

Shepherds

- 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 December*

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

Church Office

- Phone..... 561-848-1111
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- Website..... www.pblcoc.org
- E-mail office@pblcoc.org



Vol. LIV

December 6, 2015

No. 49

Welcome New Members



Wolfe, Linda

Group 2

Identified November 29

with **GOD** *we can*
 PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Evangelize the World

Fortify Our Faith

Find a Place to Serve

Worship More Meaningfully

Anchor Our Hope in Christ

Strengthen Our Marriages

Grow Closer to Each Other

Restore His Church

See Souls Around Us

Prepare for His Coming

Equip Our Young People

Live Closer to Him



By Dan Jenkins

“Mountaintops” and “Valleys”

Spiritual lives are not always characterized by “mountaintop experiences.” It was wonderful for Moses to be in the presence of God on Mount Sinai, but eventually he had to leave the mountain and return to the reality of dealing with the Jewish rebellion in worshipping the golden calf.

In the same way, Peter, James and John were at the Mount of Transfiguration and saw Moses, Elijah and the transformation of Jesus, but they eventually had to leave that mountain and confront their failure to cast out the demon in the child.

Elijah experienced this same problem in the contest he had with 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The fire from heaven totally consumed the prophet’s sacrifice and shortly afterwards there was the slaughter of all the false prophets. Yet, when Elijah descended from that mount, he was so overwhelmed with the sinfulness of Israel, he asked God to take him, for he thought he was the only person in Israel who faithfully served Jehovah.

“Mountaintop experiences” are so wonderful. There are those times when we see great spiritual victories and figuratively are on top of the world. You may remember in great detail that day when you obeyed the Gospel and how exhilarated you were. It may have been that day when some loved

one of yours became a Christian. It may have been one of the unexpected times when you were worshipping, and you were so enthralled that you forgot about all those distractions from daily life. Thank God for “mountaintop experiences.”

However, the reality is that life always has deep “valleys” when we must leave the mountaintop. Life probably has more valleys than it has mountaintops. Situations develop and doubts and fears seem to threaten our faith. Do not despair. Look at those heroes who were in that same situation. Abraham (Gen. 15:1; 20:10-11), Isaac (Gen. 26:24), Moses (Num. 21:34), Joshua (Josh. 1:9; 8:1), David (1 Sam. 23:17), Elijah (2 Kgs. 1:15), Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20:15) and Daniel (Dan. 10:12) are just a few of those individuals who were fearful when in the valleys of life.

There is a great principle of life to be learned when we look deeply into the lives of our Biblical heroes. Godly people have always had clouds of adversity around them. Their response was often like ours, but this does not mean they were not approved by God. All mankind has valleys, but Christians have something others do not have. When we are walking in valley of death may our hearts proclaim, “I will fear not evil for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Thank God for those “mountaintop experiences,” but let us thank God for the blessings of His help in the valleys!

All mankind has valleys, but Christians have something others do not have!



By David Sproule

Jesus Is the Reason for...

For a period of about five or six weeks each year, the slogan is tossed around in certain circles and then retired for about eleven months until it emerges again. While there is zero evidence (Biblically or historically) that Jesus was born on December 25 (in fact, the evidence points away from that

time), it does bring a certain satisfaction to hear folks suggest that “Jesus is the reason for the season.” I don’t say this because I believe that Christmas is a religious holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ, but I do find some joy in knowing that people believe that Jesus is the reason for anything good these days. But, let’s take a look at Jesus from a Biblical perspective.

Jesus is the reason for redemption. You and I would be utterly damned in our sins if it were not for “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and with spot” that has “redeemed us to God” (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9). Are you redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? Then give praise to Jesus! He is the reason!

Jesus is the reason for hope. You and I would be eternally doomed if it were not for Jesus Christ! We possess “a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3). And, because our “forerunner has entered for us [into the Presence of God], even Jesus,” we have hope

“as an anchor of the soul” (Heb. 6:19-20). Do you have that hope? Then give praise to Jesus! He is the reason!

Jesus is the reason for the church. You and I would know nothing of the church (and maybe care nothing about it) if it were not for Jesus Christ! When His physical body died on the cross, He “purchased” His spiritual body, the church (Acts 20:28). How important is the church? It is “the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12; 1:22-23), saved by “the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13-16). Are you in His body, the church? Then give praise to Jesus! He is the reason!

Jesus is the reason for zeal. You and I need to examine ourselves and honestly measure two things: (1) am I zealous as a Christian? and (2) why? True zeal as a Christian has nothing to do with me or what I get out of it for myself, but true zeal is all about Jesus. When “the love of Christ compels us” (2 Cor. 5:14), we will boldly speak His word (Acts 4:13-31) and be truly “zealous for good works” (Tit. 2:14). Are you burning with zeal? Then give praise to Jesus! He is the reason!

Jesus is the reason for...love, joy, peace, grace, mercy, forgiveness, courage, repentance, worship, faithfulness, assurance, obedience, etc. This list goes on and on. Don’t let this realization emerge for a few weeks and then go back into hibernation for several months. Jesus is the reason for who you are and what you have as a Christian! Give praise to Him!

Jesus is the reason for who you are and what you have as a Christian!



By Josh Blackmer

When The Prodigal Returns

“Here come I to my own again, Fed, forgiven and known again, Claimed by bone of my bone again and cheered by flesh of my flesh” (1-3).

Joseph Rudyard Kipling, author of *The Jungle Book*, opened his poem “The Prodigal Son” with those lines. In it he writes from the perspective of the returning son. As we consider that thought, what should our response be to those that return? How should we approach the penitent brother or sister that has come back to their first love?

First, we must realize that there is already a burden of guilt upon those that return. It is not ours to make that burden any greater by subjecting them to our self-righteous judgments. Look at how those in the parable responded to the return. The father celebrated as one that received his child back from death (Luke 15:32). The older brother did not feel that his sibling was deserving of such treatment (Luke 15:28-30). The reality is nobody ever deserves the Father’s love. In 2 Corinthians, Paul writes concerning the treatment of the repentant brother in Christ that had been withdrawn from. “Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and com-

fort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him” (2:6-8). This is exactly what the father was doing. He was reestablishing the relationship that had been severed because of sin.

Second, they need to be built back up to a measure of strength. The wayward child had been in the far off land eating very little. Desiring to eat even the slop for pigs. When he returned home, I think of him as having a feeble body, barely able to walk. Spiritually, those that have wandered away for a length time are in a similar situation. “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted” (Gal. 6:1). The word “restore” is the same word used in Mark 1:19 for mending nets. Hebrews 12:13 talks about the concept as though you are resetting a joint that was out of place. An arm that once hung lifeless to the side is set back in place and nurtured to usefulness.

When the lost son came to his senses, he returned home. We pray that those who are off in the far country spiritually would return also. Nothing would give heaven greater joy than for the wayward to say, “Here I come to my own again, fed, forgiven and known again...”

How should we approach the penitent brother or sister that has come back to their first love?

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

“Ev’ry burden’s getting lighter!”

When you look around at our world, do you ever think that things are getting darker and darker every day? Probably all of us do. Do you ever think that it’s getting brighter? Probably not many of us do. When you consider all the struggles and trials that you are facing and the ones yet to come, do you ever think that the burdens are getting heavier and heavier every day? Probably a lot of us do. Do you ever think that it’s getting lighter? Probably not many of us do.

In 1950, Ira Stanphill penned and set to music the beautiful hymn, “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow.” The second stanza needs to resonate in our hearts, “Ev’ry step is getting brighter As the golden stairs I climb; Ev’ry burden’s getting lighter, Ev’ry cloud is silver lined.” Do you believe that? Do you ever feel that? You will when you can confidently affirm, “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand; But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.” Sing it with joy and confidence! Live it with peace and assurance! – DS



Confusing?

In their search for a church home, many individuals have made a discovery and then have voiced something like this, “With all of the denominations out there, it makes it very confusing to find a church. One group says one thing, and then another group says something completely different. It’s hard to know where to go.” Have you ever thought that? Ever been there?

Where did all of this disharmony originate? Where should we turn? Here is God’s desire: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10). How does that compare with what we see today in denominationalism? We are plainly told, “God is not the author of confusion” (1 Cor. 14:33). So, God is not responsible for (or pleased with) the religious division that exists today.

Question: What would happen if we put aside all of our traditions and personal beliefs and **simply** went back to the pattern that God gave for the church in the New Testament? – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Harold Armstrong	recovering at home from heart surgery
Terry Denton	Jupiter Medical Ctr. (room 447), recovering from surg.
Sharon Feeney	scheduled for neck surgery (12/4)
Charles Fifield	recovering at home from stomach ulcers
Gary Friedly	recovering from hip replacement surgery
Richard Haines	recovering from hernia surgery
Janet Hickerson	scheduled to go home (12/5)
Shelton Howell	upcoming eye surgery
Ruth Lipford	recovering at home from hip surgery
Silas Moses	Community Living at VA Hospital (room 1L-127)
Chuck Reeves, Sr.	recovering from an outpatient procedure
Cathy Seay	now recovering at home
Giselle Smith	recovering at home, blood clots in lungs, improving
Jackie Stout	blood clot in her leg

Long-Term Health Issues

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

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

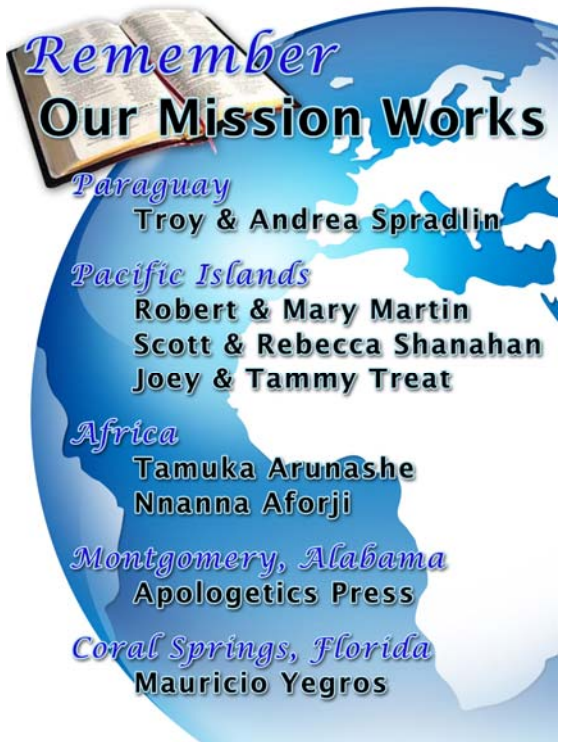
Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Cora Lee Dennis	Don & Betty Matter
Kay Fish	Deidra Miley
Helen Gardner	Leigh Puckett
Margie Hardin	Joe Quigley
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Shelton Howell	Margaret Wade



Ruth Lipford upon the passing of her daughter, **Peggy McKeal**, on Friday morning.

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Blaine Colburn	Johnny Davis' brother-in-law, ICU, quintuple bypass surg.
Richard Hill	Shirley Hopkins' brother, recovering from hip surgery
David McKeal	Ruth Lipford's son-in-law, in Miami hospital, cancer
Carla Sumner	Ken & Connie Tipton's daughter, good results from biopsy
Lenise Villard	Ivan Villard's mother, awaiting results from medical tests





Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 6

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Deadline to return notes of appreciation for Scott & Rebecca Shanahan.** Please place all cards in the box in the Lobby. See Helen Chapman for more information.

Monday, December 7

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Will resume on January 4, 2016.

Tuesday, December 8

- ◆ **No Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** Will resume on January 5, 2016.

Thursday, December 10

- ◆ **Potluck for Tuesday Morning Class** at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Dan & Judie Jenkins. Bring a dish to share.
- ◆ **Family Group 1 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dan & Judie Jenkins.

Friday, December 11

- ◆ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Night** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jean Archer. Bring a \$10 gift to exchange. All ladies are welcome. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.

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.

Tuesday, December 15

- ◆ **Family Group 3 Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ivan & Amber Villard.
- ◆ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mike & Jean Archer.

Wednesday, December 23

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. All children and adult classes will meet as scheduled.

Wednesday, December 30

- ◆ **No Midweek Services.** Rescheduled to Thursday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 31

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:30 p.m. All children and adult classes will meet as scheduled.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Gathering** at 9:00 p.m. after Bible Study.



Palm Beach Lakes

Young Adults

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. at the home of Cindy Nelson.

Saturday, January 9

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of David & Traci Sproule.

Sunday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 23

- ◆ **Young Adult & Jr. High Service Project** at 8:30 a.m.



Palm Beach Lakes

Youth

Sunday, December 13

- ◆ **2016 Youth Kick-Off Event & Potluck** after morning worship in the Family Room. **All Jr. High & Sr. High families** are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck dish to share. See Josh Blackmer for more details.
- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

Saturday, December 19

- ◆ **Sr. High Holiday Party** at 6:00 p.m. See Paul or Lisa Metzkes for details.

Sunday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 31

- ◆ **Sr. High Lock-In** after the New Year's Eve Gathering. Bring \$5 and things to keep yourself awake. Do not bring anything for sleeping (pillows, blankets, etc.) See Josh Blackmer for details.

January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 a Julio & Flo Aristy b Linda King b Sarah Rodgers	2 a Gary & Jacqui Jenkins b Michael Archer b Ellen Gager
3 ☆ Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit b Jacqueline Creary b Quinntavias Smith	4 ☆ Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night a Joseph & Anthioda Charles b Gabrielle Newby	5	6 a Shaun & Emily Tyson b Bobby Ingraham b Joe Maloney	7 a Willie & Giselle Smith b Sandy Colage	8	9 ☆ Young Adult Devo a Matthew & Kasandra Jones b Brenda Collier
10 ☆ Youth & Family Singing b Marjorie Ruiz-Carmona	11 a Harrison & Danielle Carter	12 b Barbara King	13	14 ☆ Family Group 2 Meeting b Mary Coombs b Robin Davis b Cindy Nelson	15 b Jacade Reynolds	16 ☆ Sr. High Trek & Dinner
17 ☆ Young Adult Meeting b Cynthia Parker	18 b Terry Denton	19 a Cornelius & Andrea Henderson	20 b Julie Charles b Godfrey Pratt b Norma Pratt b Kari Reeves	21 b Doug Carrick b Edward Gager	22 b Cora Lee Dennis b Andrea Leslie	23 ☆ Young Adult & Jr. High Service Project ☆ PBL Family Picnic b Jaqua' Lewis b Luther Robinson
24 ☆ Jr. High Family Devo ☆ Sr. High Devo b Keila McLeod	25	26 b Jimmie Banks b Winifred Patterson b Andrea Spradlin	27 b Christene Bean b Ed Buonadonna	28 b Shantal Martin b Joyce Parker b Lana Smith	29 a Lawrence & Kay Richardson b Annie Faison	30 a Lynn & Cynthia Parker b Joyce Barnhouse b Dick Haines b Carol Hardman
31 ☆ EDP Meeting b Charles Hayes b Mary A. Jackson						

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



Sunday,
November 29

Sunday (December 6th)
Cara Blackmer
Clayton Trujillo

Wednesday (Dec. 9th) cont.
Lawrence D. Richardson

Monday (December 7th)
Deltom Lequernaqué

Friday (December 11th)
Tasha Ellis

Tuesday (December 8th)
Harriet Morris

Saturday (December 12th)
Deandre & Lovetta Harmon (Ann.)
Charlene Knowles
Jo Ann Rogers
Tyrone Toson

Wednesday (December 9th)
Michael & Jean Archer (Ann.)

LOCAL VISITORS: Ms. Denise Barnes; Mr. Jean Charles; Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Mr. & Mrs. Undre Griggs; Dally Fontaine; Ms. Sandra Hanna; Mr. Milton Jones; Mr. & Mrs. John Miller & family; Mrs. Miranda McKelton; Miss Camryn Norsworthy; Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Stewart; Terry West; and Mary Sue Young.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Mike Barrios, Collierville, TN; Ms. Karen Bibbee, Delray Beach, FL; the Brent Clark family; Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Cozort, Southaven, MS; Ms. Susan Crosswhite, Delray Beach; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Daniels, Lodi, CA; Dr. & Mrs. Bill Davis, Jacksonville, FL; Ms. Marcia Farrar, Palm City, FL; Mr. & Mrs. David Farrington, Plano, TX; Mr. & Mrs. Chris Fry & family, Lebanon, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Errol Gower-Winter, Boynton Beach; Mrs. Lynne Hirsh, Evans, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Ed Johnson, Warrensburg, MO; Ms. Erin Johnson, Moberly, MO; Mrs. Monique LeBlanc, Quebec, Canada; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mann, Delray Beach; Mr. Ted Okolichany, Lake Park, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Brian Rayfield & family, Boynton Beach, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Smith, Henderson, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Morné Stephanus, Malvern, AR; and Mrs. Martie Veverka, Murphy, NC.

Thank You Note

It's so good to be back. Thank you so much for all the prayers. Love you!

Carol Hardman

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, December 6

Lead SingingJerry Hopkins
Opening Prayer Jimmie Banks
Scripture Reading..... Gary Friedly
Presiding at Table Stephen Beliech
Serve at Table:
 Josue Charles Brett Lau
 Doug Carrick Kenneth Long
 Rick Hall Paul Metzkes
 Bob Higbee Lawrence Williams
Alternates:
 Paul Hensel Dirk Summerlot
Closing Prayer Jim Davis

Sunday Evening, December 6

Lead SingingDan McLeod
Opening Prayer Ivan Villard, Jr.
Scripture Reading.....David Lord
Presiding at Table.....Mike Erickson
Serve at Table:
 Michael Fox
 Nick Pietro
 Adam Seal
Closing Prayer Ken Tipton

Wednesday Evening, December 9

Lead SingingBobbo Lupo
Invitation..... Tim Cox
Family PrayerDan McLeod

Ushers for the week of **Dec. 6:** Head Usher: Novel Brown; Jeff Leslie & Jerry Pittman

Our Record

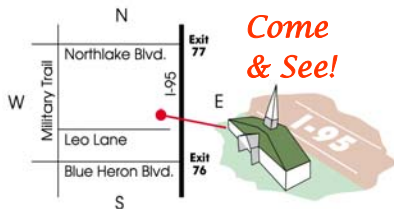
Attendance	<u>Nov. 29</u>	<u>Oct. Avg.</u>
Sun. Bible study	204	217
Sun. A.M. Worship	355	341
Sun. P.M. Worship	176	194
Wed. Bible study	176	193
Contribution	\$13,298	\$13,812
2015 Weekly Budget: \$14,500		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -14,179		



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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4067 Leo Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6401

**PERIODICAL
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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: **Ruth Lipford & Joan Holloway**

