#### **Overseers**

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 January

#### **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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E mail	offica@phlcoc org



Vol. LV January 3, 2016 No. 1

# Every Member Present Sunday

January 3

9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

By Dan Jenkins

# **Dealing With the Mistakes of 2015**

One of the unseen blessings of memorizing Scripture is that doing this opens the door to our souls. Solomon showed this when he said that a man is what he thinks in his heart (Prov. 23:7). What is perhaps even more remarkable is that what we memorized when we were children is so much a part of

what we are today. We all know about what happened to Jack and Jill, Little Miss Muffet and the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe. We owe a tremendous debt to those As this new year who helped us learn spiritual truths when we were so much younger.

I am not sure what teacher required that I memorize the opening stanza of a poem which I can so easily recall now six decades after I learned it. It ourselves was written by Lolita Hiroshi (I did not memorize her name, but found it on Google), but the moral truth found in it still impacts my life.

I wish that there were some wonderful place Called the Land of Beginning Again, Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door, And never be on again.

The reality is that such a place does exist. That land of beginning again is found in Christ. His grace is so amazing that He allows us to bury all the mistakes of the past and then to begin again. Paul said, "If anyone in Christ he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17). That old man is crucified and buried in baptism, and we are raised to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-6). Mistakes of the past are gone and laid aside like an old garment, and we clothe ourselves in Christ-like apparel.

This truth is vividly described in Paul's description of those in Corinth. Before becoming Christians, they were fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners. There was no way, living that way, they begins, let's take could inherit the kingdom of God. But, Paul described time to have an what happened when they became Christians. "But honest look at you were washed...sanctified...justified (1 Cor. 6:9-11). They entered the "Land of Beginning Again."

> That same beginning is still available for those who have become Christians and made foolish mistakes. John says that the blood of Jesus cleanses us also (1 John 1:7). The Lord continues to see us a without spot, wrinkle and without a single blemish (Eph. 5:27). With humble hearts we can live each day in the "Land of Beginning Again."

So, as this new year begins, let's take time to have an honest look at changes we can make. With His help every wrong can be made right. Memorize His words about the "land" in which we live. Write them on your soul, today!



# Are You Approachable?

As Christians, we are "members of one another" (Rom. 12:5), and we have very specific responsibilities to each other. Our Father expects us to "greet one another," "edify one another," "comfort one another," "submit to one another," "serve one anoth-By David Sproule er," "bear one another's burdens" and

Are people com-

fortable in com-

"confess [our] trespasses to one another" (Rom. 16:16; 14:19; 1 Thess. 4:18; 1 Pet. 5:5; Gal. 5:13; 6:2; Jas. 5:16). Think about these words and consider this key quality that you must possess for these things to be possible—you must be approachable! Think about it!

ing to me, talking How can others greet you, edify you, comfort you, submit to you, serve you, bear your burto me, being dens or confess trespasses to you, if you are not aparound me? proachable? It would be impossible! Every Christian, without exception, must be approachable, and some (like preachers and elders) must be even more so. So, a critical question for you to consider is this, "Am I approachable?" Are people comfortable in coming to me, talking to me, being around me? Or, are they hesitant to approach me, feeling uneasy, uncertain or awkward? I must honestly evaluate myself!

Jesus was the most approachable person who ever lived, therefore, He is the perfect standard by which we should measure ourselves.

Being approachable requires humility. Arrogance is such a deterrent, but Jesus, the Son of God, "humbled Himself" (Phil. 2:8). Am I humble, truly humble?

Being approachable requires compassion. When one's heart is moved, one will be moved to appropriate and loving action, as Jesus was (Matt. 9:36). Am I compassionate, truly compassionate?

> Being approachable requires friendliness. Jesus was friendly, even to those who were not friendly toward Him (John 4:9), and even took time for little children (Matt. 19:13-15). Am I friendly?

> Being approachable requires openness. Jesus opened Himself up to the point that anyone could approach Him at any time about any matter (Matt. 9). Am I open and available to my brethren?

Being approachable requires trustworthiness. People opened up to Jesus about their darkest troubles, because they knew He could be trusted. Am I truly trustworthy?

Being approachable requires a willingness to help. People who followed Jesus and heard about Jesus knew that, if nothing else was true about Him, He was willing to help people out. Am I truly (and obviously) willing to help?

To properly obey the "one another" commands of God, I must be approachable! How would Jesus grade me?



# I Am Adopted

I watched a video recently of a boy opening a gift, and it reminded me of God. As the boy opened the gift and realized what it was, emotion rolled over him. His shoulders dropped, his eyes filled up with tears, and he hugged his new mom and dad. He By Josh Blackmer had been adopted. He held tightly in his

We have been

adopted by God

out of sin into

hands ordinary paper with a message that changed his life. He would no longer be a child of the system or bounce from foster home to foster home. Nor would he go to sleep each night with uncertainty, longing anxiously to have what other children have—parental love and stability.

Belonging and being loved are fundamental coheirship with human desires. These are two things that children in Christ the Son. the system want most. When a family finally says, "We love you and want you, just as if you were born to us." What joy and peace. That trust can begin to be repaired. A child that felt like nobody wanted them can begin to have the security that everything will truly be okay, my mom and dad love me.

Belonging and being loved are fundamental human desires that God has fulfilled in His relationship with us. This is how it is described in Romans 8:14-17, "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

We who are being led by the Spirit have been adopted by God out of sin into coheirship with Christ the Son. That

> is to say, that the revelation of the Spirit of God in the Bible is the guiding and ruling authority in our lives. We have a relation with God that allows us to cry out, "Father, Father," just as Christ did in the garden that night of anguish (Mark 14:36). When we put on Christ in baptism (Gal. 3:27), we begin to look like Him. We are given new clothes (Rev. 3:5). We are given a new name (Rev. 3:12). In every aspect of

our lives, we are to imitate our Father, "as beloved children" (Eph. 5:1). You are loved and belong to Him.

The next time you pick up the Bible, remember that you are holding your adoption papers—the message that can change your life no matter what your past was or where you come from. Remember also, "He who is faithful has promised," and everything He has promised will come to pass (Heb. 10:23; 1 Thess. 5:24) You can rest at the end of the day knowing truly everything will be okay, your Heavenly Father loves you. He will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5).

# Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

for the Day

## Can someone worship God and not be right with Him?

When Paul came to the city of Philippi in Acts 16, he found Lydia by the riverside outside the city. She was a woman from Thyatira "who worshiped God" (Acts 16:14). Let me ask you a question: If you found someone "who worshiped God," would you think, "This person is ok...No need for me to talk to them

about salvation...They're already worshiping God"? What if Paul had thought that about Lydia? Would she have been saved? The answer is, "No!"

Paul went down by the riverside and "spoke" the gospel to the women who were there (16:13). "The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to heed the things spoken by Paul," and so "she and her household were baptized" for the remission of their sins (16:14-15). If she had been right with God, then there was no need for her to hear the gospel plan of salvation or "heed" it. However, she was not right with God, even though she worshiped Him, and she needed to be saved.

Worshiping God isn't what makes one right with Him—obeying His gospel is! - DS

# "If you worship me, it will all be yours!"

Many have turned to God upon the promise that if they will believe in Him and praise Him that He will bless them with great riches and abundance. It is commonly assumed by many that Christians should have the best health and the greatest wealth, for that is the promise.

> Here's the problem with that philosophy: No such promise is found anywhere in the New Testament! The "Health and Wealth Gospel" has its origin in the hearts of televangelists who want to get rich themselves, rather than finding its origin in God. God's promise is simple: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His right-

eousness" (Matt. 6:33), and "God shall supply all your need" (Phil. 4:19). Notice the promise is for the basic necessities of life—not affluence.

Someone says, "But I thought there was a verse in the Bible that said, 'If you worship me, it will all be yours!'" They're right! There certainly is! Read Luke 4:6-7 to find where that promise originated. When you've found it, let's put our focus back on serving the one true God...for His good and not our own! -DS

# Keep in Your Prayers

# **Pray for These PBL Members**

Harold Armstrong recovering at home from congestive heart failure

Peggy DeLaney recovering from Achilles tendon surgery

**Terry Denton** recovering from surgery

**Sharon Feeney** recovering from neck surgery

**Gary Friedly** recovering from hip replacement surgery

Janet Hickerson ICU at PBG Hosp. (no visitors), pneumonia & blood clots

Calissa Hodges Lisa Eutsey's daughter, broken arm

**Ruth Lipford** recovering from hip surgery

Silas Moses Community Living at VA Hospital (room 1L-127)

Jim Rogers being tested for leukemia

Wesley Williams recovering from eye surgery

#### **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

**Godfrey Pratt** suffering with back issues

Norm Smedley breathing problems

Patricia Ventress dialysis treatments

# **Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members**

**Kelly Brackett** Amber Villard's cousin, recovering from neck & foot surg.

**Bonnye Cox** Connye Plouffe's sister, fell & cracked two ribs

**Ann Graham** Luann McLeod's mother, rehab, recovering from hip surg.

**Chloe Hammond** Jacade Reynolds' niece, recovering from spine surgery

**Richard Hill** Shirley Hopkins' brother, recovering from hip surgery

Sarah Owens Cindy Nelson's grandmother, diagnosed with Alzheimer's

# **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 Our Missionaries**

Troy & Andrea Spradlin Paraguay

Robert & Mary Martin Pacific Islands

Scott & Rebecca Shanahan Pacific Islands
Joey & Tammy Treat Pacific Islands

Tamuka Arunashe Zimbabwe

Nnanna Aforgi Nigeria

Apologetics Press Montgomery, AL

Maricio Yegros Pompano Beach, FL

# Church Family **Calendar of Events**

#### Sunday, January 3

- Every Member Present Sunday for Bible Class and Worship. Plans for the new year will be presented during worship. Every member is urged to be in attendance at 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. Let's start the new year together!
- Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit at 2:30 p.m.

#### Monday, January 4

Monday Night Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, January 5

Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

#### Thursday, January 7

 Family Group 1 Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the home of David & Skye Brown.

#### Sunday, January 10

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

#### Friday-Monday, January 15-18

Winter Camp at CFBC. This year's theme is "Soul Wars:
 The Spirit Awakens." Cost is \$60. See the bulletin board for more details.

#### Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17

 The Love Birds Seminar hosted by Suncoast. Guest speaker is Dr. Sam Heastie. Begins Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. See the bulletin board for more details.

#### Thursday, January 21

 Family Group 2 Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the home of David & Traci Sproule.

#### Friday, January 22

 Family Groups 3 & 4 Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Lance & Brenda Collier.

#### Saturday, January 23

 PBL Family Picnic on the church property. See Darin Summerlot for details.



#### Monday, January 4

Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cindy Nelson. Bring a side dish or dessert.

#### 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. Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m.

#### Monday, February 1

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

#### Saturday, February 6

◆ Young Adult Devo at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD.



#### Sunday, January 10

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

#### Saturday, January 23

• **Jr. High Service Project with the Young Adults.** Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, January 24

- Jr. High Family Devo after evening worship. Please bring a drink, dessert or chips.
- Sr. High Devo after evening worship.

#### Saturday, January 30

 Sr. High Trek & Dinner at 1:00 p.m. at the building. Bring \$5 to cover costs. Youth will be traveling together to the trek location. See Josh Blackmer for more details.

#### Saturday, February 13

Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth.

# Who's Your Friend?

# by Gregory Alan Tidwell

(Editor, Gospel Advocate)

"A friend to all is a friend to none," observed Aristotle, for friendship implies commitment and loyalty.

A deception of friendship, faked for selfish advantage, nauseates. Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss leaves us cold.

As it is in our relationships with men, so it is in our relationship with God. "You adulterous people!" James 4:4 warns, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."



We should fear becoming God's enemy. "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Jesus warned in Matthew 10:28, "Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

God, who is rich in mercy, is also a God of wrath and judgment. While we like to focus on God's loving grace, we must remain biblically balanced and remember the fate of the ungodly. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

How, then, do we become a friend to the world and, thus, an enemy of God?

#### A Measured Morality

We become a friend to the world when political correctness tempers our preaching and teaching. Today, the party line of Western culture is open-ended inclusion. Political correctness dictates nothing be said or done to offend any of a broad assortment of protected groups.

This social trend has caused many strange distortions in the church, notably has an ever-widening range of sexual deviants enjoys a protected minority status. Evan as the world becomes more and more depraved, we measure our comments to avoid offending the ungodly.

Making concessions to political correctness will make us an enemy of God.

#### **Idols of Entertainment**

We become a friend to the world when sports and amusement control how we approach the work and worship of the church. Sometimes the most dangerous compromises are when we permit doing things that are not wrong to become an enemy of doing what is right.

Yes, there are judgment calls we all must make, and amusement is not evil in and of itself. But how much accommodation should we make to the passions of sports and entertainment? Do we dare encourage Christians to forgo entertainment to be God's friend?

Recognizing we function in a world dominated by secular concerns, we must realize there is a point where accommodation to the secular schedule of events is unfaithfulness to the Lord. Placing higher priority on amusement than on faithful service will make us an enemy of God.

#### Where Is Our Treasure?

We become a friend to the world when we permit social prominence and affluence to set the agenda for our lives.

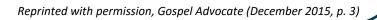
Success is not a bad thing. The Bible tells us of many people who enjoyed both material success and God's approval. The problem comes when we let material success drive our lives. We need to remember the words of the Savior: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Permitting social prominence and material abundance to guide our lives will make us an enemy of God.

#### The Danger of Moderate Faithfulness

The "golden mean" is an ideal found in many cultures, but it is not Christian. While we are called to moderate our pursuit of selfish and worldly things, our passion for godliness must never be diluted with an admixture of ungodliness.

Members of the Lord's church must avoid keeping one foot in the world. Our devotion to God and to His standard of righteousness should know no bounds. A moderated faithfulness is merely a measured betrayal.



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



Sunday, December 27

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. Jean Charles; Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Giffin; the Raymond Henderson family; Ms. Rebecca Huffman; Ms. Rimma Nikulova; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Reitano; Ms. Darlene Smith; and Mr. Michael Staley.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. David Barr, Greenwood, IN; Ms. Karen Bibbee, Delray Beach, FL; Mrs. Joyce Blake, Stone Mountain, GA; Mr. Wayne Boone, Davenport, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Brad Costello, Manchester, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Matt Cox, Hilliard, OH; Ms. Susan M. Crosswhite, Delray Beach; Mr. Rick Crotts, Salem, VA; Ms. Kay Estes, Alachua, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Giffin, Madison, AL; Mr. & Mrs. Errol Gower-Winter, Boynton Beach, FL; Mr. Jeff Hafer, Deerfield Beach, FL; Barbara, Theresa & Jaylin Hubbert, Miramar, FL; Mr. Robert Hubbert, Miami Gardens, FL; Mr. Don Jamison; Mr. Justin Kelly, Hinesville, GA; Mrs. Monique LeBlanc, Quebec, Canada; Mrs. Linda McNeese, Woodbury, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Don Mahaney, Vienna, WV; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mann, Delray Beach; Mrs. Anne Merrill, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Mr. & Mrs. James Miller, Freeport, Bahamas; Mr. & Mrs. Jerrold Pedigo, Murfreesboro, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Pedigo, Woodbury, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rosenblum, Huntsville, AL; Ms. Jan Todd & Noah, Woodbury, TN; and Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Watson, Bartlesville, OK.



Sunday (January 3<sup>rd</sup>) Jacqueline Creary

Monday (January 4<sup>th</sup>) Joseph & Anthioda Charles (Ann.) Willie & Giselle Smith (Ann.) Gabrielle Newby

Wednesday (January 6<sup>th</sup>) Shaun & Emily Tyson (Ann.) **Bobby Ingraham** 

Wednesday (January 6<sup>th</sup>) cont. Joe Maloney

Thursday (January 7<sup>th</sup>) Sandy Colage

Saturday (January 9<sup>th</sup>) Matthew & Kasandra Jones (Ann.) **Brenda Collier** 



Thanks to everyone for their condolences, prayers, and thoughts. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Thanks also for the beautiful orchid.

Sarah Smedley

#### 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 <u>Sunday evening</u>, please meet at the front of the auditorium at <u>5:50 p.m.</u>

#### Sunday Mornina, January 3

unday Morning, January 3			
Lead Singing	Jerry Hopkins		
Opening Prayer	Darin Summerlot		
Scripture Reading	Chris Thomas		
Presiding at Table	Johnny Davis		
Serve at Table:			
Doug Carrick	Brad Shelt		
Mike Damron	David Thorpe		
Namdidie Ikon	Lawrence Williams		
Brent Lau	Marty Williams		
Alternates:			
Richard Lerro	Paul Metzkes		
Closing Prayer	Tom Martens		

#### Sunday Evening, January 3

Lead Singing Ken Tipton		
Opening PrayerDick Kelley		
Scripture Reading Rick Hall		
Presiding at TableDirk Summerlot		
Serve at Table:		
Scott Lewis		
Bobbo Lupo		
Leonard Williams		
Closing Prayer Stephen Beliech		
Wednesday Evening, January 6		
Lead SingingBobbo Lupo		
Invitation Jeff Leslie		
Family Prayer Chuck Clark		

Ushers for the week of Jan. 3: Head Usher: Victor Colage; Daniel Swayne & Ivan Villard

#### **Our Record**

Attendance	Dec. 27	Nov. Av.
Sun. Bible study	212	263
Sun. A.M. Worsh	ip 415	368
Sun. P.M. Worsh	ip 207	178
Wed. Bible study	165	195
Contribution	\$14,871	\$14,772

2015 Weekly Budget: \$14,500

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -9,483



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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: Rachel Fuller, Cherylann Wineinger, Samantha Eutsey & Julie Charles

