

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Karen Berry (*sick*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*surgery on Feb. 21st*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), the Marschall family (*exhorting Kirk to faithfulness*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to her mother's ailing health*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*).

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

**Out of Town:** Micah Lanning & her daughters, Bob & Stef Marschall.

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

**Winter Study 2019:** We will begin a monthly study on how to study the Bible **this Tuesday**, Jan. 22nd, in the Wisdom's home (7PM).

**Ladies Bible Class:** Next class will be February 11th at 7PM in Angela Wisdom's home (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 12 on page 50 in the book provided for the class (Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy).

**Men's Training Class:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Jan. 27th, next week*).

**Fourth Sunday:** Bob Marschall is scheduled to preach during the PM assembly next week (*Jan. 27th*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 1/23/19**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Invitation: Keith Marschall  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Ryan Boyett  
 Recordings: Colby Sadler  
 Usher: Leon Miller

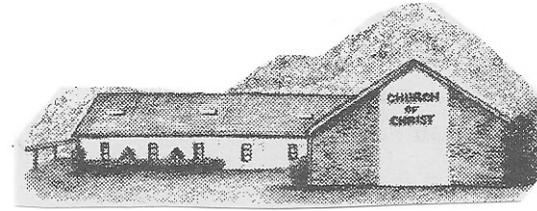
**Sunday Evening: 1/27/19**

Song Leader: Joe Brown  
 Opening Prayer: Steve Parker  
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 1/27/19**

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)  
 Steve Parker (C)  
 Serving: David Williams  
 Mike Sadler  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Jeff Lanning  
 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

***The Responsibility of the Church  
 and Individual Christians to Pursue Peace***

God's desire is for Brothers and Sisters in Christ to dwell together in unity with one another. Christ prayed for it in John 17:21: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." God made us with different personalities. God in his wisdom knew sometimes those personalities would conflict with each other. That is why so much recorded is in scripture for brethren to get along with each other.

David tells us in Psalm 133:1-3 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; <sup>3</sup> As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

Also, the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:16-18 "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Paul told the Colossian brethren in Colossians 3:12-15 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another

er, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Paul also told the Ephesian brethren in Ephesians 4:1-3 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Paul told the Philippian brethren in Philippians 2:1-4 “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” He also told the Roman Christians in Romans 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

The apostle Peter told the brethren in Asia, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrarily blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.” (1 Peter 3:8-9).

The church at Corinth was full of division and strife. Paul told them they were not spiritual but carnal. “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear

it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” (Corinthians 3:1-3) They could be united if they would all speak the same thing, put aside their differences and be joined together in the same mind. “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Jesus is our example of one who sought after peace even in the most extreme situations. 1 Peter 2:21-24 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

We must never let anger, selfish ambitions, stubbornness, self justification, bitterness, dislike, or personal opinion cause us to sin against our brothers and sisters in Christ or to create division within the church. We must never let our emotions and personal feelings dictate our actions and cloud our judgment. To do so is to sin against our God. We must pursue things that make for peace. We must have a love for truth, for the church, for our brethren, and practice the “golden rule” “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them...” (Matt.7:12)

~ Larry Wisdom

## “Alone in a Crowd”

Elders across the country are seeing an increase in the number of Christians who are dealing with depression/anxiety and the very negative effect on the spiritual lives of their members. There is a disproportionate increase in the number of young people whose lives are interrupted by anxiety/depression to the point that their ability to worship and serve God becomes difficult for them. At this point parent and elders are faced with a more difficult challenge to prevent spiritual malnutrition.

There is a growing body of research in the mental health world that suggests the tremendous rise in the problem is related to the huge rise in **screen time**, and has the greatest effect on teens 14-17 years old whose screen time exceeds 1 hour per day.[*preventive medicine report*]

The report showed that the more hours of screen time were associated with less friendships, more distractibility, less emotional stability, less ability to complete tasks, and greater conflicts between parents and teens. Screen time includes cell phones, computers, and TV because they all can produce a similar result: *alone in a crowd*. The report also suggests that heavy dependence on an electronic device can lessen one’s self-control, hinder developing proper coping skills to deal with the problems of life.

None of this research deals with the most serious problem; **spiritual wellbeing**. This is a 21<sup>st</sup>. century problem and not specifically addressed in the scriptures, however the principles of Christian behavior can not be excused, overlooked or ignored. Elders and parents will be called out on the day of judgement for violation of His will, regardless of the justifications made for failing to fully follow his will.

The instructions on family relations In Eph. 6:1-4 places a great responsibility on both parents and children. Deut. 6:4-9

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they **keep watch over your souls** as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Elders will be called on to give an account for EVERY soul in their charge, that members have not strayed or become spiritually malnourished. Look at the teaching of Jesus in Luke 15 concerning the LOST things. The one who went astray, search until you find them and bring them back, because of the results: Lu 15:10 "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (NAS95)

Sometimes we can *forsake the assembly* while sitting in the pews, IF our minds and hearts are not focused on God and His love for us. Just being present is only the beginning of our *spiritual service*, Mt 15:8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

We can be sitting in the pew without “*standing on the promises*”. Without committing our hearts to God, we will be what Jesus called them, hypocrites, just playing church, not real. We can come up with all kind of excuses to skip bible studies and worship services that may satisfy men but what about giving account before God {Rom 14:12}. God might say “you look sickly” and I might say “I have missed a lot of spiritual meals because\_\_\_\_\_ [ fill in the blank] Or I never miss the services, but I have trouble focusing on the preaching, so I leave hungry. Think how silly that sounds!

These thoughts are written to parents, elders and every christian **to stir you up by way of remembrance** [2 Pet. 1:13]. We must **remove** every weight [encumbrance] that so easily entangles us [Heb. 12:1] so we can run the race before us, with our eyes FIXED on Jesus.

~Louis Cook