

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Karen Berry, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church, Mildred Church, Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd, Brittany Payne (*was baptized into Christ last week!!*), Dottie Reynolds (*her nephew, Scott Stewart, passed away last week*), Brooke Staggers (*new convert*), Suzette Stevens.

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son's*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Congestive heart failure*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker.

Group Meeting: Group 2 is scheduled for tonight after the evening worship service (*but that'll depend on the weather*).

Kids' Review: Class was scheduled for *tonight* in classroom number 5, shortly after the evening worship service (*but may be postponed, depending on weather conditions*).

Out of Town: Ken and Diana Jordan.

Gospel Meeting: Our gospel meeting is next month (*October 15th-20th*) with Joseph Casimier. (*Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend every night*)

Ladies' Bible Class: The new schedule for the monthly ladies' class has been posted in the foyer. The first class is scheduled for October 9th.

Preaching Next Week: Ian Rice will be conducting a gospel meeting in Akron, Ohio next week. Therefore, Jordan Lawson (AM) and Mike Sadler (PM) will be preaching next Sunday (*Sept. 17th*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/13/17

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

Sunday Evening: 9/17/17

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Keith Marschall
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 9/17/17

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)
 Jordan Lawson (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Keith Marschall
 Song Leader: Joe Brown

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**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

“If It Ain’t Broke, Don’t Fix It”

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That's wise advice from the voice of experience. But men are inclined to alter things that are currently working pretty well, with the notion that they can make it better. Unfortunately, the opposite often happens. The machine that was running smoothly now won't function at all; the business enterprise that was successful and prospering now is losing money; the structure that once stood strong and tall is now in danger of collapsing.

Change, you see, is not always a good thing. Unfortunately, there are some folks that are never content with 'things as they are'. They are always seeking to do it in some new, different way. They frequently end up 'breaking' what wasn't 'broke' in the first place.

Nowhere is this urge to 'change' more potentially dangerous than in the Lord's church. But, for some reason, we have brethren who constantly push for changing things. To these people we would offer these observations:

If the way things are happen to be that way because God ordained it to be so, then we have absolutely no authority to be changing it. Period. Through the centuries, misguided men have brought in a host of innovations to God's simple plan for the worship, work, and organization of the church. ALL of them are wrong. Let us never be so presumptuous as to imagine we can change or improve on His design.

In matters of general authority — where our judgments in areas of expediency are allowed — it is typically the case that we've reached sound decisions based upon what 'works'. If you want to see it done in a different way, you need to be prepared to show why your way is better — not just different. We're not interested in 'fixing what ain't broke.'

Realize that 'change for change's sake' is usually not helpful. What are you seeking anyway? Do you hope for a subjective, emotional 'high' if we change the order of worship? Dim the lights? Sing more or different songs? Do you think you can artificially stimulate folks to deeper study if we alter the Bible class arrangement? Do you suppose that members will become more involved simply because some new scheme for personal work is proposed? Maybe. Per-

haps these things might work temporarily. But, of course, the underlying problems of the heart have not been addressed at all by these superficial 'changes'.

There is legitimate value to stability. We benefit from knowing how things are and how they will be. This is true in our homes, at school, on our jobs, AND in the church. Men should think long and hard before 'troubling God's flock' with unnecessary and unhelpful suggestions aimed at 'fixin' what ain't broke'.

- Greg Gwin

“Get Out of Your Circle”

Greetings and salutations were a standard part of Christianity in the first-century church. It is still seen centuries later as an avenue of good will — a universal way of showing friendliness or expressing best wishes.

"Hello" or "How are you" are common greetings today that open up conversations; that provide opportunities to question people, express feelings, develop acquaintances, or find out

needs; that let people know we are interested in them. Among brethren the ultimate goal is to create a bond of affection among all — from the richest to the poorest, the youngest to the oldest, males to the females, and the noblest to the commonest.

All of this brings me to the point of this writing. Brethren, "get out of your circle!" It is so easy before and immediately after services to drift or slide into comfortable relationships and spend all our time visiting and bonding with people we already know, appreciate, and love dearly. It is a prevalent practice everywhere I have had opportunity to visit.

I see, for example, the same old groups visiting together at every service. I see the young folks congregate at the same location in the auditorium; I see older couples standing around together as though they had an appointed place; and I see certain families at their same spots week after week.

Now you understand, of course, that nothing is wrong with this. We all need those close, intimate friends with whom we can relax, laugh, and exchange pleasantries. But, my point here is that we have plenty of time to do this after lesser known brethren are gone. Get around to

brethren who are less involved, who will be gone within a few minutes, who do not feel a connection, who are gone so soon because they feel no bond among us.

Now I also understand that with some this is not possible. Many are gone before you could possibly get around to them. But there are still a good many brethren who are there but have no strong sense of belonging. Make it your goal to get around to as many as you can in the short time they are there. When you have done that, then return to your "circles." The greater number of brethren who can make less involved brethren feel welcome, feel attachment to the body, feel a sense of belonging, feel a bond of love — the greater becomes our oneness and their encouragement to serve the Lord faithfully.

Greeting one another is a great work and an important act of usefulness. Show yourself friendly!

- L.A. Stauffer