

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Elliot (*complications with her ear*), Linda James (*on-going medical, recent & pending surgery*), Bennie Jones (*rheumatoid arthritis*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Gibsonburg, Ohio*), Neil Miller (*back, vision*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*ongoing medical*).

Family and friends: Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*) and Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Out of Town: Yvonne Jordan, Clay Sadler, Colby & Kaitlyn Sadler (*and children*), David & Kyoko Williams.

Kid's Review: Immediately following the PM worship service *tonight*.

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

Men's Training Class: 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Aug. 26th, next week*).

3rd Sunday of the Month: Jordan Lawson will be preaching during the PM assembly tonight, Lord willing.

4th Sunday of the Month: Colby Sadler will be preaching during the PM assembly next week, Lord willing.

Annual Singing: Our annual singing is on the last Friday of this month (*August 31st*) and will begin at 7:30 PM (*Next week!!*). Please make plans to attend.

Assignments for Worship Service**Wednesday Night: 8/22/18**

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
Opening Prayer: Trent Stevens
Invitation: OPEN
Announcements: Leon Miller
Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
Recordings: Kirk Marschall
Usher: Larry Wisdom

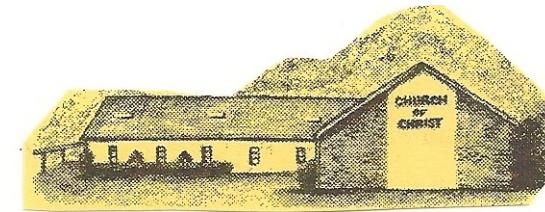
Sunday Evening: 8/26/18

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: 8/26/18

Lord's Table: Jordan Lawson (B)
Trent Stevens (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
Clay Sadler
Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: David Williams
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
Recordings: Kirk Marschall
Usher: Gus Johnson



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
Michael Sadler
Moses Stevens
David Williams

Are We Spiritually Sick? ("A Little Folly")

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb. 10:24-25)

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians: "Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me" (2 Cor. 11:1). In a similar manner, please bear with me and allow me to engage in "a little folly." (*Keep in mind that the following made-up ailments have no reference whatsoever to those who are truly hindered from attending Bible study and worship.*)

There is a disease that can affect Christians called "Wednesday-night-carditus". It comes upon us rather quickly. We can be just fine all during the day on Wednesday—working, shopping, working on hobbies, running errands, or engaging in a host of other activities. But all of a sudden, this sickness "hits us hard" anywhere from 4:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. It strikes fast! It is so bad that there is no possible way we can attend the Bible classes of the church. There is a placebo that we usually take, but it is nothing more than a "sugar pill" which consists of human rationalization and excuses. Also, while the disease keeps us away from Bible study, it does not

always keep us from engaging in other activities or going to other places. All of this illustrates just how this is truly a strange disease!

It must also be noted that "Wednesday-night-carditus" can cause us to have a relapse. Thus, we often "relapse" into another sickness that is called "Sunday-night-cardia". Its symptoms are a little different from the other disease, especially if we were present for worship on Sunday morning. In fact, it can cause us to become delusional. Our spiritual priorities get all mixed up and confused. Our thinking becomes clouded to the point that we say: "I worshipped this morning, I don't need to return tonight, it's not necessary. Besides, I have too many other important things to do." Or, we might think— "I'll just stay home and watch TV, go to a ballgame, go to a movie, get with friends, engage in other activities, etc." Surely, we can all understand the serious and odd nature of this disease! It can even cause us to go into complete spiritual cardiac arrest.

Now, it must be pointed out that these two maladies are highly contagious. But again, these are unlike any other diseases. Most diseases are caught because of close contact with others. But these are just the opposite. They result from having little or no contact with other Christians. For example, when we stay away from the assemblies and isolate ourselves from our brethren—they can contract these diseases simply by following our example. (If we fail to make the effort to be present, why should they?) Thus, they begin staying away from the assemblies on Wednesday and Sunday evenings with the same ailment as ours. (But the morning after, surprise, everyone is fully recov-

ered!) And before long, we may have had a role in causing an epidemic. Some may even begin to question the need for the church to meet more than just once a week. Thus, if this describes us, as far as we are concerned—let's just do away with the evening services. Do we fully understand the progression of this kind of spiritual sickness?

Well, when it comes down to it, the root cause of these diseases is one thing—spiritual heart disease! And there is only one who has the cure—The Great Physician, Jesus our Savior! He will need to come in and immediately hook us up to an IV that will pump into us those remedies that will surely cure us and get our spiritual heart working correctly. Things like feasting on His Word, a tender and receptive heart, devoted love, obedient faith, total commitment, unfailing sacrifice, sincere worship, strong resolve and determination, lasting zeal, steadfastness and diligence, constant prayer, true repentance, and a genuine interest and desire to exhort and encourage our brethren. This cure will work every time!!!

Are we spiritually sick? Do we have these diseases of the heart? There is a remedy! If and when these ailments begin to strike us, we need to immediately see the doctor—The Great Physician who can cure us! *"For the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing. And their eyes they have closed. Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears. Lest they should understand with their heart and turn. So that I should heal them"* (Matt. 13:15).

~ R.J. Evans

Chirps Or Testimony?

The current wave of ascetic utterances, speaking with/in tongues, which has swept parts of the country and made inroad among some brethren, is directly related to the increase in a subjective approach to authority. External authority, exemplified in the written word and approached objectively, has been eroded by no pattern arguments, and replaced by an appeal to majority practices. Even good judgement looks inward, and is not good at all when it ignores the divine revelation.

One of the early fruits of such thinking is a rejection of hard-core, straight-line Bible preaching. Those who try to blend direct spirit operation with scriptures may contend that these must be spiritually discerned — and smugly conclude that you must not have the spirit since you do not see them as do they. But recent claimants are more likely to pride themselves in their spirituality which finds unity in diversity. If we remove the idea of God's word, sufficiently understandable to all, and to which all are subject, we have no standard for unity in the faith, and all truth becomes relative.

Who, or what, can test the feelings of another? None — nothing! The one making such claims may be happily satisfied but his hope is subjective, wholly within himself. I would not deny that he had a feeling, but would insist that its interpretation must be measured by a fixed standard, the truth taught by the apostles and prophets of the N.T. (Jn. 4:6)

When we cut loose from this mooring, we are adrift on the sea of human wisdom. There is no limitations except as they are self-imposed, and the person who accepts direct spirit guidance in

one field, may go (or encourage others to go) to the extreme of tongue speaking. Once we step beyond the influence of the inspired (Spirit-breathed) word, that direct influence becomes a matter of degrees, with little to control our imagination.

Isaiah wrote, And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto the wizards, that chirp and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? On behalf of the living should they seek unto the dead? **To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them.** (Isa. 8: 19-20 emphasis mine, rt) God is no respecter of person, but deals with each of us by appealing to common faculties. Each can hear, learn, and come unto God. (Jn. 6: 45) As free agents we may reject His word, or we may see with our eyes, and hear with our ears, and understand with our heart, be converted, and healed. (Cf. Matt. 13: 15-16) This is not only the process for becoming Christians, but also for growth and development as children of God. (1 Pet. 2:2)

Such basic principles are so completely scriptural, and so much a part of preaching once common among churches of Christ, it seems absurd to have to repeat this for brethren today. Ours is a new generation, and woe to him who is tied to the party, instead of to Christ.

~ Robert F. Turner