

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson, Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*in poor health*), Margie Iserhardt (*still struggling with pain from fall she had in April*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Ken Jordan (*sickness*), Yvonne Jordan (*sickness*), Bennie Jones (*diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis; recent loss of her niece*), Paul Lloyd (*extended stay at LRMC*), Keith & Becca Marschall (*sickness*), Neil Miller (*still has breathing issues*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), the Payne family (*sickness*), Dottie Reynolds (*pain in her back*), Chet & Danielle Sheffield (*sickness*) and Suzette Stevens.

*Family and friends:* Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father; in rehab*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*) and Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*). *Remember and encourage others who are struggling.*

**Out of Town:** Keri Rice is visiting family in Ohio & will be back Tuesday.

**Group Meeting:** Group 1 will meet next week after the evening worship service.

**Ladies Bible Class:** Will resume in the fall.

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*June 24th*).

**Kid's Review Class:** There will be a kid's review class shortly after the PM worship service next week.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 6/6/18**

Song Leader: Joe Brown  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Invitation: Bob Marschall  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 6/10/18**

Song Leader: Kirk Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall  
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: David Williams  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 6/10/18**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)  
 Colby Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Trent Stevens  
 Jim Abram  
 Song Leader: Keith Marschall

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 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

***“Balancing a Mind to Work and a Will to Fight”***

*“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work... And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon... So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.” (Nehemiah 4:6, 16-17; 6:15)*

After Babylon, who had taken the Jews captive, fell to the Medes and Persians many Jews were allowed to return to their homeland under the rule of the new regime. They returned to a land left in ruins by the Babylonians. The new rulers assisted in the rebuilding.

Nehemiah, a Jew, was cupbearer, a prestigious position, to the king of Persia, was allowed to go to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding that ruined city – with the blessing and support of the Medo-Persian government. He was later appointed governor of the province. Not everyone wanted Jerusalem rebuilt. So, there was strong active opposition to the project from neighboring regimes. Yet, despite the open strong opposition, the wall around the city

was finished in 52 days – a remarkable feat. How? By a balanced approach. Half the people worked while the other half brandished weapons. It also says that “every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.” Without this balanced approach the wall would not have been finished.

There is a parallel to this story in the building up of the church. It would be great if the church could be built up without opposition. But that is not how things are. Yet, we cannot spend all of our time and effort in warding off the opposition. That would leave no time and effort for building. Nor can we spend all of our time in building. That would leave our work open to be torn down with impunity faster than we could build. It takes both!

On one hand, we have known churches to be well-nigh destroyed because about all the preaching/teaching was *against* something or someone – seldom speaking out *for* something. The results: a doctrinally strong and morally upright church that was spiritually bankrupt. Much like the church at Ephesus, they could not “endure evil men” and “put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and ... found them to be false” – but, have left their first love and need to repent of it (Rev. 2:1-4). There is so much out there that needs exposing and refuting – like all the doctrinal “isms” and gross immorality threatening the purity and peace of the church. This needs attention from the pulpit and the class room, but not *all* of the attention.

On the other hand, we have known churches virtually destroyed because about the only

preaching/teaching was aimed at developing strong Christian character and positive spirituality – even a strong academic knowledge of the Bible. But, they became a people tossed to and fro for every wind of doctrine because they had not been challenged to really discern between good and evil doctrinally. They were not told, in specific terms, about the “enemies of the cross of Christ” that are out there ready to pounce on them and take advantage of their naivety concerning false doctrine and “respectable” worldliness. They saw all doctrinal issues as “much ado about nothing” and put their heads in the sand or looked the other way. The church’s effectiveness was destroyed by those who have “crept in unawares” and taken them captive at will. They may have even been upbeat and happy while subtle doctrinal error and “respectable worldliness” ate away at their spiritual fiber, because they had become so desensitized to the harm that such causes.

We sometimes sing a wonderful song: “Dare To Stand Like Joshua.” I love the song. I also would like for someone to write one: “Dare to Build Like Nehemiah.” He and his crew built with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other.

- Edward Bragwell

### ***“Are Christians “Homophobic”?”***

#### **~ CHRISTOPHOBIA**

The PC [politically correct] crowd regularly and incessantly levels charges of “phobia” against all those who disagree with them on any num-

ber of moral issues. If you believe the Bible teaches that homosexuality is sinful, you are declared “homophobic” or “lesbophobic”; if you believe Islam is a false religion that endangers the American way of life, you are deemed “Islamophobic”; if you are concerned about the moral and spiritual impact on the nation of those who enter America illegally, you are labeled “xenophobic”; if you believe in the God of the Bible and consider atheism to be false, you are “atheophobic”; if you believe transgenderism is a mental illness, you are demeaned as “transphobic”; and the list goes on.

These charges are unfounded, inaccurate, and untrue. True Christians are not irrationally afraid of such things. Rather, they have given considered analysis to each issue, including a careful assessment of what the Bible teaches (and, generally, what once characterized American civilization), and concluded that these behaviors are immoral and harmful to society. Neither do they fear murderers, thieves, or fornicators. Rather they recognize such behaviors as sinful in God’s sight, unhealthy and detrimental to civil society, and actions that will ultimately cost the practitioner his soul for all eternity (Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8). True Christians love such people and experience genuine sorrow over their self-destructive condition (Matthew 5:44; 23:37; Ezekiel 18:32).

Yet, error is always inconsistent, hypocritical, and actually guilty of the malady it decries. The same people who fill the airways with their cries of “intolerance!” and “judgmental!” are the very ones who are extremely intolerant, judgmental, and fearful (phobic) of anything or anyone who believes in the Bible and Christianity. Indeed, they are Christophobic—irrationally afraid of and bitterly opposed to the precepts of Christ and the biblical

principles on which America was founded.

Satan has always been “slick” in his ability to divert attention away from spiritual reality and generate opposition against the truth—like the Wizard of Oz who said, “Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.” Sinful, wicked behaviors as defined by Deity are damaging to people physically and spiritually. They cannot be justified or dismissed as trivial simply because those who champion them mischaracterize the righteous as “phobic” or “hateful.” Those who speak against moral, godly principles—and those who defend them—are truly guilty of “hate speech.”

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness” (Isaiah 5:20). “But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:12-13).

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness..., evil-mindedness; they are...haters of God..., inventors of evil things..., who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:28-32).

- Dave Miller