

Shepherds

- Johnny Davis307-4232
- Dan Fuller..... 478-3755
- Joe Holland 626-2809
- *Jerry Hopkins 434-4188
- Phil Porter 575-4782
- *Chairman for the Month of February*

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

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- E-mail office@pblcoc.org



Vol. LVI

February 5, 2017

No. 6



MISSION
Sunday
TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

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\$129,700	20k Tracts for Robert	Our Next Missionary
\$114,700	Trinidad School of Preaching	Send a couple to Easter Island
\$105,200	Spanish Congregation with New Location	"Search of the Lord's Way"
\$95,000	Wine Partner (Anpei)	Special Requests for Mission Trips
\$85,400	More Bibles for Easter Island	

\$151,622.85

Lavarro Hanna (MSOP)	Sr. High Mission Trip H2H/H2H
Apologetics Press+	Josh Blackmer to Easter Island
Douglas Alvarenga	Troy Spradlin* (Paraguay)
Robert Martin+ (Pacific)	Mauricio Yegros+ (Coral Springs)
Scott Shanahan* (Pacific)	Joey Treat (Pacific)
Nnanna Aforji (Nigeria)	Tamuka Arunashe (Zimbabwe)

14-Year Total:

\$1,718,405.46

TO GOD
Be the Glory



By Dan Jenkins

Agape Love

It is remarkable how we most often use the word “love” to describe an emotional feeling. When we use the expressions like “falling in love,” “falling out of love” or “I don’t love him anymore,” we are limiting the meaning of love to the emotions which are stirred within us. The Greek language had many words to describe the many facets of love. Our failure to understand one of these words, the Greek word *agape*, keeps us from properly dealing with others and robs us of one the great blessings of Christianity.

As a child, I always thought of love as an emotion, so when I read Jesus’ words about loving your enemies, I struggled to obey him. My emotional attitude toward my enemy was so far removed from any concept I had of love. (By the way, this struggle is also found in many marriages where a husband or wife is always mistreating their mate). What emotions does one have when people around him are mocking, verbally abusing or insulting him? It is to emotionally respond with anger and the desire to respond in kind to what they are doing—to hurt them like they are hurting us. How can you “love” those who wrong you? Does God really expect me to “love” them?

The answer is found in realizing that when Jesus talked about love (*agape*) he was not talking about the emo-

tional response we had toward them, but about how we treated them. *Agape* love has far more to do with how we treat others than how we emotionally respond to them.

Paul discusses this in the closing verses of Romans chapter twelve. Christians were soon to be the objects of scorn, and Nero was about to blame the Christians for burning Rome. In addition to this persecution from the pagans, the Christians had been and were the focus of abuse and persecution from the Jews. What reaction did God expect from the citizens of His kingdom?

It was *not* a reaction of retaliation. The clearest direction can be summed up in Paul’s words. “Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.” The gravest danger we face is that when others treat us in ungodly ways, we feel we have a right to respond and repay them. Someone once said, “It is never right to do wrong,” and these words capture the apostle’s thought. Enemies are under the eternal judgment of God. Why should we ever join them in doing wrong!

Our response? What does *agape* love demand of us? Not an emotional response, but simply to treat them with kindness—to respond as Jesus did toward His enemies. But how do I deal with the anger? I turn it over to God. Paul reminded them that vengeance is God’s, and He will always repay. We win when we overcome evil with good!

How can I ever deal graciously toward those who have hurt me so much?



By David Sproule

Our Thoughts During the Lord’s Supper

Some readers will agree with this statement and some will disagree, but I want you to consider this thought for a moment—The most sacred time in the life of the Christian each week is when he or she communes with Jesus at His feast. When we partake of “the Lord’s Supper” (emphasis on “the Lord’s”) each week, this is not a matter that we can approach flippantly or nonchalantly (1 Cor. 11:27-30). Rather, this feast demands our closest attention and our deepest concentration.

Those precious minutes each Sunday during which we partake of the sacred elements can be tough to keep our focus. Some have suggested over the years that those minutes during which the trays are being passed should be shortened, as there is too much “dead time” in our service, as everyone has to sit quietly until “it’s over.” Others struggle with keeping their attention focused during those reflective moments. Some get frustrated when there are distractions throughout the auditorium while they are partaking. May I suggest to you, during this most sacred time, that we must grab hold of and purposefully direct our thoughts back to the cross. The words “remembrance,” “examine” and “discern” in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 emphasize that our thoughts, our minds and our hearts are required. We must concentrate. But, how can we overcome distractions?

Read. Minds wander easily, but with written words in front of us, we can stay focused. Read the accounts of Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 and other reflective passages. Read the words of a meaningful hymn. Take time during the week to write out your own personal meditation for communion, and then read those words as you partake. Don’t just read these things as a “routine”; focus on the depth of each word.

Pray. Give thanks to God for the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, which brings us atonement, forgiveness and promise. Give thanks to God for His love, His grace and His mercy. Give thanks to God for the body and the blood of our precious Savior.

Redirect. Distractions are inevitable. But, the power of the mind can overcome distractions and even use the distractions themselves to redirect one’s thoughts. Babies will cry while you’re partaking, and when they do, imagine how babies must have been crying at the cross. People will whisper behind you and may even laugh at something, and when they do, imagine how people must have been whispering and laughing at the cross. People will goof off and play games, and when they do, imagine those soldiers playing games for Jesus’ garments, while He suffered.

We must “remember” Him, “examine” ourselves and “discern” His body! Let us focus our minds as we commune!

We must grab hold of and purposefully direct our thoughts back to the cross



By Josh Blackmer

Excuses

“For like a poisonous breath over the fields, like a mass of locusts over Egypt, so the swarm of excuses is a general plague, a ruinous infection among men, that eats off the sprouts of the Eternal” (Søren Kierkegaard). “It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one” (George Washington). “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else” (Benjamin Franklin). You probably have your favorite, your go-to, excuse. We all have them to some degree. In general, it is easier to pass the blame than to bear the weight of scrutiny and guilt yourself. Let’s look at a list of faithful people and compare them to common excuses in their lives.

One very common excuse to alleviate the need to obey scriptures is, “Well I don’t want to condemn my family by obeying”. Which is to say that your obedience would condemn those that do not obey. The heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 are to be an encouragement to us as we strive to walk acceptably with God. These were people who had passed the test of faith. Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice to God, but his brother did not (Heb. 11:4). Abel’s offering did not make his brother wrong. Every individual must decide what they will do with Jesus. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). Never use the excuse of someone else as the reason that you refuse the

Lord’s will.

Another excuse is, “It is too hard!” This is one that works for a lot of different occasions. We see Noah in this list as having worked hard for the Lord. Noah took the time to serve the Lord (Heb. 11:7). Look at all the preaching he did while preparing the ark. Noah would tell us that no work the Lord asks of us is too hard or without value. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9). We see this example in Abraham (Heb. 11:8, 17). He tells us that no commands of God are too hard. The difficulty in obeying the commands of God are not the commands themselves but rather the difficulty lies in the heart. God’s commands are not hard to keep if the heart is right.

“He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.”

Lastly, “It doesn’t pay to serve the Lord, bad things still happen to me.” Joseph had hope in the face of troubles (Heb. 11:22). Joseph was mistreated in many ways. There are things that others will do and say to mistreat us, but that is no excuse for quitting the Lord. The Lord has never done anything but good to and for us, “for you, you thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good” (Gen. 50:20).

“But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation...For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love” (Heb. 6:9-10).

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Everybody needs a compliment

When Abraham Lincoln died from that gunshot wound more than 150 years ago, he was carrying a number of things in his pockets. Inside his brown leather wallet was a Confederate five-dollar bill and as many as nine newspaper clippings, which contained complimentary things to say about the President who had just endured a very tough re-election campaign. Think about that. He was not carrying these clippings to stroke his ego; Lincoln was not that kind of guy. He was carrying these clippings with him to help reassure him and cheer him up.

The President of the United States needed to be encouraged and feel appreciated. We all need to be encouraged and feel appreciated! A gracious compliment can go a long way! “A kind word cheers [the heart] up” (Prov. 12:25). “A word spoken in due season, how good it is!” (Prov. 15:23). Not for ego’s sake, but for the sake of encouragement, it does feel good to have “someone else praise you” (Prov. 27:2). There is a difference between flattery and a genuine compliment. Who can you compliment today? Whose day can you enrich? – DS



“Every child deserves a voice!”

Anyone driving through rural central Florida will be inundated with billboards that have images of little babies and text that proclaims, “My heart is beating 18 days after conception!” I am so thankful for that stretch of highway every time we drive through it. But, right here in town, there is another billboard with a picture of child that says, “Every child deserves a voice!”

The ironic thing about this billboard is that it is not intended to be an anti-abortion message. Yet, that is exactly (albeit accidentally) what it is.

Yes, every child deserves a voice! Even (and especially) the child that is yet unborn! If we could hear a child in the womb speak, what do you suppose we would hear? “*I am alive! I am the epitome of ‘life’! I want to live, for that is what I am already doing! Please do not hurt me! Please do not violently crush my life! I am as much alive as you are! God made me that way!*”

Unintentional messages are sometimes the most poignant! Every child deserves to live! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Jimmy Burney	recovering at home from hospitalization
Adrienne Gadson	recovering at home from hospitalization
Carol Hardman	recovering from neck surgery (No Visitors)
Robyn Landen	undergoing medical testing
Dan McLeod	radiation treatments for prostate cancer
Austin Metzkes	recovering at FHU from complications of mono
Ruth Milton	now at home, improving but still very weak
Connye Plouffe	dealing with back problems
Lucas Villard	Ivan & Amber's newborn, NICU at Nicklaus Children's

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

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Angela Blackmer	Josh Blackmer's mother, testing for vision complications
Bonnye Cox	Connye Plouffe's sister, dealing with health problems
Clara Medina	Carolina Medina's sister, remains in the hospital
Katherine Meess	Micky Affron's stepmother, brain tumor & spots on lungs
Rocky Meess	Micky Affron's father, mass between kidney & bladder
Ennis Mitchell	Kay Richardson's brother, under Hospice Care
Eula Richardson	Lawrence Richardson's mother, trach. issues & very weak
Donald Smith	Traci Sproule's father, shoulder surgery on January 30
Bette Sproule	David Sproule's mother, recovering from hip surgery

Remember
Our Mission Works

Paraguay
Troy & Andrea Spradlin

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

Africa
Tamuka Arun Ashe
Nnanna Aforji

Montgomery, Alabama
Apologetics Press

Coral Springs, Florida
Mauricio Yegros



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 5

- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **NO "Fortifying Your Faith" Class.**
- ◆ **House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart Labeling** after evening worship in the Family Room. All members are encouraged to stay and help.

Sunday-Wednesday, February 5-8

- ◆ **Gospel Meeting hosted by Third Street** each night at 7:30 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday). Gale Nelson from Miami Gardens will be speaking on *"When the World Gets Into the Church."*

Monday, February 6

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.**

Tuesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 9

- ◆ **Family Group 2 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Buzz & Kathy Nelson.

Saturday, February 11

- ◆ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth** at 5:00 p.m. All PBL members 55+ years old or married 25+ years are invited. Cost is \$5 per person. RSVP to Sarah Collier or Ivan & Amber Villard.

Sunday, February 12

- ◆ **"Fortifying Your Faith" Class** at 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

Sunday-Wednesday, February 12-15

- ◆ **Gospel Meeting hosted by Belle Glade** each night at 7:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday). Alfred Woodard from Sebastian will be speaking on *"Looking Toward Heaven."* See the bulletin board for more details.

Thursday, February 16

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

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ
Young Adults

Monday, February 6

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cindy Nelson. The main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring sides, salad or desserts. See Rachel Fuller for more details.

Friday-Sunday, February 17-19

- ◆ **Young Adult Camping Trip** at Peace River Campground in Arcadia, FL. Cost is \$50 per person (includes campsite and food for the weekend). You must RSVP by Sunday, February 5 if you'd like to go. Please pay by Sunday, February 12.

Saturday, March 4

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD. See Shea Brown or Ivan Villard for details.

Friday, March 10

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



Palm Beach Lakes
Youth

Friday, February 10

- ◆ **Teen Girls' Retreat at West Broward.** See Cara Blackmer or Rachel Fuller for more details.

Saturday, February 11

- ◆ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth.** Jr. High Youth should arrive at 3:30 p.m. to help set up. See Sarah Collier or Ivan & Amber Villard for more details.

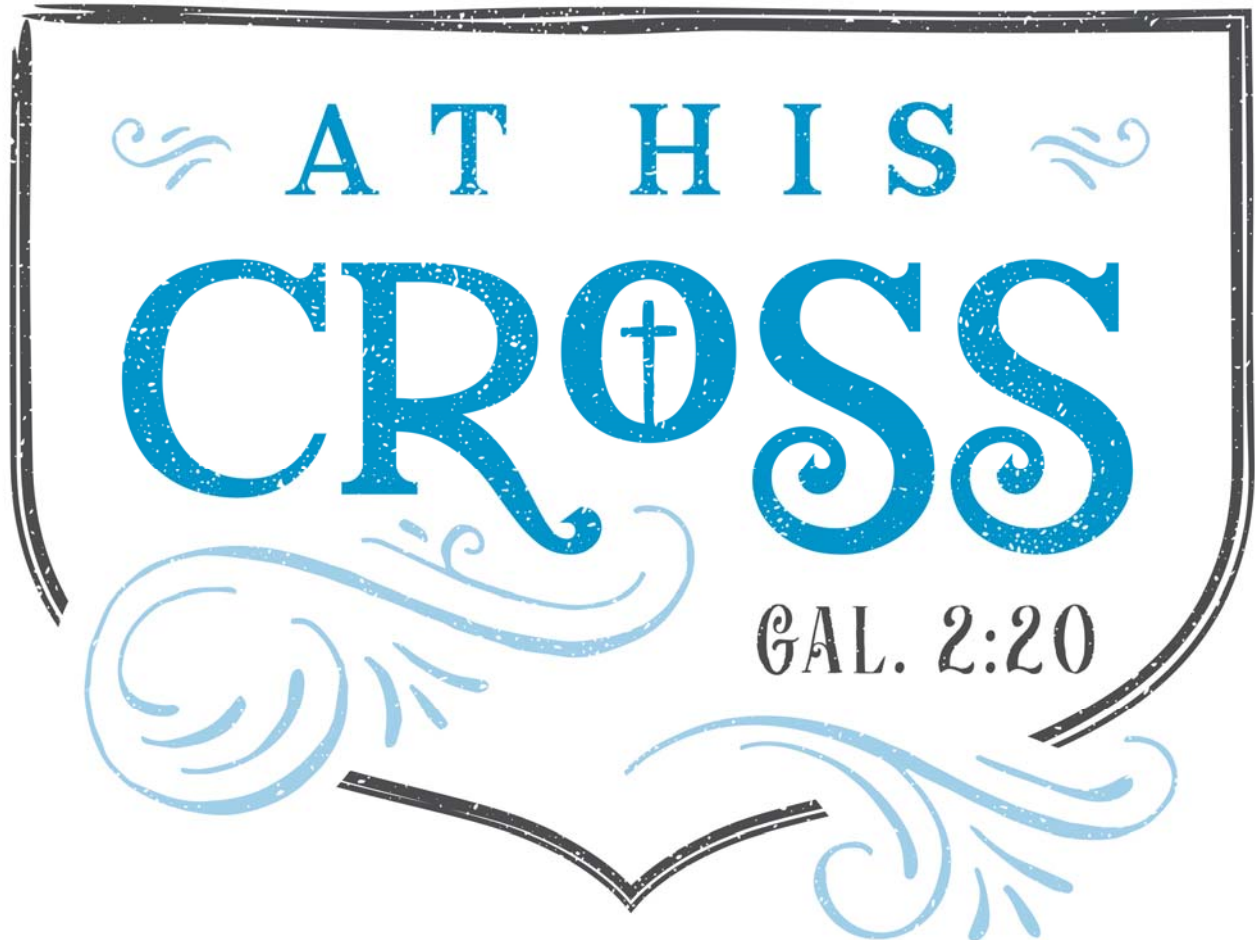
Sunday, February 12

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

Sunday, February 19

- ◆ **Sr. High Bowling** after evening worship at Jupiter Lanes. Cost is \$10 per person (includes bowling, shoes, pizza and a drink). Parents will need to pick up their teen from the bowling alley. RSVP by February 15 to Josh Blackmer or Cam Crotts.

FEBRUARY:



I Find Love

"Why did my Savior come to earth, and to the humble go?

Why did He choose a lowly birth?

Why did He drink the bitter cup of sorrow, pain and woe?

Why on the cross be lifted up?

Because He loved me so!

He loved me so! He loved me so!

He gave His precious life for me, for me, because He loved me so!"

(James G. Dailey, 1892)

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



Sunday
January 29

There are not enough words to express our love and gratitude to everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, food and especially the support provided to our family during the last few months. The members of God’s family at PBL are such a blessing to all.

The Milton family—Ruth, Cheryl, Chuck and Kay

LOCL VISITORS: Gail Archer; Mr. Jean Charles; Terry & Regina Crews; Ms. Susan Crosswhite; Tom Garrison; Ms. Carole Graff; Ms. Jamie Granino; Mrs. Maxine Griggs; Ms. Jeannie M. Hamilton; Dennis & Sharon Mann; James Morgan; Dan Newsome; David & Jacqueline Parker; Michael Staley; and Terry West.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Cory & Nicole Brown & family, Eagan, MN; Mrs. Donna Carron, St. Charles, MO; Ms. Marcia Farrar, Palm City, FL; Scott & Colette Harris, Leming, TX; Mrs. Nancy Lewis, St. Charles, MO; Gene & Betty Mies, Ypsilanti, MI; Chad & Gorgeous Morgan, Port St. Lucie, FL; Mrs. Brenda Parrish, Trussville, AL; Brian Rayfield, Hahira, GA; Michael & Beth Rosenblum, Huntsville, AL; Stephen & Cindy Shafor, Dorr, MI; Jeff & Cindy Sink, Davenport, FL; Darlene Smith, Valdosta, GA; and Bill & Lee Tellmann, Pacific, MO.

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Sunday (Feb. 5th)
Glen & Josie Dawson (Ann.)
Mike & Tasha Ellis (Ann.)
Maurine Reed

Thursday (Feb. 9th)
Joe & Janice Maloney (Ann.)
Rudolph & Verdell March (Ann.)

Monday (Feb. 6th)
Kenneth Long
Sherrie Tibbetts

Friday (Feb. 10th)
Pete & Pat Brown (Ann.)
Shea Brown
Warren Porter
Emily Tyson

Tuesday (Feb. 7th)
Connye Plouffe

Saturday (Feb. 11th)

Wednesday (Feb. 8th)
Sallie Moses

David Brown

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, February 5

Lead Singing Bobbo Lupo
Opening Prayer Eugene Williams
Scripture Reading..... Jeff Goodale
Presiding at Table Orlando Lolo
Serve at Table:
Jordan Beasley Joe Maloney
Mike Erickson Dirk Summerlot
Eddie Gooden Micah Trujillo
Bill Ingram, Jr. Marty Williams
Alternates
Paul Hensel David Lord
Closing Prayer David Holaday

Sunday Evening, February 5

Lead Singing Ken Tipton
Opening Prayer Richard Lerro
Scripture Reading..... Harrison Crotts
Presiding at Table..... Charles Hayes
Mike Ellis
Rick Hall
Chuck Reeves, Sr.
Closing Prayer David Thorpe

Wednesday Evening, February 8

Lead Singing Josh Blackmer
Invitation..... Tim Cox
Family Prayer Nate Nelson

Our Record

Attendance	Jan. 29	Dec. Avg.
Sun. Bible Study	277	226
Sun. A.M. Worship	388	342
Sun. P.M. Worship	204	143
Wed. Bible Study	204	160
Contribution	\$151,624	\$15,061

2017 Weekly Budget: TBA

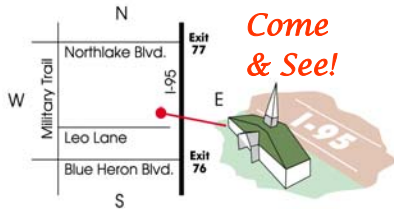
Ushers for the week of **Feb. 5:** Head Usher: L.H. Richardson; Jimmie Banks & Nahum Villard



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

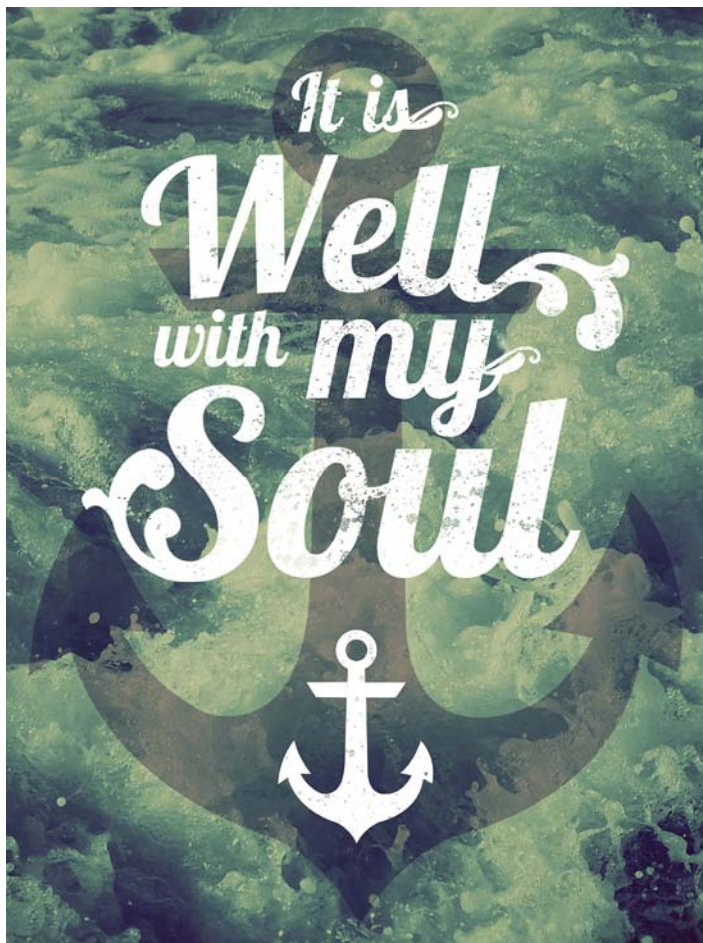
Sunday:

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: Maurine Reed, Lisa Metzkes & Lorraine Allen



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