

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 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
- Fax 561-848-1198
- Website www.pblcoc.org
- E-mail office@pblcoc.org



Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ

Vol. LVI

January 15, 2017

No. 3



2017 Theme at PBL

January

I Find Vision

February

I Find Love

March

I Find Grace

April

I Find Motivation

May

I Find Family

June

I Find Purpose

July

I Find Peace

August

I Find Belonging

September

I Find Hope

October

I Find Truth

November

I Find Revival

December

I Find Victory



By Dan Jenkins

Advancing Age and Weary Saints

It is so difficult for us to imagine the following events happening. Think about a boxer who had thrashed his opponent in every round and is far ahead on the scoring cards of all the judges, then he refuses to fight the last round. Think about a marathon runner who has spent years in training for the Olympics and is far ahead of all other competitors in the final race, then she simply stops one hundred feet short of the finish line, refusing to finish the race.

Your response would be, “Such could never happen,” but almost all of us have seen people doing this spiritually. Far too many Christians draw back in their devotion to the Master in their latter years. They were faithful to the Lord for many years, but for unexplained reasons they quit. Look at the following words from heaven encouraging us to never quit.

Jesus spoke to the church at Smyrna and told them, “Be faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10), and then gave the motivation for faithfulness—“...and I will give you the crown of life.” We must run the entire race and never think about stopping short of the finish.

Jesus said, “He who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matt.24:11). These words are surrounded by descriptions of adversity—famine, earthquakes, lawlessness, wars and

false prophets. They describes the worst tribulation of all times which His disciples would soon face. His message? Do not give up! Endure! Endure to the end! Regardless of what it costs, finish the race!

Paul repeatedly urged Christians to endure whatever may come for the reward awaiting them is so great. “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Pay special notice to the contrast he makes between the labor and the reward. “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

The writer of Hebrews described the end of those who give up. “We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of our souls” (Heb. 10:39). The reason we cannot give up? Because Jesus, our forerunner, waits in heaven to give us eternal rest (Heb. 4:11; 6:19-20). Keep your focus on all that awaits you. The events of the past do not really matter! What matters is that which lies ahead! Don’t give up!

Make application of this to your life. As long as God gives you breath, give yourself to Him even, though advancing years rob you of the energy you once had. Be determined that the zeal which burned in your heart to serve Him when you were baptized will be the zeal you have at your final breath.

Let the zeal you had when you were baptized, be the same zeal at the very end



By David Sproule

Challenge Yourself to Grow Every W.E.E.K.

[Young adults who were at the recent devo, please pardon the repetition contained herein. Some of your peers asked that it be published for more folks to “hear.”]

Everyone today talks about how busy they are. It is so easy to get caught up in the “here and now” that we forget to look down the road (especially in our spiritual lives) and plan how we will grow and develop in our relationship with God over the coming weeks and years.

Long-term planning is certainly a difficult task, but it is essential in all parts of our lives, especially when it comes to our walk with God. Where do you want to be in your relationship with God in 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? Or, how about just at the end of this year?

Challenge yourself! Wherever you are in your faith, push yourself to do more and be more by the end of this year than you are right now. Set your sights on your goal, and then measure it off into weekly increments. What can you do each W.E.E.K. to reach your spiritual goal by the end of the year?

W—Worship more! There are three aspects to this: attendance, action and attitude. If your attendance at worship is not what it should be, increase it. If your attendance is maxed but your action and attitude in worship are not always

in tune, focus in on that and improve it! Measure this every week to see how you’re doing.

E—Evangelize more! There are three aspects to this: influence, words and actions. If your influence is hindering the gospel, fix it. If your words are not being used to talk about Jesus, change it. If your actions are not leading you to offer, set up and teach Bible studies with unbelievers, focus on it. Measure this every week to see how you’re doing.

E—Encourage more! There are three aspects to this: the written word, the spoken word, the word-in-action. Challenge yourself to encourage your brethren more this year by writing (text, email, cards, letters, notes), speaking (phone call, visit, handshake at services) and actually doing (acts of kindness and service on a regular basis). Measure this every week to see how you’re doing.

K—Kneel more! There are three aspects to this: praying, reading, studying. Challenge yourself to pray more than you do right now, to read (or listen to) God’s Word more than you do right now, and to dig deep into Bible research and meditation than you do right now. Measure this every week to see how you’re doing.

Where will you be in your relationship with God by the end of this year? Set yourself a goal today, and then measure it each W.E.E.K. We cannot be too busy for God!

Where will you be in your relationship with God by the end of this year?



By Josh Blackmer

“Give me Jesus, not religion!”

There are many who rant against religion—organized religion, more specifically. The common theme is the desire to have a relationship with Jesus and believe in Him without all the rules, rituals and regulations that traditionally go along with being affiliated with a church. Those who think this way are quick to cry “hypocrisy” and abandon the established system. To them what they are seeing does not represent what they are reading or have presupposed the church and Jesus to be. Their response to this is to radicalize the concept of church and Jesus. They redefine what church, worship and following Christ look like to fit their own construct.

I realize these are broad generalizations for an area of theology that is very fluid, always changing and emotionally charged. If you would permit me one more we will make application. In general they are done with the establishment feel of doing church. They do not connect with what they see around them. It no longer feels real. Religion has moved into a system of do’s and don’ts and robotic rule following. Those of this mindset are not going to keep doing something because they have always done it this way. In part, I can understand. If you are coming from the denominational world of large ornate cathedrals, mandated tithing and no concept of what the church is, you might want a change as well.

The sincere plea, “Give me Jesus, not religion,” can be a cry for truth.

The only response to this is, “I understand your frustration. Let me show the church that Christ built.” We must show the world the church for which Christ died. Not the gilded, diluted, empty, dime-store, bobble-head knock offs that are on every corner. They are the strong delusion. They cheapen what is holy, change truth to a lie and cry peace when there is no peace. We can be part of the solution or part of the problem.

We must be exemplary in what true religion is (Matt. 5:16; Jas. 1:26-27). We must conduct ourselves in such a way that God is glorified, and that no word or deed betrays the truth of who God is. We must also teach, educate and influence the way people think about religion (Acts 5:42). Truth has always had opposition. From Genesis to Revelation, people have tried to change what the Creator has instructed the created. We must be patient with people and teach the truth in love as people come out of the cloud of confusion (Eph. 4:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:9-10). The issue is not religion or Jesus. The issue is their concept of religion and Jesus.

You can have religion without Jesus but you cannot have Jesus without religion. It is deity that determines the system of worship. It is deity that dictates how an unholy man should approach a holy God. The sincere plea, “Give me Jesus, not religion,” can be a cry for truth. Please see this can be a person who is tired of being lied to and wants to know God.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Is it a part or the whole?

Scenario #1: Many folks work two jobs. They have a boss at one job, and they have a boss at the other job. Most of the time, having two bosses usually can work out just fine.

Scenario #2: Most people wear different hats of responsibility. A man can be an employee at his job, a husband and father at home, a board member at the club and a volunteer at the community center. And, most of the time, wearing different hats is not a big deal.

Scenario #3: A person becomes a Christian and thinks that serving God is just like working two jobs and “having another boss,” and that the responsibilities of a Christian life are just “another hat to wear.” The mindset is that “God” and “Christianity” will just fit into my life like everything else. Such could not be further from the truth! God is not “another part” of my life! He is my life (Col. 3:4a)! I cannot have two masters in my life, but only one (Matt. 6:24)! Being a Christian isn’t just “a hat” that I wear! It is my life (Gal. 2:20)! Everything else has to fit around IT! – DS



Abstinence—it’s not a joking matter!

Any unmarried person who strives to live a pure and wholesome life of abstinence oftentimes becomes the object of ridicule and the butt of a joke. Scoffers, who are raised in and by a godless society, usually have no desire to understand the Christian’s faith and determination.

But a child of God should never be ashamed “to live godly” (2 Tim. 3:12) and to “keep” himself or herself “pure” (1 Tim. 5:22), for he/she knows all too well the plain teaching of the Bible and the reward awaiting those who so live. God uses the word “abstain” very definitively when it comes to matters of sexual purity—“...**abstain** from sexual immorality” (1 Thess. 4:3); “**abstain** from every form of evil” (1 Thess. 5:22); “**abstain** from fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2:11). “Abstinence” is not a bad word or a shameful word! It is a Bible word! It is a holy word! And, holiness is precisely what a Christian is pursuing, for (1) it makes him/her like God (1 Pet. 1:14-16), (2) it assures that he/she is pleasing to God (Rom. 12:1-2), and (3) it ensures that he/she will one day “see God” (Heb. 12:14)! Abstinence: heaven’s regret-free choice! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Michell Castonguay	recovering from shoulder surgery
Jennifer Goodale	suffering with severe back and leg pain
Carol Hardman	neck surgery scheduled for February 2
Lynne Jorgensen	recovering from surgery on her finger
Ruth Milton	MorseLife Health System (room 2204), rehab
Tommy Pauldo	Kindred Hospital (no visitors), in serious condition
Mary Reeves	recovering from epidural to help back pain
Giselle Smith	ongoing health issues
Troy Spradlin	recovering from knee surgery in Paraguay

Long-Term Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
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	Annie Faison	Janet Hickerson	Daniel Johnson	Godfrey Pratt
Sandra Daniels	Helen Gardner	Loretta Holaday	Don & Betty Matter	Leigh Puckett
Cora Lee Dennis	Margie Hardin	Shelton Howell	Deidra Miley	Ricky Smedley

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Jefferey Byrd	Cheryl Floyd's brother, recovering from hospitalization
Prescolita Clough	Marcia Clough-Moss' mother, in hospital & not doing well
Victor Colage	Victor Colage's father, VA Hospital, multiple health issues
David Findley	Maria Hackshaw's father, recovering from kidney surgery
Carla Kimberland	Cindy Nelson's mother, still recovering from leg bypass
Perrethia King	Bettye King's sister, recovering from breast cancer surgery
Clara Medina	Carolina Medina's sister, remains in the hospital
Beverly Michaelian	Lynne Jorgensen's mother, fell and broke her shoulder
Ennis Mitchell	Kay Richardson's brother, under Hospice Care
Eula Richardson	Lawrence Richardson's mother, trach. issues & very weak

Remember
Our Mission Works

Paraguay
Troy & Andrea Spradlin

Pacific Islands
Robert & Mary Martin
Scott & Rebecca Shanahan
Joey & Tammy Treat

Africa
Tamuka Arunashe
Nnanna Aforji

Montgomery, Alabama
Apologetics Press

Coral Springs, Florida
Mauricio Yegros



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 15

- ◆ **"Fortifying Your Faith" Class** at 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Evening Worship** at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 16

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

Tuesday, January 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 Novel & Mary Brown.

Thursday, January 19

- ◆ **Family Group 1 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Josh & Cara Blackmer.

Friday, January 20

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

Sunday, January 22

- ◆ **"Fortifying Your Faith" Class** at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 28

- ◆ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room. All ladies are welcome. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.
- ◆ **Area-Wide Congregational Singing hosted by Suncoast** at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 29

- ◆ **Mission Sunday.** Every dollar given will be used for mission work.
- ◆ **EDP Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room.
- ◆ **NO "Fortifying Your Faith" Class.**
- ◆ **Fifth Sunday Singing** during evening assembly.
- ◆ **Fifth Sunday Night Cook-Off** after evening worship. Bring your favorite (and best) "Breakfast Casserole." Or bring other finger foods, drinks and desserts to share.

Friday-Sunday, February 3-5

- ◆ **Mother/Daughter Retreat at CFBC.** Cost is \$40 per person. See the bulletin board for more details.

Saturday, February 4

- ◆ **Share a Home-Cooked Lunch** prepared by Mary Reeves and friends. Sign up on bulletin board. Details to come.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ
Young Adults

Monday, January 16

- ◆ **Meat Night for YA Men** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of David Sproule.

Saturday, February 4

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Sarah Collier. See Shea Brown or Ivan Villard for details.

Monday, February 6

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

Friday, February 10

- ◆ **Sr. High & Young Adult Ladies' Hangout** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Rachel Fuller. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible.

Friday-Sunday, February 17-19

- ◆ **Young Adult Camping Trip.** See Ivan Villard or Shea Brown for details.



Palm Beach Lakes
Youth

Sunday, January 15

- ◆ **2017 Youth Event Kick-Off** after morning worship in the Family Room for all Jr. High & Sr. High families. All Jr. High & Sr. High families are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck dish to share.

Sunday, January 22

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

Saturday, February 4

- ◆ **Young Families' Day at Riverbend Park** at 2:00 p.m. Dress for canoeing, kayaking or bike riding. Then, grilling and a bonfire at the Blackmer's house. Hot dogs and s'mores will be provided. Bring anything you would like to grill. See Josh or Cara for more details.

Friday, February 10

- ◆ **Sr. High & Young Adult Ladies' Hangout** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Rachel Fuller. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible.

Top 10 Reasons to Be A Faithful Christian for Life

continued from Oct. 16, 2016 bulletin

7. To Benefit from Every Spiritual Blessing

- a. Christians enjoy God's immeasurable grace, mercy and forgiveness (1 Tim. 1:12-15; Eph. 2:1-8).
- b. Christians enjoy God's joy, peace, comfort and assurance (Phil. 4:4-7; 2 Cor. 1:3-7).
- c. Christians enjoy confidence in prayer—being heard and answered (1 Pet. 3:12; 1 John 5:14-15).

8. To Have a Church Family

- a. Christians are part of the greatest institution in the world, purchased by blood, which will never be destroyed (Acts 2:47; 20:28; Dan. 2:44).
- b. Christians have a spiritual family with brothers and sisters in Christ (Rom. 8:14-17; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- c. Christians enjoy unconditional love, encouragement, comfort, support, etc. (Rom. 12:10-16; 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

9. To Live the Best Earthly Life Possible

- a. All true happiness comes from God and from godly living (Jas. 1:17; Matt. 5:3-12; 6:19-34; Phil. 4:4-7).
- b. Christians live the "good" life (1 Pet. 3:8-17) and the "abundant" life (John 10:10).
- c. Christian living makes life's decisions easier (1 Th. 5:21-22; Tit. 2:11-14; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 2:1-12; Jas. 1:21-25).

10. To Be Ready for Death Without Fear

- a. Life is short and death is certain (Jas. 4:13-15; Heb. 9:27).
- b. Faithful Christians face death with peace, hope and anticipation (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58).
- c. Faithful Christians view death as gain, victory and reward in the presence of Christ (Phil. 1:21, 23; 1 Cor. 15:57-58; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Rev. 14:13).

11. To Help Others Go to Heaven

- a. Christians are the ones who have heard, learned and obeyed the good news (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 6:17-18).
- b. Christians have the great privilege of sharing that good news with others through teaching and restoring (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; 2 Tim. 2:2; Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).
- c. One of the great joys of heaven will be sharing it with friends and loved ones of like precious faith (2 Pet. 1:1-4; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; 4:17; 2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Cor. 3:14; Rev. 15:2-3).

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



Sunday
January 8

Rashana Green was baptized on Sunday, December 18 after evening services.

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Andy & Letha Anderson; Ms. Gail Archer; Greg & Breanna Bland; Terry & Regina Crews; Ms. Susan Crosswhite; Tom Garrison; Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Gonzalez; Mrs. Evelyn Jean; Ms. Jennifer King; Mrs. Sharon Mann; Chad Morgan; Ms. Julianna Natte; Mrs. Ann Marie Robinson; Ms. Lizzie Rozier; and Ali Kay Senior.



Directory Changes

Brad Shelt placed membership at Stuart.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Ms. Judy Chancey, Belle Glade, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Davis, McAlister, OK; Ms. Dody Davis, Stuart, OK; Miss Kathryn Heib, Henderson, TN; John Jennings, Rexford, MT; Miss Asia Joyce, Conyers, GA; Scott Kelly, Jacob & Colton, West Broward, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Denton McNutt, Stuart, OK; Chad Morgan, Port St. Lucie, FL; Ms. Elaine Robinson-Brown, London, UK; Ms. Darlene Smith, Valdosta, GA; and Mr. DeMarcus Turner, Sr., Fort Dodge, IA.



January 29
PREPARE FOR IT!
PRAY ABOUT IT!

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Sunday (Jan. 15th)

Jacade Reynolds

Tuesday (Jan. 17th)

Cynthia Parker

Wednesday (Jan. 18th)

Terry Denton

Thursday (Jan. 19th)

Cornelius & Andrea Henderson (Ann.)

Friday (Jan. 20th)

Julie Charles
Godfrey Pratt
Norma Pratt
Kari Reeves

Saturday (Jan. 21st)

Doug Carrick
Edward Gager

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, January 15

Lead Singing Gary Friedly
Opening Prayer L.H. Richardson
Scripture Reading..... Marty Williams
Presiding at Table Dan McLeod
Serve at Table:
Jordan Beasley Charles Hayes
Shea Brown Namdidie Ikon
Harrison Crotts Jerry Pittman
Mike Damron Shaun Tyson
Alternates:
Bill Ingram, Jr. Richard Watson
Closing Prayer Bobby Ingraham

Sunday Evening, January 15

Lead Singing Ken Tipton
Opening Prayer David Lord
Scripture Reading..... Austin Williams
Presiding at Table..... Nate Nelson
Delton Lequernaqu e
Tim Mahlbacher
Leonard Williams
Closing Prayer Stephen Beliech
Wednesday Evening, January 18
Lead Singing Jimmie Banks
Invitation..... Taylor Reeves
Family Prayer Jim Davis

Our Record

Attendance	Jan. 8	Dec. Avg.
Sun. Bible Study	274	226
Sun. A.M. Worship	362	342
Sun. P.M. Worship	184	143
Wed. Bible Study	195	160
Contribution	\$15,230	\$15,061

2017 Weekly Budget: TBA

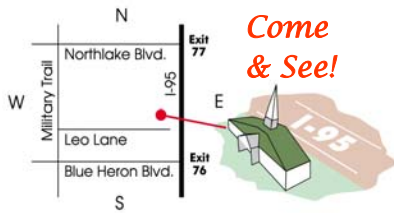
Ushers for the week of **Jan. 8:** Head Usher: Victor Colage; Brent Leslie & Kevin Weeks



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.



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

Published weekly, except the weeks of December 25 and January 1, by the Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ at 4067 Leo Lane, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ
4067 Leo Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6401

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
at West Palm Beach, FL

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: Zula Garrett & Joan Holloway

First-Century Christianity in the Twenty-First Century

Speaking where the Bible speaks

Silent where the Bible is silent

Calling Bible things by Bible names

Doing Bible things in Bible ways

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Upcoming Events

January 29
Mission Sunday

January 29
Fifth Sunday Singing & Breakfast Casserole Cook-off

February 11
Sweetheart Banquet

March 5-8
Gospel Meeting with Dan Winkler

March 12
Troy Spradlin Mission Report

April 20
Ladies' Day with Rose Crayton

April 29
Elders, Deacons, Preachers & Wives Cookout