

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Charles Goodall (*with his recent health complications*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*bone marrow transplant on horizon*), Leon Miller (*complications from treatment of his tumors*), Neil & Ahreah Miller (*His eyes and her leg rehabilitation*), Carla Moore & family (*going through trying times*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Steve Parker (*as he continues to improve physically*), Moses & Mary Stevens (*ailing health*), for the congregation during the transition of preachers, and all brethren everywhere (*that our lights will shine during these difficult times*).

*Family and friends:* Vivian Dillman, Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father*), Brian James (*cancer*), Fritz Marschall (*Bob's mother, stage-4 melanoma*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father, recuperating from fall*), Kirk Marschall (*Long-term rehab*), Suzette Stevens' nephew (*Her sister's son, Aaron*), Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*), Beth Weeks (*In Corner, AL recovering from brain tumor removal*).

**Out of Town:** Bob and Stef Marschall.

**Meeting:** There will be a meeting of the elders and men of the congregation today at 4:45pm.

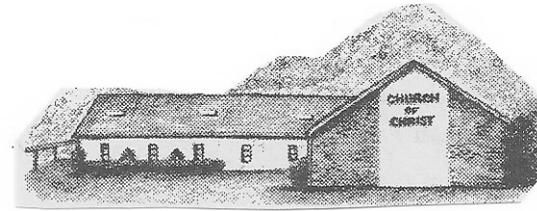
**Worship Services:** Due to the ongoing pandemic, some may not be at worship services. Let us continue to pray for, and encourage, everyone as we have opportunity.

**Moving:** Charles and Vernita Goodall will be moving to Tennessee soon to be close to their children, and the Rice family will be moving to Pensacola, FL next week.

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

**Isaiah 53:6-7**

**6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth.  
(NKJV)**



**Lakeland Hills  
Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**EVANGELIST:**

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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

***“Personal Integrity”***

God speaks favorably (in the wisdom literature, especially) of personal integrity. (Job 2:3; Psalm 7:8; Prov. 11:3). The original word rendered “integrity” in some passages is elsewhere translated “upright,” “uprightly,” “full,” or “perfect.” The English word integrity is defined as (1) the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles (2) wholeness and unity. It means to be properly balanced in all aspects of life. Notice several aspects of personal integrity.

**A Sense of Direction**

Many that have committed themselves to specific goals and ideas in life without letting anything deter them. For Christians to be so committed, we must have a proper sense of direction. Look at some great people of the Bible. Nehemiah understood his purpose to go to Judah, to the city of his ancestors’ tombs, that he would rebuild it (Neh. 2:5). Jesus understood His purpose to seek and save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10). All great people are focused, aiming at a specific targets. Perhaps we can challenge ourselves to take a piece of paper and write down our specific goals in

life. I want to inherit an eternal home in heaven. To do that, God help me to be the best Christian I can! I also pray that I will help as many others get to heaven as I can. Help me (O God) to be the best husband, father, brother, son, nephew, cousin, uncle and neighbor that I can! Let us commit ourselves to specific goals and ideas in life, without letting anything deter them.

### Steadfast Commitment

Keeping my focus on heaven will only help so long as I remain dedicated to achieving that goal. Along with their sense of direction, great people of faith also possessed a steadfast commitment to their goals. No amount of hardship could deter them, as many factors had the potential to deter Nehemiah. He had to travel a far distance to Judah... Then there was the size of his task (Neh. 2:17)... He ran into great opposition from his enemies (Neh. 2:10, 19; 4:1, 7-9), and contended with internal problems from brethren (Neh. 5:1-13). In our lives, we may have been deterred from visiting others, or perhaps failed to attend a service because the travel distance was “too far.” Perhaps we have allowed enemies to discourage us from doing the Lord’s work, or allowed internal strife to distract us? Resolve today that those things will not deter you any longer.

### Maintaining Standards

There are certain standards for which the person of integrity will not allow himself to fall below. For example, Daniel would not partake of anything that would defile him personally during his time in Babylon (Dan. 1:8). Also, Job set a standard when he made a covenant that he would not gaze upon a virgin in lust (Job 31:1). A person of integrity maintains honesty, keeps their word (Psalm 15:1-4), and puts their best foot forward in all things (Eccl. 9:10; Col. 3:17). Maintaining personal integrity demands that we refuse sinful practices, while upholding godly practices.

### Balance

Finally, personal integrity includes the aim for balance, as Jesus was the perfect example. He always ruled His emotions and never allowed anything to disturb His walk with God. He knew what to love. He knew what to hate. He knew how to be gentle. He knew when and how to be angry without sin. He also knew how to put love and service above the immediate desires of His flesh. Let us strive earnestly for this balance in our lives, and stay on the correct path (Prov. Mt. 7:13). It will not be done easily, but let us grow unto perfection (2 Pet. 1:5-7; 3:18). God speaks favorably of personal integrity, and I pray He speaks favorably of us.

~ Ian Rice

### “An Example of Judging Hastily”

Many years ago, while working with a local church, there was a man who occasionally attended Sunday services with his wife and son, who were faithful members of the congregation. I will call him Mr. XL. I’d had a few very pleasant conversations with him in the vestibule during the few months that I had been there. I knew little of his religious background, only that he leaned toward the traditional views of his forefathers. One Sunday morning I preached on the gospel plan of salvation (I forget the exact title) and Mr. XL was present. As he came by after the service, rather than the usual pleasant demeanor, he was obviously upset. He was in no mood to exchange pleasantries, but just mumbled some inaudible sounds. I was informed by a brother standing nearby that Mr. XL will not be back. You need to apologize to him.

Now, as Paul Harvey used to say, the rest of the story. Given his state of mind, I decided to wait a few days to let things settle down before going to talk with him privately. The following Thursday, his son phoned me and said that his dad wanted to talk with me ASP. I nervously drove to his house. (At that time I weighed about 140 lbs. and he at least 240 lbs., with muscles reflecting his many years as a blacksmith.) As I cautiously stepped upon his back porch I could see him sit-

ting in his den. He spotted me, waved, and shouted, Come on in here, Preacher. As I recall he did not get up from his recliner, but motioned for me to take a nearby seat. Immediately he brought up Sunday’s sermon. He had deduced from the sermon that I thought that he was going to hell because he had not been baptized. Then he wanted to know if that was what I believed. I pointed out that since God is the judge, it didn’t really matter what I believed, but what God says, in the Bible. Mr. XL agreed. But he was persistent. He still pressed me to answer, yes or no, whether or not I thought he was going to hell. I asked him what he thought. After a moment of silence, he said, Well, I guess I had better do it, can you baptize me today?

I did within the hour.

What is the point of my telling the above true story? Frequently we hear and read stories of a visitor coming to the services of a congregation, and because of what someone from the congregation said to them, never visited again. In a case like this, it might be good to defer placing blame until more time passes and more facts are known.

~ Edward O. Bragwell, Sr