

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Ruth Miller (*sudden bearing loss*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to her mother's ailing health*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*) Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*).

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Cherri Reeves (*The Goodall's daughter; cancer free!*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

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

Ladies Bible Class: Next class will be January 14th at 7PM in Angela Wisdom's home (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 11 on page 45 in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities*, by Irene S. Foy).

Third Sunday: Jordan Lawson will be preaching during the PM assembly tonight.

Kids' Review Class: We will meet immediately following the PM assembly tonight.

Men's Training Class: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*December 23rd, next week*).

Fourth Sunday: Bob Marschall will be preaching during the PM assembly next week.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 12/19/18

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler
 Invitation: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Timothy Payne
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Mike Sadler

Sunday Evening: 12/23/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 12/23/18

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)
 Bucky Day (C)
 Serving: Mike Sadler
 Timothy Payne
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

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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

“It's Not About the Huddle”

Over the years I've heard the above idea expressed in various forms. The idea goes something like this. The assemblies are like the huddle in a football game. They may be important, but they aren't the game. The game is when we break the huddle and go out into the world to live like we are supposed to live. The game is being on the front lines of the world and teaching others.

I understand that meeting together as God's people and congregational activity is not the only facet of what it means to be Christians. We cannot leave our Christianity at the door of the meeting place to go live any way we want to. We ought always to be aware of our need to reach out to others. No one who knows Christ is going to think that Christianity is only about meeting in the assemblies a couple times a week. We aren't saved because we meet; we meet because we are saved. Yet that's what makes our assemblies so precious, to be valued and cherished.

I know its just an analogy, but analogies have their limits. I get the huddle analogy. I played football for years and was part of hundreds of huddles on both sides of the ball, even calling many of them. But what happens in football huddles is only minimally comparable to what happens in our assemblies. Most huddles involve calling plays that we had practiced many times. There may be a word of encouragement, but the purpose of the huddle is to make sure everyone knows the next play. The huddle is not the place to teach the players how to play the game or what to do—

if they don't already know what they are doing, they shouldn't be in that huddle! And here the analogy falters.

In one sense, the analogy may be that assemblies help Christians understand their roles better so they can go out into the world better equipped. Even then, the purpose of a huddle was never to teach roles or how to play positions. Assemblies are much more than calling a play that everyone knows well, yelling, and clapping hands to go running out into the world. That's about where the analogy ends. Again, the point is well taken that we shouldn't just be church-goers who fail to live out discipleship in the world.

However, congregational activity and assemblies are just as much a "part of the game" as is going out into the world and reaching out for Christ individually. Assemblies aren't called just to go over the next play and break a loud huddle to get pumped up. They are called because, in God's wisdom, they fill a necessary part of the Christian's life that cannot otherwise be met, and they deserve more dignity than being reduced to a football analogy.

God designed local churches for the purpose of building up and strengthening one another, and even this goes beyond assembly times. Yet assemblies are the arena in which we "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24). As one brother put it, this is an "arena for action, not merely a huddle." The epistles spend a good bit of time teaching us how to build each other up and grow into maturity (cf. Eph. 4:11-16). Instruction is given, not just to individuals, but to the churches

as local fellowships. For the Christian, the joint participation with other Christians and the assemblies are a major part of our lives wherein we help each other grow up in Christ and provide for each other the tools of deeper service. Let's not reduce this to just a huddle or a practice session. It's a major part of who we are. The congregation, again more than just the assemblies, ought to be a significant part of every Christian's life.

We are blessed to praise God together. There is something special about both speaking to one another in song and making melody in our hearts to the Lord (Eph 5:19). This engenders a thankfulness and love that we jointly express to God in one voice. Praising God in song and prayer is never a sideline activity; it is the greatest activity of all, and we are blessed to be able to do it together.

Assemblies are a manifestation of deep, abiding fellowship and love that we have with both God and one another. For example, the Lord's Supper, taken together, is one such demonstration of our communion with God and one another. The Lord's Supper, understood in its biblical context, is one of the greatest activities children of God can engage in as it focuses on what Christ did for us, it proclaims His death and resurrection, and it looks forward to His return.

Let's be careful about reducing our concept of the assembly to more of a rote necessity to hurry up and get out of the way rather than a major part of what and who we are. Thank God for giving us one another.

~ Doy Moyer

"Silent Meditations"

I lost my voice while preaching in Bowling Green, Ky., and bro. Wayne Earnest, local evangelist, preached the closing sermon of the meeting. The doctor ordered at least one week of silence, so my part in the following meeting, Richmond, Ky., had to be canceled. Bro. Paul Earnhart came, on short notice, to do an admirable job there. Now, I am struggling to keep an appointment in Providence, Ky., and others are standing by to continue the work if I should fail. As an early vaudeville comedian used to put it, "I feel soooo unnecessary!!"

Man seems to vacillate between two attitudes: he and his work will affect the destiny of the world; or, he is nothing, an infinitesimal speck of inconsequence. Neither position is true! Given the slightest encouragement, or none at all, we magnify our place in life and imagine that the world, or at least the church, hangs by our hook. This seems the greater of the two errors. But should we seriously adopt the second position and live by it, we would destroy the self respect necessary to make our life meaningful. The Creator sees us, not as other gods, nor as inert crud; but as intelligent beings having a place in the total scheme of His universe. In a small yet significant way we do affect the total picture, even though there are far too many replacement parts for us to consider ourselves indispensable.

Man's true position can be defined only by the Master Planner. It is God who gives

meaning to your little corner, and mine. Lacking faith in God — trying to run the show without Him — we find ourselves on the balloon of egoism, or deep in the trough of despair. True faith in God is the stabilizer. Such faith is possible only for the humble, yet it lifts earth creatures to useful places in the family of God.

As free agents, we are not pawns of fate. But as God's creatures we seek the role He has assigned us. We can serve, with honor; thankful that there are others to take our place as we finish our course. Our trust in God, and in His love, is such that abject fear is cast out; yet our awesome reverence for Deity will not let us forget that His purposes will be fulfilled, regardless of our success or failure as individuals. His sovereignty will be vindicated in a final and irrevocable Judgment.

"If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (Jas. 4:13-15). That can be a dirge of despair, or a healthful reminder that "Now is the time" to use ourselves to His glory.

~ Robert F. Turner