

Bishops

- Johnny Davis307-4232
- Dan Fuller..... 478-3755
- Joe Holland 626-2809
- Jerry Hopkins 434-4188
- Phil Porter 575-4782
- *Richard Watson..... 694-0444
- *Chairman for the Month of January*

Evangelists

- Dan Jenkins 744-4559
- David Sproule301-2230
- Josh Blackmer 319-1418

Deacons

- Mike Archer422-2995
- David Brown..... 972-7608
- Novel Brown 848-6988
- Chuck Clark 627-4132
- Victor Colage..... 719-1490
- Lance Collier..... 793-2718
- Jim Davis 248-3310
- 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

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Vol. LVII

January 7, 2018

No. 1

New Bible Classes

JANUARY 7 THRU MARCH 4

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:00 A.M.

Auditorium	<i>Ages 60+: Christian Stewardship</i>	<u>Rotation of Teachers:</u> Josh Blackmer Dan Fuller Dan Jenkins Phil Porter David Sproule
Adult 1-2	<i>Ages 40-59: Christian Stewardship</i>	
Adult 3	<i>Ages 19-39: Christian Stewardship</i>	
Sr. High Room	<i>Sr. High & Jr. High: Christian Stewardship</i>	

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M.

<i>Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther</i>	Dan Jenkins (Auditorium)
<i>How to Study & Understand the Bible</i>	David Sproule (Adult 1-2)
<i>Ladies: Let's Be Real</i>	Cara Blackmer (Adult 3)
<i>Sr. High: Biblical Ethics & Logic</i>	Josh Blackmer
<i>Jr. High: Genesis</i>	Victor Colage

Let us "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18)!



By Dan Jenkins

Having a True “Happy New Year”

How many times in the last few days have you heard these words, “Happy New Year”? Probably far more than you can remember. These words may have various meanings depending on one’s background and their own personal values. Have you ever considered the spiritual aspects and implications of this phrase?

Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount can so easily help us to see that the Bible speaks of happiness, not just at the beginning of a year, but about true happiness every day of the new year.

Jesus began His first recorded discourse with the Beatitudes. The word “beatitudes” is a Latin word for being blessed. In His sermon, Jesus used the word “blessed” nine times. The Greek word found here is far different from the way we usually define the word. When the angel announced to Mary that she was to bear the Son of God, he said, “Blessed are you among women” (Luke 1:28). The windows of heaven had been opened and the favor of God had been poured on upon the virgin. The Greek word the angel used is not the one found in the Beatitudes.

Defining the word blessed in the Beatitudes. The word blessed in Matthew 5:3-11 indicates happiness and joy. Jesus defined the source of true happiness in this first sermon.

**Let heaven
define happiness
and you are
guaranteed a
Happy New Year**

Who is the one who is blessed (happy)? What avenue should we follow to have true happiness from heaven?

- Have a humble spirit (poor in spirit), not filled with pride
- Learning how to deal with grief (those who mourn)
- Putting others before self (those who are meek)
- Longing to be righteous (hungering and thirsting for it)
- Have a forgiving spirit (those who are merciful)
- Purity of life and soul (pure in heart)
- Sowing peace (being a peacemaker)
- Suffering for doing right (persecuted)
- Reviled (all kinds of evil falsely said about you)

Look at His conclusion. “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.” Now that’s real happiness!

What is the motivation for seeking this kind of a happy new year? Look at the verses again and pay attention to what awaits us: being part of His kingdom here and in heaven (v. 3); being comforted by heaven (v. 4); possessing the earth in a way the ungodly will never understand (v. 5); filled with His righteousness (v. 6); receiving abundance of mercy (v. 7); seeing God (v. 8); being called God’s child (v. 9); receiving His kingdom (v. 10); being associated with the prophets and having a great reward in heaven (v. 12). **Happy New Year!**



By David Sproule

“Dear Friend, I Found Jesus”

Friend, I hope you can sense how excited I am about these things. I am especially eager to let you know that I found the greatest man who ever lived—Jesus!

I know that people have different ideas about Jesus today. The truth is that Jesus really lived on this earth, and the impact of His life is still resonating two thousand years later. But Jesus was more than just a mere man! I am excited to share with you the evidence that I have found that proves undeniably that Jesus is the Son of God!

First, I found that Jesus fulfilled 332 prophecies that were made in the Old Testament. This fact is just astonishing. The prophecies were specific, detailed predictions made hundreds of years before Jesus was ever born (some more than 1,000 years earlier). One scientist and mathematician calculated that the chance of one man fulfilling just 48 prophecies was 1 in 10¹⁵⁷. But Jesus fulfilled 332 prophecies exactly and completely! There is no human explanation for that! This truth proves that Jesus is precisely who He claimed to be—the promised Messiah of the Old Testament (i.e., “the Christ, the Son of God” [Matt. 26:63-64; cf. Acts 2:36]).

Second, I found that Jesus performed many astonishing miracles. He had power on this earth that was truly super-

natural! There is no human explanation for the wonders that Jesus did on this earth! He demonstrated power over nature (like calming a storm), power over disease (like healing the blind), power over demons (by casting them out of people) and power over death (by raising people from the dead). These mighty works were recognized to be the power of God (John 3:2; Acts 2:22), and they proved to every honest observer “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (John 20:30-31).

**The evidence
that I have
found proves
undeniably that
Jesus is...**

Third, I found that Jesus was raised from dead. Jesus died on a Friday afternoon, and to make sure that He was dead, soldiers thrust a spear through His side. Blood and water poured forth. They buried Him in a friend’s tomb, and early on Sunday morning that tomb was empty. While many explanations have been offered for the empty tomb (and even secular historians have had to admit the

tomb was occupied on Friday and Saturday, and then empty on Sunday), all human conjecture has failed to explain all of the evidence. The only reasoned explanation for the empty tomb is that God truly raised Him from the dead, which “declared [Him] to be the Son of God with power” (Rom. 1:4).

Jesus was (and is) no ordinary man! All of the evidence, when weighed in the balance, points overwhelmingly to the conclusion that He is the Son of God, which means that He deserves our respect and our obedience. You are important to me, and I wanted to share this with you. *(continued next week)*



By Josh Blackmer

Are You Training for Discernment?

Discernment is a valuable ability. It is not one that you are born with, but it is cultivated with knowledge and practice. This was Paul's prayer of the Philippian church, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:9-10). This is something that others have wanted also.

Many believe that the first sin was about fruit, but it was not. The devil said, "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5). Eve responded by seeing that the fruit looked good to eat and was able to make one wise (Gen. 3:6). Before this event they were completely innocent. Afterwards, they had the responsibility to discern between what was right and what was wrong. In this case, ignorance would have been bliss.

When Solomon began his rule, he made sacrifices to God in Gibeon (1 Kings 3:3-15). God asked Solomon what he desired from the Lord. Solomon responded, "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). Even at the beginning of

his reign, Solomon knew that he needed the ability of proper discernment to rule well the people that God had given him. When he could have asked God for anything, he asked for discernment. God blessed him with wealth and the possibility of prolonged days.

We see this come up again in the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews reprimands his audience for not knowing enough about Melchizedek. After which he states, "For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil" (Heb. 5:13-14). It is clear that God expects us to practice and train our senses to be able to discern between good and evil.

The first sin was not about fruit but that paradise was lost over the enticement of the knowledge of good and evil. When Solomon could have asked anything from God he asked for discernment, to rule wisely. Now, with the full revelation of the holy scriptures, we are expected to have that discernment. The question you need to ask yourself is, "What am I doing to train?" Are you practicing this ability and honing it to aide you, and others, in your walk back to paradise? Or are you allowing the days to go by and wishing you were better at discernment? Something that precious is within your reach.

We are expected to have that discernment.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

If the majority have done it...

According to a recent poll (and I don't always trust polls, by the way), the majority of American adults (52% of them) have smoked marijuana at some point in their lives. So there you have it! "Everyone else is doing it," as some might suggest, "So it's ok for me to do it, too."

Is that the way it works? If the majority of society smokes pot or drinks alcohol or supports homosexual marriage or refuses to subject themselves to the governing authorities, does that somehow become the standard of right and wrong for everyone else?

The Lord commanded His people, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Ex. 23:2), and warning us to "not be deceived," for "bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33). The Bible teaches that we are to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul" (1 Pet. 2:11), using our bodies, rather, to "glorify God" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Let us not become so enamored with what everyone else is doing that we fail to "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)! – DS



Church for sale

You've seen signs that indicate a house is for sale, or property or a building is for sale, but have you ever seen a sign indicating a church is for sale? Maybe you have. Maybe you've seen a "For Sale" sign in front of a religious complex. But, that's not such a big deal, because it's only the structure that is being sold. What is a big deal is when a church is actually for sale!

But how can an actual church be for sale? This is happening all too frequently today. In an effort to "reach more people" and to "appeal to the masses," some churches are "selling themselves" to whatever the "people" and "the masses" want. The Community Church movement had its origin in asking the community what they wanted in a church (and what they didn't want), and then giving them precisely what they asked for in a church.

Nearly 2,000 years ago the church was "purchased" by the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28)! He alone has a right to tell the church what He wants! Let's not sell it to anyone else! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Mike Archer	Manor Care (room 125B), undergoing rehab
Jimmy Burney	lung cancer
Zula Garrett	Gardens Court (room 213), going home soon
Charles Hayes	recovering at home from severe dehydration
Joe Holland	St. Mary's Hospital (NO visitors), infection in his blood
Tom Martens	Chatsworth, undergoing rehab
Silas Moses	Rehab Center of the Palm Beaches (room 304)
Connye Plouffe	recovering from a back procedure
Bonnie Quigley	undergoing medical tests
Angie Seames	recovering from neck surgery
Linda Studer	having monthly chemo treatments



Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Donald Coe	Linda Coe's father, Lawnwood Hospital, severe weakness
Evelyn Ellis	Mike Ellis' mother, La Posada, recovering from surgery
Kay Estes	Cheryl & Chuck Milton's sister, hand surgery next week
Twyla Wright	Trina Wright's mother, at home but still very weak

Long-Term Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
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	Harriet Morris
Margie Hardin	Godfrey Pratt
Janet Hickerson	Leigh Puckett
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley

Remember
Our Mission Works

Pacific Islands
Robert & Mary Martin
Wayne & Kristi Parker
Joey & Tammy Treat

Africa
Tamuka Arunashe
Nnanna Aforji

Montgomery, Alabama
Apologetics Press

Coral Springs, Florida
Mauricio Yegros



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 7

- ◆ **New Bible Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for Jr. High, Sr. High and adults.
- ◆ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, January 8

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Class will resume on January 15.

Tuesday, January 9

- ◆ **No Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** Class will resume on January 16.
- ◆ **Family Group 3 Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Victor & Sandy Colage.

Friday, January 12

- ◆ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lance & Brenda Collier.

Sunday, January 14

- ◆ **PBL Family Photos Updated.** If your photo needs to be updated, please have your photo taken **after morning services or before evening services** by Mike Erickson in the Family Room.

Wednesday, January 24

- ◆ **FHU Presidential Trek Comes to PBL.** David Shannon, President of Freed-Hardeman University, will be speaking during class and visiting after services.

Saturday, January 27

- ◆ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room. All ladies are welcome. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.

Sunday, January 28

- ◆ **Mission Sunday.** Every dollar given will be used for mission work.

Saturday, February 3

- ◆ **Ladies' Day hosted by Sebring Parkway.** Becky Blackmon will be speaking on "Singing in the Rain." See the bulletin board for more details.

Sunday, February 4

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

Friday-Sunday, February 9-11

- ◆ **Mother/Daughter Retreat** at CFBC.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ
Young Adults

Tuesday, January 9

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

Friday, January 12

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

Friday, January 19

- ◆ **Young Adult Hangout** at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD. See Ivan Villard for details.

Saturday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 6

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

Friday, February 9

- ◆ **Sr. High & Young Adult Ladies' Hangout** at 7:30 p.m.



Palm Beach Lakes
Youth

Friday, January 12

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

Sunday, January 14

- ◆ **Sr. High Beach Devo & Ice Cream** after evening worship. See Josh Blackmer for details.

Sunday, January 28

- ◆ **Jr. High & Sr. High Combined Devo** after evening worship. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for details.

Friday, February 9

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

Saturday, February 10

- ◆ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth.** See Sarah Collier or Ivan & Amber Villard for details.

Equipping & Edifying Families



Ground Rules for Fighting in Relationships

Every sport needs some kind of referee. A safe and fair contest needs consistently enforced rules. It's never going to be the most glamorous element of the game, but a solid rulebook is still an absolutely critical component. Ask the Packers. They remember 2012, the year marked by the NFL referee lockout. On the final play of Monday Night Football, September 24, the Packers defense protecting a slim lead, Seattle Seahawks receiver Golden Tate pushed off cornerback Sam Shields in order to gain position to make the game-winning catch. But the replacement referees didn't know their rulebooks. They missed obvious offensive pass interference and ruled a simultaneous catch. Touchdown, Seattle. Final score: Seahawks 14, Packers, 12. Ouch. How does a rulebook sound now?

In a similar way, ground rules for fighting fair in your marriage will never be the most appealing aspect of your relationship, but when tension and frustration begin to dominate an encounter with your spouse, you would be wise to have a few prearranged, mutually agreed upon rules in place. Does the idea of rules for fighting sound strange? Some think so; but the energy you spend to generate a couple of basic, inviolate rules for conflict will repay any amount of discomfort you incur upfront.

Keep this in mind, too: Different couples might need their own unique rules. For example, "Never call your spouse by their mom's name." (This can be a spectacularly bad idea.) So you might have different, situation-specific rules for your marriage, but there are a few core rules for any marriage and any fight.

1. No threatening.

This includes physical intimidation, threats of violence, threats of divorce, and ultimatums. Just like rules on the playing field, rules in conflict need to be present in order to keep things safe. Physical and emotional safety are absolutely essential for resolving disputes. Likewise, fighting without safety is both reckless and unloving.

2. Keep it in the present.

Don't bring up old stuff, even if it seems relevant. You'll have time to reflect and address those issues later—after you've finished this disagreement. For example, don't say, "This is so like you! We talked about this very thing last week, and we're right here again!" Far better to keep it in the present by saying, "This—right here and right now—is really bothering me."

3. Don't use inflammatory language.

This is either absolute language ("You always.../You never..."). Or, it can simply be when we intensify our language just to make a point. Going from "That's not reasonable" to "That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard" sets fire to any conversation.

4. No storming out of the room (or house).

You can have a short timeout to collect your cool, but you have to come back at a specific (again, short) time to finish.

5. No cheap shots.

No name-calling, low accusation, words with intent to wound, or simply saying those things you already know are guaranteed to rile your spouse (like calling her by her mother's name.)

Someone once noted, "Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional." You're going to have disagreements in your marriage. You can, however, keep things safe and clean by developing some rules for how you fight.

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



Directory Changes

Jennifer Anderson was restored December 24.



Thank you so very much for all of the attention and support you have given me during my latest illness. Your prayers have definitely been instrumental in my recovery process. I am so blessed to be part of our Palm Beach Lakes family.

Tom Martens



Sunday
December 31

LOCAL VISITORS: Tina, Tunde, & Madison Akingbade; Monique & Rosemene Alexis; Ms. Gail Archer; Richard Gathright; Sylvia Goldie; Miss Jamie Granino; Ms. Linda J. Hoskin; John K. Judd; Mr. & Mrs. Rich & Nancy Light; Mrs. Sharon Mann; Miss Victoria Michwanzi; Mr. Jean Pieros and Mr. Anthony Spinoza.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Chet & Brenda Brown, Elko New Market, MN; Miss Kinsey Brown, Apple Valley, MN; Miss Nicole Brown, Eagan, MN; Terry & Sherri Cheshier, Duncanville, TX; Ms. Sabrina Clayton & Mark, Port St. Lucie, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Matt & Olivia Ellis, Hendersonville, TN; Grant & Kathryn Fuller, Henderson, TN; Miss Lauren Fuller, Savannah, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Gerry & Joyce Giffin, Madison, AL; Mr. & Mrs. Zach & Paige Golson, Paris, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Nancy Hansel, Paris, IL; Mr. Jay Killeen, Jonesville, WI; Mrs. Lisa (Holaday) Lewis, Humboldt, TN; Chad & Gorgeous Morgan, Port St. Lucie, FL; Mrs. Jacqueline Parker, Ringgold, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Neal & Theresa Peck, Albuquerque, NM; Mr. Bryce Smith, Stone Mountain, GA; Ms. Darlene Smith, Valdosta, GA; Mrs. Kelly Taylor, Sharpsburg, GA; and Mr. Allen Townley, Trussville, AL.

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Sunday (January 7)
Willie & Giselle Smith (Ann.)
Lucy Bond
Sandy Colage

Wednesday (January 10)
Marjorie Ruiz-Carmona

Tuesday (January 9)
Matthew & Kasandra Jones (Ann.)
Brenda Collier

Thursday (January 11)
Harrison & Danielle Carter (Ann.)
Aisha Fernandez

Friday (January 12)
Barbara King

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 7

Lead Singing Bobbo Lupo
Opening Prayer Jimmie Banks
Scripture Reading..... John Loftis
Presiding at Table Ken Tipton
Serve at Table:
 Andy Anderson Carmen Ruckman
 Harrison Crofts Scott Studer
 Andy Fernandez Nahum Villard
 Edward Gager Marty Williams
Alternates:
 Jim Davis Gary Friedly
Closing Prayer Bob Higbee

Sunday Evening, January 7

Lead Singing Jerry Pittman
Opening Prayer Deltom Lequernaqué
Scripture Reading..... Joe Maloney
Presiding at Table..... David Lord
 Josiah Blackmer
 Jeremy Maloney
 Chuck Reeves, Sr.
Closing Prayer Stephen Beliech
Wednesday Evening, January 10
Lead Singing Bobbo Lupo
Invitation..... Josiah Blackmer
Family Prayer Jeff Leslie

Our Record

Attendance	<u>Dec. 31</u>	<u>Nov. Avg.</u>
Sun. Bible Study	217	268
Sun. A.M. Worship	330	376
Sun. P.M. Worship	147	163
Wed. Bible Study	222	162
Contribution	\$18,842	\$13,564
2017 Weekly Budget: \$15,065		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -46,031		

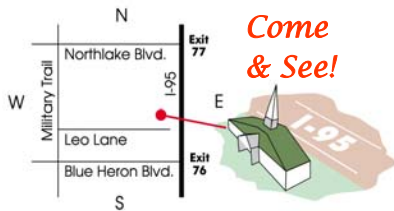
Ushers for week of **Jan. 7:** Head Usher: L.H. Richardson; Doug Carrick & Brett Lau



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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Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6401

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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: **Edward & Ellen Gager** (a.k.a. Edstraordinary & Eldini)

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 24

FHU Presidential Trek with David Shannon

January 28

Mission Sunday

February 10

Sweetheart Banquet

February 14

Tavaro Hanna Mission Report

March 11-14

Gospel Meeting with Glenn Colley

April 19

Ladies' Day

April 29

Fifth Sunday Night Cook-Off