

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father, Ricky, cancer*), Linda James (*At Valencia Hills Rehab Center, Rm. 326B*), Yvonne Jordan (*doing much better*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Cindy Hicks and family (*with recent passing of Cindy's aunt, Lyndell McReedy*), Kirk Marschall, the Marschall family, Linda McKenzie (*recent passing of her mother*), Butch Morgan (*shut in*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*her sister recently passed*).

*Family and friends:* Marvin Brown (*from Plant City, cancer*), Ruth Fogel (*Jill Boyette's mother, cancer*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Ms. Lourdes, health issues & pain management*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Alan Turner (*illness*).

**Out of Town:** Larry & Cindy Hicks, the Lanning family, Bob & Stef Marschall (*6/8 thru 7/6*), the Rice family (*6/30 thru 7/6*), and Trent Stevens.

**Fifth Sunday:** Tonight's PM assembly will have a greater emphasis on singing (*Eph. 5:19*).

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

**Men's Bible Study:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*July 28*).

**Area Meetings:** The Henderson Blvd. church of Christ is having a summer series of lessons every Thursday night during June 6th-August 1st. Please see bulletin board for details.

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

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 7/3/19**

Song Leader: Trent Stevens  
Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall  
Invitation: Keith Marschall  
Announcements: Larry Hicks  
Closing Prayer: Steve Parker  
Recordings: Bob Marschall  
Usher: Gus Johnson

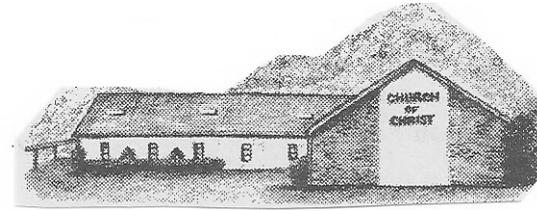
**Sunday Evening: 7/7/19**

Song Leader: Joe Brown  
Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
Lord's Table: Bucky Day  
Announcements: Mike Sadler  
Closing Prayer: Jeff Lanning  
Recordings: OPEN  
Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 7/7/19**

Lord's Table: Bucky Day (B)  
Jerry Williams (C)  
Serving: Timothy Payne  
Steve Parker  
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
Announcements: Mike Sadler  
Closing Prayer: Jeff Lanning  
Recordings: Bob Marschall  
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

***“Reasons for Hope”***

Though sin has entered and wreaks havoc upon mankind, there is some good left in this world. Though many are content to remain spiritually blind, deaf, and lost... there are some who have chosen to seek the Lord! Consider some reasons for hope that may provide encouragement.

**Hope in God**

Putting our faith and hope in God will lead to blessing (Jer. 17:7, 29:11, 31:17). God is the Giver of all good things. He does not promise to take away all earthly troubles, but He can grant us peace to endure. That inner peace will enable you to persevere and grow in godly character & true hope (Rom. 5:2, 4-5). A confident and earnest expectation of God's spiritual protection is what grants the Christian the will to press forward. The hope that we have in the glory of the New Covenant is what enables one to preach with boldness (2 Cor 3:12) and instills a serious attitude in looking forward to the ultimate revealing of Christ one day (Tit. 2:13; 1 Pet 1:13, 21). Indeed, the Creator, Ruler, and Savior provides hope in ALL things (1 Tim 1:1)!

### Hope of the Resurrection

Many in the world believe that when one closes their eyes in death that all things cease to exist for a person. Yet the Bible declares otherwise! Pillars of faith such as Abraham and David possessed hope for the raising of the dead (Heb. 11:10, 16; Psa. 16:8-11; Acts 2:26b). Indeed, the whole story of the Bible has been preserved so that we may inherit eternal life with God! The hope of the resurrection is an earnest expectation, not some whimsical desire (Tit. 1:2; Heb 3:6, 6:19). Moreover, it is of this hope that we must preach to other men, that they too may have hope (Acts 23:6; 24:15; 26:6-7). This hope grants us so much more to look forward to (Rom. 8:24-25; Tit. 3:7), causes us to rejoice in tribulation (Rom. 12:12; 1 Cor. 15:19; Phil 1:20), is the truth contained in Scripture (Rom. 15:4; Col. 1:5), and leads us to **LIVING** Christ's way (Col. 1:27; 1Pet 1:3)! Do we look longingly for the day when all our heartaches will melt away?

### Hope in Spiritual Brethren

Paul taught that with the proper love among brethren, differences can be worked through. Hope (a confident expectation) contributes toward peaceful resolution to conflict (1 Cor. 13:13). Moreover, hope allows us confidence that others will do the right thing, even if the circumstances are difficult to navigate (2 Cor. 1:7). The hope that believers may have in one another also allows us to think the best of each other (2 Cor. 10:15). For all that Paul did in reprimanding the Corinthians, he also expressed his confidence in them to learn and apply the lessons learned. Seeing

brethren do good gives us hope that there is still good in this world (1 Thess. 2:19-20)! Let us therefore love one another, always hoping the best for each other, and desiring to spend time with each other (1 Cor. 16:7; 1 Tim 3:14; 2 Jn. 1:12; 3 Jn. 1:14). Perhaps we take for granted the good spiritual brethren in this area, or even the brethren we worship with? We do not know how much more time we will be allotted together in this earth, so let's take the opportunities afforded to enjoy each other.

### Hope in God's Plan of Salvation

Jesus died for the whole world (Rom. 15:12), therefore we hope to obtain righteousness by faith (Gal. 5:15). We have hope that others, too, may grow in faith (Eph. 1:18). But our hope in and for others can only take one but so far. Without Christ, one has no real hope (Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13). Therefore, put your hope in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Give your life to God! Be baptized for the remission of sins, being added to the one body (Acts 2:38; Eph 4:4)! Then remain steadfast until the end of this journey on earth (Rev. 2:10) and you can trust that God will take you home with Him in glory, when Christ returns!!

Though sin has entered and wreaks havoc upon mankind, there is some good left in this world. Though many are content to remain spiritually blind, deaf, and lost... there are some who have chosen to seek the Lord! Will you accept these reasons for hope?

~ Ian Rice

### "Be Faithful Until Death"

This statement had a very different meaning at the time it was spoken than today. At the time of John's writing Christianity was illegal and Emperor worship was compulsory under the threat of death. "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan," Revelation 2:9 (NAS95). Jesus knew the extreme difficult culture where they lived. Christians were forced to suffer severe persecution and tribulation that effected every facet of their lives. Because Christianity was illegal, they were often thrown in prison, businesses were taken which left them in poverty and many were killed. Those who had no integrity simply burned a pinch of incense to the emperor and went about their daily business.

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10 (NAS95).

This verse carried a different meaning for the first century Christians in Smyrna than it does for us today. We currently have little fear of losing our business, our job or homes. We do not face persecution, tribulations, or the greatest fear - of losing -

our lives for the cause of Christ. In 21<sup>st</sup> century America we have the freedom to assemble for worship, singing, and Bible study without fear of persecution.

The question for us today: *How much more does God expect from us to remain faithful than from the Smyrna Christians of 1<sup>st</sup> century?*

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death," Revelation 2:11 (NAS95). Jesus used a similar phase in the gospels, Matthew 11:15, 13:9, and Luke 8:8. If you have ears ---listen! Some have become dull of hearing (Acts 28:27) while others have itching ears (2 Timothy 4:3).

Our challenge today is to LISTEN to God's word and follow His instructions to overcome and escape the "second death" which is the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

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~ Louis Cook