keep your opinions to yourself! Think!

- By Greg Gwin