

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Karen Berry, Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Audrey Davis, Linda James (*medical*), Jordan Lawson (*sick*), Paul Lloyd (*on-going medical*), Bonnie Meagher (*sickness*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*on-going medical*), Caleb Sheffield (*concerns related to his eye*), Suzette Stevens (*on-going medical*).

*Family and friends:* Bucky Day's mother, Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jeff Sprott's surgery has been moved to March 12th, Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, hospice care, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*). *Remember and encourage others who are struggling.*

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

**Children's Review:** Next one will be March 18th immediately following evening worship.

**Winter Bible Classes:** Tues. Mar. 20th (7pm) at Larry Wisdom's home. (*Lesson 3 of 5 on Church History*)

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*March 25th*).

**Ladies Bible Class:** March 12th (*next week*) at Keri Rice's home. In preparation, please do lesson number 5 titled "*Responsibilities of Motherhood*" in the book provided for the class (Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy).

**Gospel Meeting:** Our spring meeting with Justin Lewis begins in four weeks from today. Please make plans to attend (*April 1st-4th*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 3/7/18**

Song Leader: Clay Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
 Invitation: Larry Wisdom  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Colby Sadler  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 3/11/18**

Song Leader: Clay Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall  
 Lord's Table: Jordan Lawson  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 3/11/18**

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

***"How Should We View One Another?"***

"A song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalms 133:1)

Considering how much God has to say of unity, it would behoove all Christians to strive toward that end with each other. Unity among believers is SO VITAL that Jesus prayed that we'd be unified SO THAT the world may believe God sent Him (John 17:20-26). For others to be converted they must see Christ within us, individually! Additionally, others should see God's truth AND love manifested within the congregation, as well. There will be disagreements among us, at times, but how we view one another will determine how we endeavor to work through such (Romans 14:1-15:7). **So then, how should we view one another?**

**As fellow servants.** In a local congregation, believers come together with a common purpose to serve God and our fellow man. As we look toward fostering relationships within, let us all remember why we came into each other's lives in the 1<sup>st</sup> place. It is through the sacrifice of Jesus that we've been bonded together spiritually -- and remembering this fact alone may motivate us to work together more harmoniously. God instructs that we should discipline wayward members of the body, but He also expects that we avoid wrongfully judging

“another’s servant” (Rom. 14:14). While being our brother’s keeper, let us ever be mindful that fellow Christians ultimately belong to the Lord, and not us! The Lord will judge His servants, so let us be sure to make only those judgments He has commanded (John 7:24; Matthew 7:1-3; 13:24-30).

**As family.** Do you view the members of this congregation as YOUR family? Christians fail to implement this concept into their thinking, at times. So then, let’s not *merely* use terms like “brother” and “sister” as a title... Relegating such to distinguish who really is, or who isn’t, a Christian. Rather, let us truly honor our brethren as spiritual kinfolk -- and thankfully rejoice that God has made us each part of such a great, big, loving family (Matthew 12:46-50; John 1:12; Romans 14:10, 13, 15, 21; Hebrews 13:1)!

**As ones for whom Christ died.** Have we ever treated a fellow Christian in a shameful, unloving way? Then may we be humbled by the fact that Christ loved that same person enough -- to die for them! May each member here deal with ALL others as though they were valuable - so valuable - that the Son of God would die for them! If Jesus Himself would die for that OTHER person, then surely, I can put away my self-interests, and go the extra mile to make peace with them. “And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

**The work of God.** Let’s also not forget that each brother and sister in Christ are the work of God. How frightening it would be one day to learn (as Saul of Tarsus did) that we’ve

been guilty of working against God! God Almighty is working for the salvation of each one of our brethren... So then, what are you (and I) working toward? In striving to both uphold truth and maintain unity; let’s be sure that it’s always God’s work we seek to further, and not our own ideas, “positions”, or desires (Romans 14:20; 2 Corinthians 12:15).

**Our neighbors.** When dealing with others in this local congregation, we are to view them as our neighbors -- whom we seek to edify and strengthen (Romans 15:2). The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) should always challenge us to be merciful in our dealings with one another. “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Galatians 5:14).

May the desire to manifest our love never be an excuse for failing to reprove and rebuke, when necessary (2 Timothy 4:2). Love never eliminates the need for discipline (Proverbs 13:24) and love certainly should not lack “backbone”. However, it is just as important to remember that a desire to “contend for the faith” will never justify one’s bitter spirit, or a lack of brotherly love. **Let us view one another as God teaches us to.**

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

- Ian Rice

## “Baptism Comes Before Salvation”

I have been accused of over emphasizing the part baptism plays in the salvation of sinners. In view of what the Bible teaches, I do not see how this could be possible.

There are five passages in the New Testament that mention both baptism and salvation in the same verse (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). In all of these passages, water baptism precedes the remission of sins. Do you know of a passage where the order is reversed?

Mark 16:16 contains two conditions for salvation: faith and baptism. It also contains the conditions for damnation: a lack of faith. If you want to know what you must do to be lost, it will tell you — all that is necessary is a lack of faith. If you want to know what to do to be saved from your past sins — it commands you to believe and be baptized.

In Acts 2:38 Peter told a group of believers to “repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” Our Baptist friends often focus on the word “for” in this passage and insist it means “because of,” even though it is never translated that way in any reputable translation of the Bible. We have to remind them that if baptism is “because of” the remission of sins, then so is repentance. Baptism and repentance are joined by the little word “and.” Whatever one is “for” the other is “for.”

After we are buried with Christ in baptism, we are raised to walk in a newness of life (Romans 6:1-4). This new life comes after baptism in water. Many preachers want to “bury” the “new man,” since they claim the newness of life comes before our “burial.”

Three days after the Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus, Ananias told Saul to “arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins” (Acts 22:16). Many preachers today claim Saul was saved three days before Ananias met him. Ananias must not have known it, for he told Saul how to “wash away” his sins. If Saul had been saved on the road as some preachers claim, he must have been the most miserable saved man in the Bible. Saul was blind and spent three days praying and fasting until Ananias arrived.

1 Peter 3:21 states “baptism doth also now save us.” However, baptism is not the only condition for the salvation of the alien sinner. Other requirements must be met, like faith, repentance, and love. I do not know of anything “alone” that will save a sinner, not even faith (James 2:24).

- David Padfield