

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Earl Branham (*illness*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Elliot (*medical*), Charles Goodall (*on-going medical*), Mary Henderson & family, Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Bennie Jones (*rheumatoid arthritis*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), Ian Rice (*medical*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*).

*Family and friends:* Mary Ergiyit (*Bob Marschall's sister*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Fritzi Marschall (*Bob's mother, skin cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob's father, medical*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*) Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*), and Bob Waldron (*Diagnosed with congestive heart failure*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

**Out of Town:** Bob & Stef (*will be back on 10/17/18*).

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

**Men's Training Class:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Oct. 28th*).

**Gospel Meetings:** Our fall gospel meeting with Leon Mauldin will begin NEXT SUNDAY and run through Friday (*Oct. 21st-26th*).

**Ladies Bible Class:** Next class will be November 12 at 7PM (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 9 on page 37 in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 10/17/18**

Song Leader: Trent Stevens  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Invitation: Clay Sadler  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

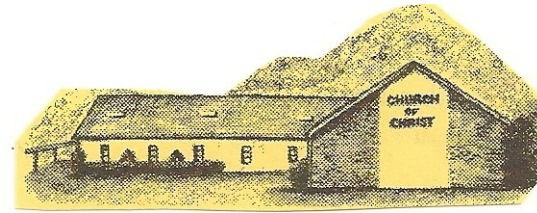
**Sunday Evening: 10/21/18**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Clay Sadler  
 Lord's Table: Trent Stevens  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Recordings: Kirk Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 10/21/18**

Lord's Table: Trent Stevens (B)  
 Jerry Williams (C)  
 Serving: David Williams  
 Ed Lawson  
 Song Leader: Joe Brown

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Colby Sadler  
 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 7:00 P.M.

**DEACONS:**

Robert Marschall  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Why Am I Here?”***

Have you ever stopped to think how odd it must seem to some that I am a member of and a preacher with a church that is missing two of my greatest passions? If you know me, you know that two of my greatest interests in life are food and sports. There are very few foods I won't eat and the list of foods I love is long. When it comes to sports I thoroughly enjoy football, basketball, and baseball. I love to watch them and will still play them if given the chance (though at my age we have to play half-court basketball and touch football). And if those sports are not on television I have been known to watch soccer, golf, NASCAR, and even a little curling. I derive a lot of pleasure from my food and my sports, yet the Jones Road church of Christ does not have a kitchen in which meals are prepared, nor a dining room (a.k.a. fellowship hall) in which we could eat meals that some would call fellowship dinners. We are also without a gym, a softball field, or any other recreational facilities. Now, why would someone as passionate about food and sports choose to be part of a group in which these are missing? I could list more, but please give careful consideration to these four reasons.

**I Am Not Supposed to Be in Charge**

Long ago Jeremiah said, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”(Jeremiah 10:23). If I were given the authorization to build a church I might do some things differently, but I understand it's not my right to choose my own way or set my own course shaped by my own desires. In some strong words of warning, Jesus spoke of some who considered

themselves very religious, yet failed to actually do what the Lord commanded. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'"* (Matthew 7:21-23). Why are some things I love missing? Because it's Christ's church and not mine.

### **Truth Is More Important Than My Desires**

Whatever my desires may be, they must always take a backseat to truth. *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (John 4:23-24). While showing compassion and kindness to a woman many would have despised, Jesus spoke of the importance of truth, and truth is not determined by how passionate I am about something or how much I think it might add to the church. The church of which I am a member doesn't have some things I might have chosen, but it does have a commitment to truth and that is what God demands of those who worship Him.

### **The New Testament Reveals What Churches Should Be Like**

As the apostles went throughout the world preaching the gospel and making disciples (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:18-20), they taught these disciples to work together with one another in the different communities in which they lived (Acts 11:19-26; 14:21-23). When we remember that local churches are comprised of disciples who are committed to doing all things the Lord has commanded (Matthew 28:20), it helps us

understand how important it is that we look to the word of God for guidance in our collective discipleship. If I want to have my food and sports I need to find it in the New Testament, not my own desires.

Because the Scriptures contain the commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37) and provide us with a complete guide (2 Timothy 3:16, 17), I came to realize a long time ago that if I was going to be a true disciple I needed to be part of a church committed to remaining within the constraints of the doctrine of Christ lest I lose my relationship with God. *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 9).

### **They Are Missing from the New Testament**

Once I made a commitment to allowing the Lord to be in charge and committed myself to His truth as revealed in the New Testament, it was not hard to see that a church without a sports and recreation program and without any provisions for common dining was not missing anything that New Testament churches had. At the time the New Testament was being written people were engaged in recreation, and life cannot exist without food, but not once do we read of a first-century group of disciples engaged in recreation or eating social meals as a collective body.

Why are things I am so passionate about missing from the church of which I am a part? They are not a part of this church because I know that if I want to be a disciple of Jesus I must allow His choices to guide me, and His revealed will simply doesn't include some things I might think important. However, no one should feel sorry for me because He has provided me (and you) with things far more important than food and recreation.

*"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2 Peter 1:2-4)

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

In light of all that has been given us in Christ, I don't think I'm missing out on anything—do you?

~ John R. Gibson

### ***"Gospel Meetings: Opportunities to Evangelize"***

"...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share..." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

All who are members of this congregation need to be preparing for the upcoming gospel meeting. Each member needs to take advantage of the opportunities it affords for evangelism. Everyone has to do their part for the meeting to be a success and the cause of the Lord to prosper.

If we work, our efforts will bear fruit. We may not be overwhelmed by what many have termed "visible results" (such things as baptisms, restorations, etc.), those things so many want to gauge the success of a meeting by, but we will be a church after the New Testament order at work the way the

Lord wants it to work -- with each member doing his/her part (see 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:15-16).

At all times we ought to be emphasizing our responsibilities to evangelize. In doing so, though, we must realize that one person, or even just a few, cannot be as effective as a whole body of people actively involved in reaching and teaching other people. But gospel meetings provide unique opportunities to show that we are more than just talk when it comes to evangelism but are actually "doers of the word" (Jas. 1:22). They allow us to demonstrate to the Lord and to others that we are willing to be involved in His work.

The personal invitation extended to a friend, relative or acquaintance is still, I believe, the best method for getting people to attend gospel meetings. We can blitz the media using all the modern methods at our disposal but nothing can top the personal "one-to-one" invitation. Since this is the case, then, it makes sense that the more people who issue such invitations, the greater chance for success in having greater numbers attend.

I am sure the meeting preacher is doing his part to make the meeting successful. We have printed hundreds of fliers and are sending out announcements to other congregations. The key to real success, though, will be how many of the members personally invite others. That should not surprise you since the key to success in almost every work that we might be involved in as a church is great individual involvement.

May each of us be totally involved in serving the Lord -- not just for the upcoming meeting but in all aspects of the work of the church.

~ Gene Taylor