

**Elders**

- Johnny Davis ..... 307-4232
- Dan Fuller..... 478-3755
- \*Joe Holland ..... 626-2809
- Jerry Hopkins ..... 434-4188
- Phil Porter ..... 575-4782

\*Chairman for the Month of November

**Evangelists**

- Dan Jenkins ..... 744-4559
- David Sproule..... 301-2230
- Josh Blackmer ..... 319-1418

**Deacons**

- Mike Archer ..... 422-2995
- David Brown..... 972-7608
- Novel Brown ..... 848-6988
- Chuck Clark ..... 627-4132
- Victor Colage..... 798-6275
- Lance Collier..... 793-2718
- Jim Davis ..... 747-2984
- Mike Erickson..... 310-9916
- Tim Fry ..... 373-9121
- Jeff Goodale ..... 261-1188
- Rick Hall ..... 622-5131
- Bob Higbee..... 303-386-6405
- Gary Jenkins..... 889-3585
- Dick Kelley..... 968-1799
- Jeff Leslie..... 744-3444
- Paul Metzkes..... 736-9086
- Buzz Nelson..... 627-4890
- Jerry Pittman..... 793-2725
- Kevin Weeks..... 386-4108

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Vol. LIV

November 15, 2015

No. 46

# Welcome New Members



**Reynolds, Jacade & Susan**  
(Isabella & Addison) Group 2

*Identified November 1*

## New 10-Week Bible Class Session Begins November 22

Adults Classes (1 <sup>st</sup> 10 Weeks of New Semester)		
<b>SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:00 A.M.</b> <span style="float: right;">(Nov. 22-Jan. 24)</span>		
<b>Auditorium</b>	<b>Numbers &amp; Deuteronomy (Part 1)</b>	<i>Josh Blackmer</i>
<b>Adult 1</b>	<b>Character Studies in the Old Testament</b>	<i>Various PBL Men</i>
<b>Adult 2</b>	<b>Making Things Right When Things Go Wrong</b>	<i>Bill Ingram, Jr.</i>
<b>Adult 3</b>	<b>Young Adults: Called Unto Holiness</b>	<i>Gary Jenkins</i>
<b>Conf. Room</b>	<b>Fundamentals of the Faith</b>	<i>Dan Fuller</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M.</b> <span style="float: right;">(Nov. 25-Jan. 27)</span>		
<b>Auditorium</b>	<b>Hebrews (Part 1)</b>	<i>David Sproule</i>
<b>Adult 1</b>	<b>Character Studies in the New Testament</b>	<i>Various PBL Men</i>
<b>Adult 2</b>	<b>Ladies: Proverbs</b>	<i>Traci Sproule</i>
<b>Adult 3</b>	<b>Church History</b>	<i>Dan Jenkins</i>



By Dan Jenkins

## The Two Sides of Providence

It might seem strange to learn that the word providence occurs only one time in the Bible, and there it is not referring to the providence of God (Acts 24:2). In fact, this word is not found in most translations. Yet, the truth is that the concept of God's providence is found throughout the Scriptures.

One cannot read the Bible without knowing that God provides.

There are questions about His providence He has chosen to not reveal to us. We should be content to speak where the Bible speaks but also must remember to stop where the Bible stops. Moses' words say so much about this. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). There is no way we can know that our idle speculations are what God thinks and we must learn to be silent.

### Providence Seen By Looking Backward

Because we know that every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17), it is not wrong for us to look at the past and see the hand of God in our lives. Young David found strength and courage to fight Goliath because of His past experiences. "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me

from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37). He knew of providence because he had seen it. The book of Psalms is filled with encouragement based on all that God had done in the past for Israel. Our Lord reminded His followers about providence, which they had seen in the rain, the sun, the birds and the lily of the valley. Because every good gift is from above, it is not wrong for us to look backwards to see providence.

### Providence Seen When Looking Forward

The words of Abraham to Isaac show us that we can see His coming providence by faith. Isaac was concerned and asked his father about the animal for the sacrifice. The patriarch's answer was simple. "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen. 22:8). He had no idea how God would provide it, He just knew that He who had always provided in the past would do so in the future. David also looked forward with the eyes of faith and saw himself walking with his Shepherd through the valley of death.

### Providence Seen in Your Life

So when troubles surround you and you are overwhelmed, stop and mediate of these two sides of providence. Look at how God has always helped His people. Look and see this truth in your past life. Then look to the adversity ahead and with the eye of faith march onward because you confidently know that your God will provide!

**So when troubles surround you take time to look at both sides of providence**



By David Sproule

## Accept Jesus into Your Heart?

Dear friend, I would like for you to consider something today, and truly take time to investigate what the Bible says about this. Don't accept somebody's word about this (including mine). It is too important!

Let me ask you a question. "What does a person need to do to be saved?"

There is no question more important than that question! There is no need of man today more important than salvation from sins! Therefore, this is not a matter that can be taken lightly or a matter about which we can afford to be wrong. Eternity is in the balance, and we must know precisely what God has said about securing His salvation.

Probably the most common answer to that question today involves a statement like, "Accept Jesus into your heart" or "Ask Jesus to come into your heart." That is such a wonderful and exciting thought. Except, if you study what the Bible says, you're going to run into a problem—there is not a single verse in the Bible that teaches a person to do this in order to be saved. Not a single verse. Since that is so commonly believed and taught today, wouldn't you expect there to be at least one verse, if not several?

A careful Bible study will note that there are a few verses that teach about Jesus dwelling in hearts, but all of

those verses (without one exception) are addressed to persons who are already Christians (ex: Rev. 3:20; Eph. 3:17; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27). No statement is ever made to an alien sinner about inviting or accepting Jesus into his heart.

The closest passage, and one often used to promote this doctrine, is Romans 10:9-10. Note carefully in that passage that it never states to "accept" or "ask" or "invite" Jesus into your heart. Rather the condition is stated this way, "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Belief is a response of the heart (along with confession) that leads "unto" salvation (v. 10). Salvation in Christ is not yet attained with faith, but one is then on the right track and has "the right to become" a child of God (cf. John 1:12).

Salvation is a Bible topic; therefore, we must allow the Bible to explain how to attain it. Some answers might sound good, but we should be careful not to believe everything (or everyone) that we hear (1 John 4:1), but rather "test" them against the Scriptures. In Acts 2, the multitude heard the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness for the first time. Many were "cut to the heart" (v. 37), but they did not yet have a relationship with Jesus. They were told to repent and be baptized, in order that their sins might be forgiven. Then, and only then, would Christ dwell in their hearts.

**We should be careful not to believe everything that we hear.**



By Josh Blackmer

## Is Christ in Christmas?

I know it is not even thanksgiving yet, but there seems to be a lot of confusion about Christmas. Let us start with a bit of history from Christmas past.

Christmas began as the week long pagan celebration of Saturnalia from December 17 to 25. During this time, people would practice all kinds of debase things. Roman communities would pick a person who would represent “an enemy of the people” and “the lord of misrule.” They would force them to indulge in food and pleasures for the week. On the 25th, that person would be brutally murdered. The people believed that by killing this person they were destroying evil.

In the 4th century, the Roman Emperor Constantine established himself as head of the “church” and began to try to “Christianize” pagan practices in an effort to win over the masses and their money. Saturnalia became Christmas in the year 336 A.D. and a short time later Pope Julius I deemed the 25th of December as the birth of Christ in an effort to give the date significance. It did not succeed in winning over the masses, and people continued their pagan customs. It is easy to see why one author said, “Catholicism is just sprinkled paganism.” However, Christmas was born and many other pagan practices began to be added to the celebration. The Christmas tree had its origins in the Asherath cults. Mistletoe was from the Druids.

The giving of gifts is tied again to a Roman practice. Santa Claus was a mixture of a bishop named Nicolas from the early Catholic church, Pasqua Epiphania from Italy and the god Woden from the Germanic tribes. A poem from the late 1800’s and the Coca-Cola bottling company can be blamed for the final concept of what Santa looks like in America.

With all this pagan background, is Jesus really the reason for the season? Should we be upset about what is or is not on a coffee cup? No! In fact, we may be better off taking a play from the Puritans who banned the practice of Christmas. From 1659 to 1681, it was illegal in the colony of Massachusetts. For fear of being named a Grinch or “lord of misrule,” I will not champion that

**No!**

idea.

Did the early church practice Christmas? No, they did not. The Bible does not give a command to celebrate the birth of Christ. The only observance commanded is the Lord’s Supper in connection with weekly worship. So what do we do with Christmas? If you practice it as a religious event, that is wrong. If you observe it as an American custom, there is no wrong. If, however, your conscience does not allow you to observe it, don’t. Keep in mind that your non-observance does not constitute a command for others (Col 2:16). In all of this, please remain balanced and respectable. Understand where the practice comes from, but make your own family traditions. Family and friends are an important part of this time of year.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### THE reason most people do not understand the Bible

There are, perhaps, a number of reasons why people do not understand the Bible, but what would you say is THE reason—the reason above all other reasons, the reason that precipitates other reasons? It should not surprise us that God gives us the answer.

The revelation of God was made known to the apostle Paul, as a steward of the grace of God (Eph. 3:2-3). In other words, God gave Paul the message that he was to write in the Bible. But how can we understand it? Read the next verse in Ephesians 3 and see if anything stands out.

“By referring to this, WHEN YOU READ you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ” (3:4). What is the first fundamental key necessary to understand the Bible? READ IT! What is THE reason most people do not understand the Bible? They do NOT read it! Either they do not read it all, or they read it through a mind filtered by external or internal influences.

Want to understand the Bible? Just read it! Read it for what it says! Let God speak! – DS



### No shortcuts

If there is a backroad shortcut, I am one who is likely to find it and use it. I am a fan of most things that will “get me there easier and quicker.” That applies to the road, and it applies to other things, including keyboard shortcuts.

If you work for the military, you know about shortcuts, for you have your own language of abbreviations and acronyms. But, you’re not the only ones. Many years ago, TWAIN was developed in the computer world, standing for “Technology Without An Interesting Name.” Shortcuts are needed, helpful and used by everyone. Just ask your BFF if that’s TMI.

But, when it comes to living the Christian life and when it comes to entering into heaven, there are no shortcuts. “Be thou faithful unto death” has no shortcut. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” has no shortcut. “Always abounding in the work of the Lord” has no shortcut. God demands your all. God expects your full effort. He has no shortcuts! – DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Harold Armstrong</b>	scheduled for TAVR surgery in Gainesville (11/18)
<b>Carol Hardman</b>	upcoming carotid artery surgery on Monday (11/16)
<b>Janet Hickerson</b>	Gardens Court Rehab (room 225), shoulder rehab
<b>Shelton Howell</b>	upcoming eye surgery
<b>Taylor Jaress</b>	struggling with a low platelet count
<b>Ruth Lipford</b>	recovering at home from hip surgery
<b>Tom Martens</b>	recovering at home from surgery
<b>Silas Moses</b>	Community Living at VA Hospital (room 1L-127)
<b>Jim Rogers</b>	JFK Hospital (room 4142), double pneumonia
<b>Cathy Seay</b>	Gardens Medical Center (no visitors), bronchitis
<b>Teresa Williams</b>	recovering from surgery on her finger

## Long-Term Health Issues

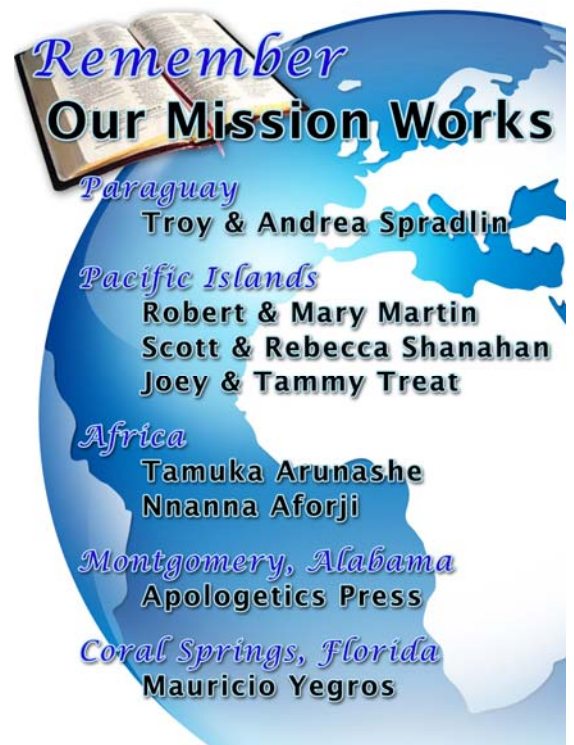
<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Janet Hickerson</b>	suffering with back pain
<b>Ruth Milton</b>	chronic health problems
<b>Silas Moses</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Charles Norton</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Norm Smedley</b>	breathing problems
<b>Patricia Ventress</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Cora Lee Dennis	Don & Betty Matter
Kay Fish	Deidra Miley
Helen Gardner	Leigh Puckett
Margie Hardin	Joe Quigley
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Shelton Howell	Margaret Wade

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Willie Alvarenga</b>	Douglas Alvarenga's brother, recovering from cancer surg.
<b>Jefferey Byrd</b>	Cheryl Floyd's brother, Renaissance Rehab, surgery
<b>Sharon Challist</b>	Maria Hackshaw's sister, recovering from surgery
<b>Judy Chilcutt</b>	Stephen Beliech's sister, recovering from back surgery
<b>Peggy Faison</b>	Annie Faison's daughter, recovering from pacemaker surg.
<b>Hilary Ann Findley</b>	Maria Hackshaw's sister, recovering from surgery
<b>Ashley Gibbs</b>	Peggy DeLaney's daughter, recovering at home
<b>Robert Higbee</b>	Bob Higbee's father, recovering from surgery
<b>Jennifer Jackson</b>	Joe & Janice Maloney's daughter, recovering from surgery
<b>Peggy McKeal</b>	Ruth Lipford's daughter, terminal cancer, not doing well





# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, November 15

- ◆ **Bible Class** at 9:00 a.m. Jr. High, Sr. High and all adults will meet in the Auditorium.
- ◆ **New Member Orientation Class (Part 2)** at 9:00 a.m. All new members to PBL in the last 12 months are encouraged to attend. See Tim Fry for details.
- ◆ **EDP Bible Study & Fellowship** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Monday, November 16

- ◆ **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Tuesday, November 17

- ◆ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.
- ◆ **Family Group 3 Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Victor & Sandy Colage.

## Wednesday, November 18

- ◆ **Bible Class** at 7:00 p.m. Jr. High, Sr. High and all adults will meet in the Auditorium.

## Friday, November 20

- ◆ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Richard & Judy Lerro.

## Sunday, November 22

- ◆ **New Bible Classes begin.** See the Welcome Desk for a listing of new classes.

## Wednesday, November 25

- ◆ **Congregational Singing** at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. All classes will meet in the Auditorium for a time of praise and thanksgiving.

## Sunday, November 29

- ◆ **5th Sunday Singing in the Lobby** during evening assembly.

## Thursday, December 3

- ◆ **Ladies' Soup Supper** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Traci Sproule. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring soup, bread, desserts or drinks. Bring an ornament for the exchange.



## Palm Beach Lakes

# Young Adults

## Sunday, November 22

- ◆ **Young Adult Meeting** after evening worship in Adult 3.

## Thursday, December 3

- ◆ **Ladies' Soup Supper** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Traci Sproule. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring soup, bread, drinks or desserts. Bring an ornament for the exchange.

## Saturday, December 12

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo & Holiday Party** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Ivan & Amber Villard. Dress as a character from a holiday movie and bring holiday-themed foods. See Ivan or Amber for more details.

## Sunday, December 20

- ◆ **Young Adult Meeting** after evening worship in Adult 3.

## Monday, January 4

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. Location TBD.



## Palm Beach Lakes

# Youth

## Sunday, November 15

- ◆ **Jr. High Lunch & Thanksgiving Visiting** after morning worship. Bring \$10 for the day and meet in the Family Room after worship. Will return around 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, November 22

- ◆ **Sr. High Devo** after evening worship.

## Saturday, December 5

- ◆ **Young Families' Holiday Party** at 11:00 a.m. at the home of Cam & Hollie Crotts. See Melinda Price for details.
- ◆ **Jr. High Holiday Party hosted by 55+ Members** at 11:00 a.m. under the PBL drive-thru.

## Sunday, December 13

- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Friday, December 18

- ◆ **Sr. High Holiday Party.** See Paul Metzkes for details.

# 219 Reasons from Psalm 119

## to Read the Bible Every Day

#4

165. To perform His statutes forever, to the very end (112)
166. To practice justice and righteousness (121)
167. To praise Him because of His righteous judgments (164)
168. To praise Him for teaching me His statutes (171)
169. To receive life (50)
170. To receive understanding (34, 125)
171. To receive understanding according to His word (169)
172. To recognize the pits dug for me by the proud (85)
173. To rejoice (14)
174. To rejoice at His word as one who finds great treasure (162)
175. To remember His judgments (52)
176. To remember His name in the night (55)
177. To remember the word (49)
178. To remove indignation (53)
179. To remove reproach and contempt (22)
180. To remove the way of lying (29)
181. To restrain my feet from every evil way (101)
182. To run the course of His commandments (32)
183. To see affliction as good for me (71)
184. To see His word is very pure (140)
185. To see perfection from God (96)
186. To see that God and His judgments are righteous (137)
187. To see that His testimonies are righteous and very faithful (138)
188. To see the goodness of God (68)
189. To see things continuing as God ordained (91)
190. To see wondrous things from His law (18)
191. To seek Him (10)
192. To seek Him with the whole heart (2)
193. To seek His precepts (45, 94)
194. To seek His salvation and righteous word (123)
195. To seek His statutes and salvation (155)
196. To show how I love His law (97)
197. To show how I love His precepts (159)
198. To show I have chosen His precepts (173)
199. To show I hope in His word (147)
200. To show I love His commandments (47, 48)
201. To show I love His law (113, 163, 165)
202. To show I love His testimonies (119)
203. To show I love His testimonies exceedingly (167)
204. To show I love His word (140)
205. To show I trust in His word (42)
206. To speak of His testimonies (46)
207. To speak of His word (172)
208. To stand in awe of His word (161)
209. To stay near to His law (150)
210. To stay near to the Lord (151)
211. To turn away my eyes from worthless things (37)
212. To turn away my reproach (39)
213. To turn my feet to His testimonies (59)
214. To understand more than the ancients (100)
215. To understand the way of His precepts (27)
216. To walk at liberty (45)
217. To walk in His ways (3)
218. To walk in the law of the Lord (1)
219. To walk in the path of His commandments (35)

**"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)**



**Congratulations to Chuck Milton** upon the birth of his **grandson, Benaiah**, to **Ben & Brittany Clayton**, on Saturday, November 7, weighing 9 lbs., 8 oz. Proud great-grandmother is **Ruth Milton**.



**Congratulations to Regina Mayne** upon the birth of her **granddaughter, Brooklyn**, to **Rusty & Heather Mayne**, on Sunday, November 8, weighing 8 lbs., 2 oz.



Sunday,  
November 8

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Peter & Arlene James; Milton Jones; John Loftis; Ms. Katrina Fox; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gerber; Mrs. Miranda J. McKelton; Mr. & Mrs. Damien Reed; Christopher & Yolanda Stewart; Jonas Watkins; and Morris Williams.

**OUT OF TOWN VISITORS:** Ms. Karen Bibbee, Delray Beach, FL; Mark & Dana Blackwelder, Henderson, TN; Susan M. Crosswhite, Delray Beach; James Davis, Rock Hill, SC; Mrs. Cherry Fletcher, Pantego, NC; Mrs. Jessie Gower-Winter, Boynton Beach; Miss Juanita Guilford, Cincinnati, OH; Tim James, Savannah, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kerrison, Minneola, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Sharon Mann, Delray Beach; Stan Mitchell, Henderson, TN; Ms. Darlene Smith, Valdosta, GA; Robert & Juanetta Walker, Crawfordville, FL; Frances Walker, Little Rock, AR; Mrs. Linda Wolfe, Fayetteville, NC; Maurico, Kayla & Nelson Yegros, Coral Springs, FL; and Nora Yegros, Asunción, Paraguay.



Sunday (November 15<sup>th</sup>)

Lovella Rogers

Wednesday (Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>) cont.

Norman Smedley

Tuesday (November 17<sup>th</sup>)

Esther Saintil  
Kelly Sproule

Thursday (Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>)

Buzz & Kathy Nelson (Ann.)  
David Thorpe

Wednesday (November 18<sup>th</sup>)

Silas & Sallie Moses (Ann.)  
Diane Leslie  
Natalie Reeves

Friday (November 20<sup>th</sup>)

Freddie Gadson  
Matthew Jones  
Leonard Williams

**Those to Serve**

*If you cannot serve, please call Mike Ellis at 775-3533.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at 9:50 a.m.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 5:50 p.m.*

**Sunday Morning, November 15**

Lead Singing .....Jerry Hopkins  
Opening Prayer ..... Chris Thompson  
Scripture Reading..... Jeff Goodale  
Presiding at Table ..... Dan Fuller  
Serve at Table:  
Henry Bass            Kenneth Long  
Doug Carrick        Joe Maloney  
Mike Erickson       Les McQuinn  
Brett Lau             Austin Williams  
Alternates:  
Josh Blackmer      Deltom Lequernaqué  
Closing Prayer ..... Dave Holaday

**Sunday Evening, November 15**

Lead Singing .....Dan McLeod  
Opening Prayer .....Taylor Reeves  
Scripture Reading.....Michael Fox  
Presiding at Table..... Gary Seames  
Serve at Table:  
John Kemp  
Bobbo Lupo  
Leonard Williams  
Closing Prayer ..... Tom Martens  
**Wednesday Evening, November 18**  
Lead Singing ..... Adam Seal  
Invitation..... Marty Williams  
Family Prayer .....Dan McLeod

**Our Record**

Attendance	Nov. 8	Oct. Avg.
Sun. Bible study	340	217
Sun. A.M. Worship	351	341
Sun. P.M. Worship	157	194
Wed. Bible study	208	193
Contribution	\$17,835	\$13,812
2015 Weekly Budget: \$14,500		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -10,700		

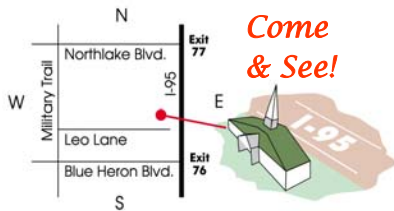
Ushers for the week of **Nov. 15**: Head Usher: Richard Watson; Brad Shelt & David Thorpe



# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
www.pblcoc.org

*Speaking where the Bible speaks, silent where the Bible is silent.*



*Come & See!*

## Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ Bulletin (USPS 097-200)

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### Service Schedule

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.

Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

Bible classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: **Maureen Reed & Zula McLeod**

**G O D**  
*with*  
P H I L I P P I A N S 4 : 1 3  
**W E C A N**