

**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 July

**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
- Fax..... 561-848-1198
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*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

**Vol. LV**

**July 31, 2016**

**No. 31**

# Welcome New Members



**Lord, Daniel**

Group 4

*Baptized May 15*



**Lord, Carolyn**

Group 4

*Baptized June 12*



**Gower-Winter, Errol & Jessie**

Group 4

*Identified June 26*



**Crews, Kirk & Mendy  
(\*Casey & \*Claire)**

Group 2

*Identified July 10*



By Dan Jenkins

## Words of Faith and Hearts of Faith

The story Jesus told about the man who had two sons is well understood by most parents. The father in this story wanted both of his sons to go work in the vineyard, so he told both of them to immediately go to work. The first son said, "I will not," and the second son said, "I will" (Matt. 21:28-29). The rebellious son later changed his mind and went to work in the vineyard. The second son, while saying he would obey, did not do it.

When Jesus asked the Jews which son did the will of his father, the answer was obvious. He wanted the Jews to see the difference in simply saying the right word and doing the right thing.

**Words of obedience from the lips must become actions of obedience in life.** There is a vast difference in saying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven," and then manifesting these words in one's life. Many can so beautifully sing in the assembly, "Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way," yet once they leave the assembly, there is little evidence of submission. God help us to use *words* of obedience and help us to live *lives* of obedience.

**Words about providence from the lips must be manifested in daily lives.** Ezra had gone before King Artaxerxes and been given permission to lead a second group of Jews

from Babylonian captivity. When those Jews assembled, it became obvious how dangerous it would be for them because of the vast amount of gold and silver they were taking to the holy city. Should Ezra make an additional request for the king's help in providing protection? Ezra said, "I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldier and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king saying, 'The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsaken Him'" (Ezra 8:22).

**The words of John sum it up perfectly. "Let us love...in deed and in truth"**

It is not enough to sing *It is Well With My Soul*, nor simply to quote Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm, and then for our outlook for the future to be as filled with anxiety as the ungodly. God help us to talk openly about His providence, but even more importantly, God help us to show it in our lives!

There are the words of faith about obedience and the words of faith about providence. Yet, *words* of faith must become *actions* of faith. Obviously, while there are times when faith is weak and our lives may not always openly manifest the depths of our devotion, His mercy is so abundant. May we always have hearts of devotion and not lives of rebellion toward Him. Perhaps the words of John sum it up perfectly. "My little children, let us love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).



By David Sproule

## Who Is This Verse About?

My college roommate and I (both of us were Bible majors) used to play a game with each other. He had a small dry erase board that we attached to the front of our small refrigerator. Each day one of us would write a verse on the board. The challenge was for the other guy to figure out where that verse was in the Bible...without opening any books or using any other outside sources. The first question I would ask myself was, "Who does this sound like?"

In a similar fashion, I want to quote a verse and ask you of whom this verse is speaking. "As his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day." Of whom is this verse speaking? Let me narrow it to two options—is this verse about Jesus or about Paul? Let me quote another verse: "There was a synagogue...as his custom was, [he] went in to them...for three Sabbaths..." Now, of whom is this verse speaking? Look at how these two verses are essentially identical—both mention a man's custom of entering the synagogue on the Sabbath. You've probably already figured this out, but the first verse (Luke 4:16) is about Jesus and the second verse (Acts 17:2) is about Paul. Paul looked at what Jesus did and patterned himself after what Jesus did. He so closely resembled the life of Jesus, that when one reads these two verses, it is very difficult to tell the difference.

**When someone sees our lives, should they not be seeing Jesus?**

Brother or sister in Christ, I wonder, should not our lives do the same? When someone sees our lives, should they not be seeing Jesus? When one reads a verse about Jesus in the Bible, should they not also be reading a verse about us? Who are the following verses about—Jesus or us?

"And \_\_\_ went about all the cities...preaching the gospel of the kingdom" (Matt. 9:35). "\_\_\_ said to them, 'Come and see'" (John 1:39). "\_\_\_ said, 'I have come...not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me'" (John 6:38). "Seeing the people, \_\_\_ felt compassion for them" (Matt. 9:36). "When \_\_\_ saw her weeping...\_\_\_ was deeply moved in spirit" (John 11:33). "\_\_\_ continued all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12). "\_\_\_ washed their feet" (John 13:12). "And being found in human form, \_\_\_ humbled himself by becoming obedient" (Phil. 2:8). "While being reviled, \_\_\_ did not revile in return" (1 Pet. 2:23). "\_\_\_ loved righteousness and hated lawlessness" (Heb. 1:9). Could you put your name (along with His name) in the blanks?

After reading what the Bible said about Jesus, the Ethiopian eunuch said, "Does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" (Acts 8:34). After reading a verse in the Bible about Jesus, wouldn't it be something if someone thought that verse was about one of us? May God help us "to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29)!



By Josh Blackmer

## The Everlasting Promise

“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3b). When Abraham heard these words, God was saying so much more than what Abram could understand. God was telling him that He had chosen a family through which the embodiment of all His love, grace, mercy and justice would come. It is in this passage that the story of the Bible bottlenecks down to one family line. Isaac, Abraham’s promised son, was given the promise in Genesis 26:4. Jacob, the usurping son of Isaac, received the same promise in Genesis 28:14. In Galatians chapter 3, we are shown how blessed we really are.

“Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham, and the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ Then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham” (Gal. 3:7-9). Abraham had in his possession the gospel news, but he did not know its value. We, through faith, are blessed like Abraham to have a relationship with God.

The law was given to bring us to faith. “But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before

faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor” (Gal. 3:22-25). The Old Testament had a purpose. It was limited because the promise was made, and God intended something better for us.

**We were made part of the goodness of God because of His promise.**

Because of the promise, we were received in adoption. “Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will” (Eph. 1:5). “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Gal. 4:4-5). We have been adopted as children. According to Romans 11:17, we were grafted in the work that was done before. We were made part of the goodness of God because of His promise.

What Abraham did not understand, Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26-29, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Does legalizing it make it right?

How is a Christian to determine what is right and what is wrong? How much should the legalization of certain substances or practices influence a Christian’s stance? Is it the American legislators and courts that get to define righteousness and lawlessness?

Does it make it right in the eyes of God and therefore indisputably acceptable to Christians when man legalizes alcohol, marijuana, prostitution, homosexuality, gambling, etc., etc.? Should a Christian concede and just accept the “new law” and all that goes with it? Or, should a Christian hold his ground and defend Biblical truth?

As children of God, we are called to “listen” to God “more” than man (Acts 4:19), to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29), to “fear God and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13), to “speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11; Phil. 1:17), to love righteousness and hate lawlessness (Heb. 1:9; Psa. 119:104; 97:10). Making it legal doesn’t make it right! – DS



### Does the church need “great grace” or “great fear”?

Would you think that the early church was characterized more by “grace” or by “fear”? In the early days of the church, both qualities were found to be in abundance.

As the church was growing, they maintained a deep love for and unity with one another. “They had all things in common” (Acts 4:32), and the apostles refused to stop preaching “the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (4:33). As a result, “Great grace was upon them all.” With their devotion to love and to truth, the church was finding favor with God and their fellow man.

Not long after that, Ananias and Sapphira “agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord” (5:9). After lying about their gift to the church, each of them breathed their last, and Scripture states after each of their deaths that “great fear came upon all the church” (5:5, 11). With their devotion to righteousness, the church grew in awe and respect for God. “Great grace” and “great fear” cannot exist without each other! If you find one, you’ll find the other! – DS



# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Pete Brown</b>	Jup. Med. Ctr. Rehab (room 126-B), knee replacement
<b>Dee Catanzaro</b>	undergoing radiation treatments for breast cancer
<b>Lowell Flowers</b>	Wellington Regional (no visitors), serious infection
<b>Dianne Frye</b>	suffering with severe back pain
<b>Lester Galloway</b>	recovering from neck surgery
<b>Matthew Jones</b>	recovering from prostate surgery
<b>Blake Leslie</b>	Brent & Andrea's newborn, NICU in South Carolina
<b>Ruth Milton</b>	undergoing medical testing
<b>June Pack</b>	dealing with severe stomach pain
<b>Reginald Paul</b>	recovering at home from hospitalization, medical tests
<b>Maurine Reed</b>	Wellington Regional (room 273), knee replacement
<b>Julie Trujillo</b>	Good Sam. Hospital (room 298), recovering from surg.
<b>Tina Wagner</b>	awaiting results from EEG test

## Long-Term Health Issues

<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Annie Faison</b>	suffering with chronic pain
<b>Janet Hickerson</b>	chronic health problems
<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

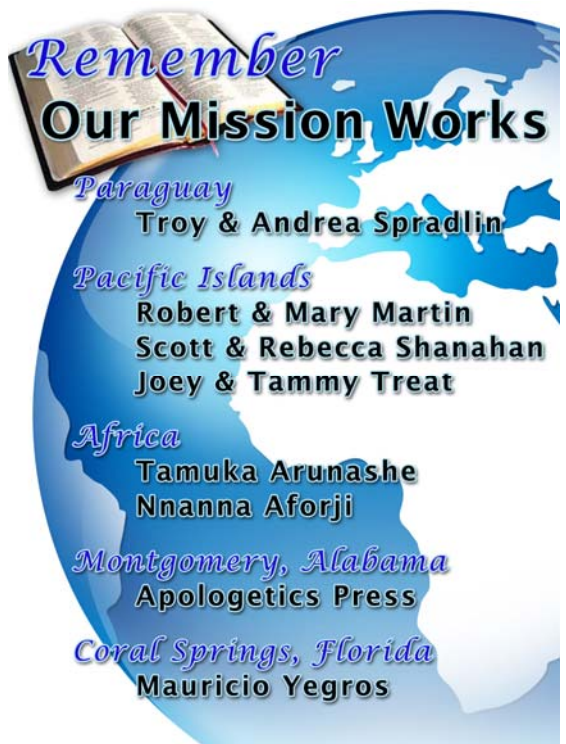
Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Cora Lee Dennis	Don & Betty Matter
Helen Gardner	Deidra Miley
Margie Hardin	Godfrey Pratt
Loretta Holaday	Leigh Puckett
Shelton Howell	Ricky Smedley



**Kim Hensel and family** upon the passing of **Kim's father, Harold Armstrong**, last Wednesday. The Memorial Service will be on Tuesday, August 2 at 6:00 p.m. at our building.

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Aisah Emmanuel</b>	Jean Archer's niece, recovering from colon surgery
<b>Ron Nelson</b>	Buzz Nelson's father, undergoing medical testing
<b>Diana Noel</b>	Bonnie Arthur's daughter, recovering from surgery
<b>Vivian Rackstraw</b>	Tasha Ellis' grandmother, recovering from surgery
<b>James Rose</b>	Willie Smith's uncle, suffered a stroke, now in rehab
<b>Delores Sims</b>	Jimmie Banks' mother, undergoing chemo treatments
<b>Mariam Wagenknecht</b>	Dick Kelley's sister, under Hospice Care





# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, July 31

- ◆ **Fifth Sunday Singing** during evening assembly.
- ◆ **30th Anniversary & Homecoming at Church of Christ of the Palm Beaches** beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## Monday, August 1

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

## Tuesday, August 2

- ◆ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

## Thursday, August 4

- ◆ **Family Group 1 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Johnny & Betty Davis.

## Sunday, August 7

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.

## Thursday, August 11

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

## Sunday, August 14

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

## Tuesday, August 16

- ◆ **Family Group 3 Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara King.

## Monday, August 29

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

## Sunday, September 4

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.

## Sunday, September 11

- ◆ **Joey Treat Mission Report** at 9:00 a.m. Jr. High, Sr. High & all adult classes will meet in the Auditorium.
- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes

*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*  
**Young Adults**

## Monday, August 1

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bree Solis. See Rachel Fuller for more details.

## Saturday, August 6

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

## Saturday, August 20

- ◆ **Young Adult Service Project.** Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. See Shea Brown or Ivan Villard for details.

## Sunday, August 21

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

## Saturday, September 10

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Lynn & Cynthia Parker.

## Monday, September 12

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Julie Trujillo. See Rachel Fuller for details.



**Palm Beach Lakes**  
**Youth**

## Saturday, August 6

- ◆ **Jr. High Back-to-School Shopping and Lunch** from 11:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Bring \$20 (for lunch & school supplies). See Sarah, Ivan or Amber for more details.

## Sunday, August 14

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

## Sunday, August 28

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

## Sunday, September 11

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

## Thursday-Sunday, September 15-18

- ◆ **RUSH Weekend at FHU.** See Josh Blackmer for details.

# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Men's Worship Service Assignments - August, 2016

**August 7**

**August 14**

**August 21**

**August 28**

Morning Worship Service					
Song Leader	Bobbo Lupo	Gary Friedly	Jerry Hopkins	Gary Friedly	
Opening Prayer	Dick Kelley	Ivan Villard, Jr.	Bill Ingram, Jr.	Dan McLeod	
Scripture Reading	Jeff Leslie	Scott Studer	Henry Bass	Jim Rogers	
Presiding at Table	Justin Maloney	Jerry Hopkins	Nate Nelson	Morris McDaniel	
Serving at Table:	David Brown	Josue Charles	Jordan Beasley	Doug Carrick	
	Lance Collier	Gorman Erickson	Chuck Clark	Jim Davis	
	Edward Gager	Bob Higbee	Mike Damron	Eddie Gooden	
	Namdidie Ikon	Deltom Lequernaque	Errol Gower-Winter	Brett Lau	
	Orlando Lolo	Ken Long	Bobby Ingraham	David Lord	
	Tommy Pauldo	Rick Price	Tim Mahlbacher	Chuck Reeves, Sr.	
	Shaun Tyson	Darin Summerlot	Clayton Trujillo	Vincent Rogers	
	Marty Williams	Chris Thompson	Lawrence Williams	Nahum Villard	
Closing Prayer	Mike Archer	Kevin Weeks	Cam Crotts	David Thorpe	

Evening Worship Service					
Song Leader	Stephen Beliech	Jerry Pittman	Dan McLeod	Ken Tipton	
Opening Prayer	Richard Lerro	Ken Tipton	Charles Hayes	Rick Hall	
Scripture Reading	Daniel Swayne	Austin Williams	Eugene Williams	Kane Campbell	
Presiding at Table	Kirk Crews	Brad Shelt	Dirk Summerlot	Shea Brown	
Serving at Table:	Novel Brown	Harrison Crotts	Josiah Blackmer	Harrison Carter	
	Scott Lewis	Mike Fox	Jeremy Maloney	Mike Trujillo	
	Jacade Reynolds	Lynn Parker	Nick Pietro	Leonard Williams	
Closing Prayer	Chad Brown	Henry Bereather	David Holaday	Gary Seames	

Alternates:					
	Paul Hensel	Marvin Dozier	Wallace Jones	Tim Fry	
	L.H. Richardson	Gary Jenkins	Paul Metzkes	Richard Watson	

Technical Assignments						
<i>Morning:</i>	Computer	Shea Brown	Nate Nelson	Bob Higbee	Brad Shelt	
	Audio	Buzz Nelson	Kirk Crews	Ivan Villard, Jr.	David Brown	
	Video	Cam Crotts	Dan McLeod	Scott Studer	Darin Summerlot	
<i>Evening:</i>	Computer	David Sproule	Nate Nelson	Bob Higbee	Brad Shelt	
	Audio	Buzz Nelson	Kirk Crews	Ivan Villard, Jr.	David Brown	
	Video	Cam Crotts	Dan McLeod	Scott Studer	Darin Summerlot	

Ushers - Morning & Evening Services (Sunday & Wednesday)					
	<b>August 7 &amp; 10</b>	<b>August 14 &amp; 17</b>	<b>August 21 &amp; 24</b>	<b>August 28 &amp; 31</b>	
Head Usher	Tim Cox →				
	Morris McDaniel	Jimmie Banks	Shea Brown	Jeff Leslie	
	Micah Trujillo	Taylor Reeves	Jerry Pittman	Ivan Villard, Jr.	

- Sunday Morning - Meet in classroom (Grade 7-8) at 9:45 A.M.
- Sunday Evening - Meet at front of auditorium before 5:50 P.M.
- Scripture Reader - Announce the pew Bible page number and read from the New King James translation.
- Please consider this opportunity to serve as special and dress accordingly.
- Please call 775-3533 (Mike Ellis), if you can not serve at the time indicated.

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



Sunday,  
July 24

Thank you for your prayers, support and love for my family as my nephew, Cory Chilcutt, was on life support. Your concern and care for me while traveling to be with family was appreciated as well. Please remember in prayer the Beliech and Chilcutt families, especially his mother, Judy (my sister) and his wife, Diana, as we mourn his passing.

Stephen Beliech

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Joshua Allen; Ms. Lori Armstrong; Miss Jillian Boyle; Ms. Rosa Charles; Mr. Johnny Mark Davis; Ernest Lynch Gamble; Tom Garrison; Mrs. Maxine Griggs; T.J. Hoelzer; Norman & Katelyn Horn; Ms. Valentina Karanfilian; Miss Dishuan Linder; John Loftis; Ms. Rimma Nikulova; Miss Kelly Rabbitt; Paul Rodriguez; Ms. Margaret Simmons; Michael Staley; and Ms. Marcile Williams.

**OUT OF TOWN VISITORS:** Ms. Marlet Brown, Tampa, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Terry Cheshier, Duncanville, TX; Jud & Cecily Davis, Henderson, TN; Eli Dye, Hohenwald, TN; Ms. Joyce Edmondson, St. Petersburg, FL; Mr. Gerry Giffin, Madison, AL; Mr. & Mrs. David Hardy, Nashville, TN; Ms. Pat Harrington, Boynton Beach; Ms. Stacy Johnson, Fort Worth, TX; Ms. Sulfica Pierre, Panama; and Earl Richardson, Havana, FL.



Sunday (July 31<sup>st</sup>)

Janet Hickerson

Thursday (Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Sharon Reitz

Wednesday (Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Rick & Betsy Donahue (Ann.)  
Stephen Beliech  
Allison Roman  
Seth Watson  
Henry Williams

Friday (Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>)

Roy & Charlene Knowles (Ann.)  
Betty McQuinn  
Julie Trujillo

**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, July 31**

Lead Singing ..... Gary Friedly  
Opening Prayer ..... Tim Fry  
Scripture Reading..... Ivan Villard, Jr.  
Presiding at Table .....Rick Hall  
Serve at Table:  
    Chuck Clark      Tim Mahlbacher  
    Jim Davis         Bailey McDaniel  
    Bobby Ingraham   Paul Metzkes  
    Jonathan Jordan   Chris Thomas  
Alternates:  
    Dan Fuller         Dirk Summerlot  
Closing Prayer .....David Brown

**Sunday Evening, July 31**

Lead Singing ..... Ken Tipton  
Opening Prayer .....Clayton Trujillo  
Scripture Reading.....Jerry Pittman  
Presiding at Table.....Dan McLeod  
    Gary Jenkins  
    Carmen Ruckman  
    Mike Trujillo  
Closing Prayer ..... David Thorpe  
**Wednesday Evening, August 3**  
Lead Singing ..... TBD  
Invitation.....Mike Erickson  
Family Prayer ..... Cam Crotts

**Our Record**

Attendance	July 24	June Avg.
Sun. Bible Study	242	259
Sun. A.M. Worship	380	380
Sun. P.M. Worship	190	186
Wed. Bible Study	198	216
Contribution	\$13,396	\$15,085

2016 Weekly Budget: \$14,660

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: +20,671

Ushers for week of **July 31** Head Usher: Freddie Gadson; Bob Higbee & Wallace Jones

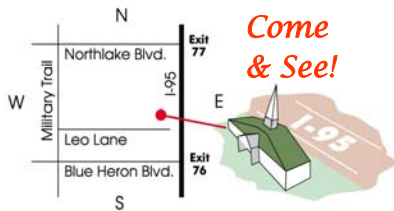




# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

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: **Bill & Inell Ingram**

## Are You Afraid of the Dark?

By Grant Fuller (Summer Intern)

For most of us, it would probably be the norm to be a little shocked if we suddenly could not see where we are going. Those of us, who are so used to always having ample light to know where our steps are falling and to know where our path is leading us, often find ourselves frozen in place when we have to traverse a dark room in which we cannot see what's five feet in front of us. It's a natural fear, really.

We are afraid of the unknown, not the mere idea of something being unknown, but the feeling of not being able to see what's ahead of us so we can avoid it if it is harmful. We hate not being able to know what we're getting into, and that is something that can make life very difficult. I was once afraid of the future, because I couldn't know it. I couldn't see if something would be a bad idea or not, and so I was afraid to do anything. Then, I heard what God has to say about it all.

"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you" (1 Pet. 5:7), and "for we live by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7), and "I am sure that neither death nor life... nor things present nor things to come... nor anything else in creation, will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39). God says, you don't have to worry or be afraid. Have faith in me, and I've got you because I care for you.

The Lord  
is With Me  
I WILL NOT  
be AFRAID  
PSALM 118:6