

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*sickness*), Mary Elliot (*complications with her ear*), Charles Goodall (*on-going medical*), Linda James (*on-going medical, pending surgery*), Bennie Jones (*rheumatoid arthritis*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Linda McKenzie (*medical*), Neil Miller (*back, vision*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), Caleb, Chet, & Violet Sheffield (*illness*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*ongoing medical*).

*Family and friends:* Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Mary Ergiyit (*Bob Marschall's sister*), 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.

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

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

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Sept. 23rd*).

**Gospel Meetings:** The South Bumby Church of Christ will soon hold a meeting with Buddy Payne (*Sept. 9th-12th*). Our fall meeting with Leon Mauldin will be next month (*Oct. 21st-26th*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 9/5/18**

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

**Sunday Evening: 9/9/18**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Joe Brown  
 Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Morning: 9/9/18**

Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom (B)  
 Mike Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Ed Lawson  
 Timothy Payne  
 Song Leader: Clay Sadler

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 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 7:00 P.M.

**DEACONS:**

Robert Marschall  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Taking in the Goats and Wolves”***

The Bible teaches that the Lord adds those who are saved to the universal church (**Acts 2:47**). Saved individuals then join themselves to other disciples in their area for work and worship as a local church. When a Christian moves from one place to another, it is necessary that he join himself to the church in the new location. This is what Saul attempted to do in **Acts 9:26**; the Scripture states that “when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.”

Local churches would normally consider it a blessing to receive new members from other places. Yet the Jerusalem church was cautious about accepting Saul. Barnabas had to testify of Saul's faithfulness before the apostles in order for Saul to be received (**Acts 9:27**). Here then is an apostolically approved example of a church exercising caution about receiving a new member. Although Saul was worthy of acceptance, the cautiousness of the disciples was warranted and implicitly approved by the apostles.

Today, many churches have thrown this caution to the wind. Churches will accept anyone into their number who claims to be a Christian -- without any apparent concern for the person's past faithfulness or lack thereof. This practice not only weakens the local church, it also does nothing for the spiritual welfare of one who may need reproof much more than acceptance.

Choice Bryant, now in his eighties, relates an experience from his many years of preaching which well illustrates the need and benefit of exercising care in this matter. He writes as follows: Leaving Grandfield, Oklahoma, we moved to Floydada, Texas to work with the church in that city. One Sunday morning, a lady "came forward," asking to be identified with us. As my custom is, I simply asked from what church she comes, and she said it was the Lockney church. I wrote to the elders of the Lockney church and they promptly answered that she was not faithful as a member, and even her life was out of harmony with Bible teaching. I acquainted our elders with this letter, explaining that this lady needed to be confronted with this letter, that we could not accept her in her sinful life. One of the elders, a very influential man in the area (in fact, he was a business man in the city) said that we need not do anything, we must not "get our feet wet" in such situations, that we must just accept her "as is" and proceed with our work. This disturbed me no little, and I rebuked him for speaking thus as an elder of the church.

Then another one of the elders offered to go with me to talk with the lady (who lived in Silverton -- a few miles north of Floydada). We set a date to go, and upon approaching her with the letter from the Lockney elders, she first angrily denied the charges and criticized them for writing in, and raved for some time. We just patiently listened to her rantings, and when she finally stopped I simply said, "if what you say is true, then the Lockney elders lied on you, therefore, we are now forced to get with those elders and get all this straightened out." At this point she broke down and cried like a baby, saying, "yes, what they say about me is true; I am guilty of their charges!" I then replied, "you need to

do two things, (1) confess your wrongs to them, and (2) do the same before our congregation!" We left on that note. The next Sunday morning she came before the congregation confessing her wrongs, and right behind her was her husband who confessed his faith in Christ and asked to be baptized. The result of our doing our duty in contacting her as we did, there were two souls saved (instead of being lost)!

Incidentally, thereafter that couple became two of our best friends. I am a firm believer in "checking up" on those who ask to be identified. Either you will uncover the wrong-doing in their lives, or, you will learn of the valuable assets they possess to use in your local work. (Choice Bryant, "An Octogenarian Reminiscences: Experiences in Floydada," - With All Boldness, May, 98).

Sometimes, an individual may be like a goat trying to join a flock of sheep. He is not intending to do the sheep any harm, but he really doesn't belong in the flock until he is truly a sheep (this was the case of the woman in brother Bryant's story). In other cases, an individual may be more like a wolf--trying to gain entry into the flock in order to devour sheep with false teaching and heresy. The apostle Paul warned the elders of the church in Ephesus that, "...savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29). As shepherds of the flock, these elders were bound to do their utmost to keep the flock safe from wolves.

It is vital that churches check up on those wishing to join their fellowship. One sensible and Scriptural way to accomplish this is simply to communicate with trusted Christians who know the individual in question. Barnabas was known

and trusted by the apostles in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36-37), and he was acquainted with Saul, so he was in an ideal position to offer testimony about Saul's character.

When Apollos went from Ephesus to Corinth, faithful brethren in Ephesus sent a letter of recommendation with him; "the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace" (Acts 18:27). Such letters of recommendation from one church to another were regarded as necessary in some cases and seem to have been commonly sent in New Testament times (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:1).

Our prayer is that each local flock will be a place of safety for the sheep, but not a haven for goats and wolves

~ Steve Klein

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## "What if"

*What if* I asked you to imagine a certain scenario?

*What if* you were all alone in your favorite place of comfort, resting at ease? And as you are relaxing, you hear a sudden knock at the front door! Your first thoughts are, "Who could that be? I'm not expecting anyone, am I? Ugh!! I hope it's not..." Then, as you're wondering who it could be, you slowly get yourself up and make your way to the front door. Peeking through, you're utterly shocked as you find that outside your door, stands... Jesus the Christ, Himself!

(*Gasps!*) What would you do next?! Would you think, "Uh, I'm definitely not ready for *Him* just to *show up*, unannounced." So instead of worrying about whether the house is tidy enough for just any 'ole company, you begin to go through the various "*what if*" scenarios of having *Jesus* into your home! Will you need to change the television channel before He comes in? What about the songs on your playlist? Are there any "unsavory" magazines around in the house? What about the content of your smart phone or internet browser? This is *Jesus*, after all! "Why is *He* here, and what is He going to think when He comes under *my* roof?!" Will you need to tidy these kinds of things up? Or will you answer the door immediately? Or, will you get real quiet and hope that He just goes away?

Perhaps this "*what if*" scenario can help you to think about your current way of living? It should, because this "*what if*" scenario is actually very similar to what we will all face one day (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). The *real* question is, "ARE YOU READY FOR THAT DAY TO COME?"

*"19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' ' (Revelation 3:19-22, NKJV)*

~ Ian Rice