

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), the Day family (*Robyn's father; Ricky Ross*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Louise Johnson (*continues to recover from surgery*), Leon Miller, Neil Miller (*upcoming surgery to remove one of his eyes*), Butch Morgan (*Ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, and Arlene Turner.

*Family and friends:* Curt Boyette, Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Sarah Grant (*member at Plant City, health*), Larry Holland (*Cindy Hicks' brother/cancer*), Brian James (*cancer*); Jerry Jordan, Rowena Lawson (*health struggles*), Paul Lloyd (*still at rehab facility in Ohio*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Kirk Marschall, Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*).

**Out of Town:** Beth & Kristin Boyette, Jimmy & Diane Fields, Larry & Cindy Hicks, the Lanning family, Ed & Terrelle Lawson.

**Group Meeting:** Group 2 will meet next week after the PM worship service.

**Ladies' Bible Class:** January 13, in Tabitha Sadler's home. Please study lesson number 5 on page 27, "Trouble Over Sickness" in the book "Troubled Over Many Things," by Connie Adams.

**Elders and Deacons Meeting:** January 14th, at 6:30.

**Men's Bible Study:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Jan. 26*).

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

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 1/1/20**

Song Leader: Trent Stevens  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Invitation: Ryan Boyette  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Leon Miller  
 Recordings: Logan Lanning  
 Usher: Bob Marschall

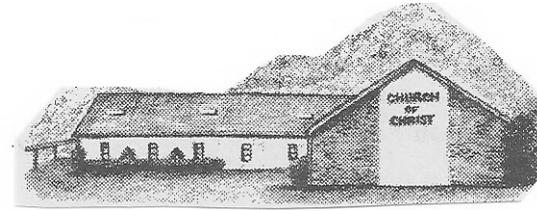
**Sunday Evening: 1/27/20**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Song Leader: Logan Lanning  
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Joe Brown  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 1/5/20**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)  
 Trent Stevens (C)  
 Serving: Steve Parker  
 Ed Lawson  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 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

***"A Few Thoughts on Heaven"***

Our number one priority in life must be to go to heaven. Nothing else in this life is nearly as important. In comparing physical blessings with the spiritual, Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (ASV). Your soul is the most important thing in your possession. There is nothing that can equal its value. Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (ESV). Indeed, your soul is worth more than the whole world! Jesus said so, Himself!

It is easy for any one of us to get caught up in the pursuit of materialism if we are not careful. We have so many physical comforts in this country that can easily distract us from the pursuit of Heaven. Nice house, beautiful property, stylish clothing, abundance of food options, various forms of entertainment, etc. Those things aren't evil in of themselves, yet the Lord says in Matthew 6:19-21, "19 Do not store up for

yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (NASB) Jesus said that we need to concern ourselves most with our deposit in heaven, instead of worrying about accumulating money and material things, which are often stolen or destroyed.

Perhaps we should express to ourselves, daily, that the main thing in life is getting to heaven!! We are instructed to, “Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth.” Colossians 3:2 (ASV). I pray that you and I will think more about going to heaven, and doing WHATEVER IT TAKES to reflect such thinking.

No one will get to Heaven by accident. It is a prepared place -- for a prepared people. Jesus told His disciples, “1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again

and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.” John 14:1-4 (NKJV). Do you know the way to Heaven? Jesus can teach you the way -- through the pages of the New Testament. Learn therefore from the Master, prepare yourself now, and one day you will reach the most magnificent of all places. It is so magnificent in fact, that we as mortal beings cannot fully comprehend how wonderful Heaven will be! Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” (NKJV) How beautiful Heaven must be!

Of all things assured about Heaven, Jesus never promised the road leading there would be easy (Cf. Matthew 7:13-14, 21-27). In fact, getting to Heaven requires patient enduring. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the

shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (ESV)

A few thoughts on Heaven: Your number one priority in life should be to get there. So then, don’t allow the material things of this world to distract you from achieving your goal. Instead, strive to reflect on that goal daily, following Jesus, and patiently endure. Do these things, and one day you can rejoice in such ways that are exceedingly above all that we can ask of, or even think!!

~ Ian Rice

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### ***“Happy New Year: 2020”***

It’s that time of year again! Many of us will try to set some goals regarding various things. Whether it be to diet and exercise, read more, or just plain do better at some of the things we think are important... Many of us are setting goals for the new year. That said, when all the endorphins of excitement go away, the stressors begin to mount, and trials come that use up so much of our time and energy — how many of us are going to continue in striving after all those things? I’m not trying to be “a downer,” but there are very few New Year’s resolutions that people tend to actually keep. That said, I invite you to join me in setting forth a very realistic goal -- to read your Bi-

ble all the way through this year. Whether or not you’ve accomplished this one before, it’ll be a good (and realistic) goal to set. It is one goal that can be accomplished with only about 15 minutes of reading, each day. And, if we will pray about the substance for which we are reading within the proper context, we can communicate our heart’s desire more appropriately, by letting God speak to us first (through His word)!

Provided for the congregation is a plan in which we can strive together. For those who used the plan from last year, you will notice that this one is a little bit different. I have included both Old and New testament readings for each day of the year this time around. “Read your Bible and pray every day... And you’ll grow, grow, grow! Neglect your Bible and forget to pray... And you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink!” That’s what we teach our kids, isn’t it? I invite you to join me and reading this plan. Perhaps we can grow in our faith together and have more interesting things to talk about, as we are on the same schedule. Or, perhaps you’ll develop your own schedule, or even use another. That’s okay, because I wish you the best with any goal setting you have regarding spiritual growth (scripturally)! I hope the best for you, and wish you a Happy New Year!

~ Ian Rice