

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*at Scott Lake Health and Rehabilitation*), Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father has cancer*), Linda James (*at Northdale Rehab Center, 3030 Bearss Ave., Tampa, FL 33618*), Ken Jordan (*sick*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to mother's health*), Butch Morgan (*shut in*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical, needs encouragement*).

*Family and friends:* Marvin Brown (*from Plant City, cancer*), Roger Church (*Mariam's husband will have a heart procedure this Tues.*), Ruth Fogel (*Jill Boyette's mother, cancer*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Diana Marcum (*Arlene Turner's sister, cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lyndell McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt*), Betty Parrish (*Diana Jordan's mother*), Summer Rivera (*Erika Stevens' friend*), Johnny Wisdom (*Larry Wisdom's brother*).

**Men's Bible Study:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (**TODAY**).

**Fourth Sunday:** Steve Parker will preach during the PM service tonight, Lord willing.

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

**Home Study:** The final class will be **this Tues.** (*May 28th, 7PM*) at the Wisdom family's home.

**Ladies Bible Class:** Will resume in the fall at a date TBD.

**Remember and encourage** others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 5/29/19**

Song Leader: Joe Brown  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Invitation: Logan Lanning  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: David Williams  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

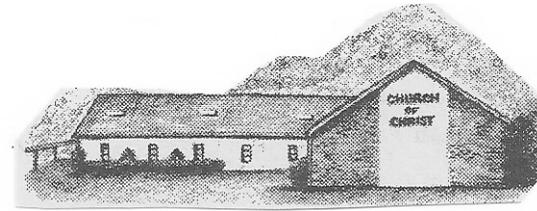
**Sunday Evening: 6/2/19**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Jeff Lanning  
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Recordings: Colby Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 6/2/19**

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**

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 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 Reluctant Disciple***

The nature of "church" combined with the religious freedoms and sense of entitlement bestowed in our culture has led to a rise in what we might call "the reluctant disciple." Where Jesus calls us to eagerly, passionately and zealously follow Him, this world naturally discourages such radical discipleship. Where discipleship demands a whole-hearted, absolute and determined commitment, this world encourages a much softer and looser approach to one's faith. Thus, the rise of the reluctant disciple.

A reluctant disciple is only willing to go so far in his service to God. There are things the Lord asks that are just too much. Modern ideas of what makes one a "Christian" allow the title to be worn despite an unwillingness to serve the Lord as He commands, expects and deserves. "Suffer for His name's sake"—not a chance. "Give all that I have"—no way. "Lay down my life"—absolutely not. "Love my enemies"—who does this?

It's not just the exceptional things, but the more daily things Jesus asks that overwhelm the reluctant disciple. Assembling more than once each week is just too tasking. Opening my home for hospitality, study and fellowship is not my cup of tea. Talking to others about my faith, the gospel and about Jesus Christ is a little too open for my taste. Confessing sins makes me feel way too vulnerable. Laying by in store is just too demanding. There always seems to be a line that the reluctant disciple is unwilling and hesitant to cross.

Christianity is not for the weak, hesitant and unwilling. It requires total commitment. It came at an incredible price and there is a cost that must be counted and paid (**Luke 14:25-33**). If we are only willing to follow Jesus when it is easy and convenient, then we have no idea what it means to be a His disciple. The Suffering Savior bore so much to bear our sins on that great cross of shame. How is it that we believe we can follow Jesus at a distance and still please a Heavenly Father who exacted so much from a Beloved Son to save our souls?

~ Jonathan Perz

### ***Christians With No Denominational Ties***

God places great emphasis on names. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (**Gen. 17:5**), Sarai's name to Sarah (**Gen. 17:15**), and Jacob's name to Israel (**Gen. 32:38**). He gave to John and Jesus their names before they were born (**Luke 1:13,31**). He has given to His people of this age the name "Christian" (**Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16**). He has given no sectarian or denominational names, but rather condemns them (**1 Cor. 1:10-13**). The great need of our day is for men and women to forsake their denominational ties, be nothing but Christians, and call themselves "Christians," with no other religious names.

It is of interest to note that leaders in the prominent denominations, including some of their founders, recognized and preached this truth. N. B. Hardeman, in his *Tabernacle Sermons* (Volume IV, pages 216, 217), gives quotes from Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, and John Wesley in which they plead for unity.

Charles Spurgeon, a prominent Baptist preacher, is quoted as saying: "I look forward, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." (Spurgeon's Memorial Library, Vol. I, page 168).

The quote from Martin Luther: "I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with them all; and let us call our-selves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes." (The Life of Luther, by Stork, page 289).

Brother Hardeman's quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church: "Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and

forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of a common Master, to hear His words, to imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life into ours."

We cannot help but wonder what changes would have taken place in religious history had the followers of these men heeded their pleas. The pleas, however, went unheeded. Denominationalism with its religious division exists and will continue to exist until our Lord comes to "root it up" (**Matt. 15:13**). But meanwhile, no one has to be a part of the denominational system; no one should be a part of it. Today, one can be just a Christian—as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world. There may be one near you.

~ Bill Hall