

Elders

Johnny Davis 307-4232
 *Dan Fuller 478-3755
 Jerry Hopkins 434-4188
 Phil Porter 575-4782
 Richard Watson..... 307-2608
 *Chairman for the Month of December

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..... 719-1490
 Lance Collier..... 793-2718
 Kirk Crews 339-9283
 Cam Crotts 214-3114
 Mike Erickson..... 310-9916
 Tim Fry 373-9121
 Jeff Goodale 261-1188
 Rick Hall 622-5131
 Bob Higbee..... 303-386-6405
 Bill Ingram, Jr. 772-341-5463
 Gary Jenkins 889-3585
 Dick Kelley..... 968-1799
 Jeff Leslie..... 744-3444
 Paul Metzkes..... 736-9086
 Buzz Nelson..... 627-4890
 Nate Nelson 801-9456
 Jerry Pittman..... 793-2725
 Lawrence Richardson..... 772-336-4989
 Shaun Tyson..... 615-513-2045
 Ivan Villard 422-5041
 Kevin Weeks..... 386-4108

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Vol. LVIII

December 8, 2019

No. 49

Midweek Services at the End of the Month

THURSDAY, Dec. 26

(instead of Wednesday, Dec. 25)

7:00 p.m.

*All classes (children and adults)
will meet together in the auditorium.*

TUESDAY, Dec. 31

(instead of Wednesday, Jan. 1)

7:30 p.m.

*Regular Bible classes will meet for children and adults.
(New Year's Eve Gathering will follow)*

Sunday Morning Bible Classes



Revelation (Part 1)

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Young Adults: #Life

Which one are you attending?



By Dan Jenkins

Churches Without Elders, Still Have a Shepherd

We have often pointed out that there is a way of remembering the six words used to describe elders that can be easily remembered. Take the first letter of each of the six words and form a new word. Because an elder must have children, just remember this truth, “Elders must BE-POPS.” Those six words? B=bishops; E=elders; P=presbyters; O=overseers; P=pastors and S=shepherds. Each of these words emphasize an important aspect of what an elder must be and what he must do.

God’s desire is for every church to have elders. Paul, on his first missionary journey, established many churches in Asia Minor. After he arrived at the most distant city, Derbe, he began appointing elders. “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch...So when they had appointed elders in every church and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed” (Acts 14:21-23).

It is important to notice the importance of every church having elders. Because of abilities imparted when receiving the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, these infant churches were able to develop elders more quickly than in our day.

Elders have no authority outside of the local congregation. Peter described their work and the limits of their authority. “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers” (1 Pet. 5:2). God limits the work of the elder to the flock where he lives. He cannot rule over multiple churches.

Because elders must be spiritually mature men, some congregations do not have elders. One of the qualifications for an elder is that he cannot be a novice, a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6). Those who preach in those places and those who are leaders should set as one of their highest priorities to develop elders. Appointing men to be elders who are not spiritually qualified, just so a church can have men called elders, creates many problems. Until that time arrives, church leaders must ensure that the church is fed, restoring the wayward is not neglected and the church is led to have peace—still waters and green pastures.

Even without elders to shepherd them, a church is still God’s flock. One point overlooked is that Jesus is described as the “Chief Shepherd” (1 Pet. 5:6). Churches without an eldership still have this Shepherd. He may not be physically present, but He is in their midst overseeing them and providing food for every sheep. If you are a member of a congregation without elders, do not think that you have no Shepherd.

Even without qualified elders the church is still described as God’s flock



By David Sproule

Take Heed, Lest I Fall

There are some people who teach that once a person is saved and becomes a Christian that it is impossible for such a person to fall away from the Lord. While such a doctrine can be very comforting, it finds no foundation in Scripture. The Bible does not teach that a Christian cannot fall, and it actually teaches emphatically against such a dangerous doctrine. Read 2 Peter 2:20-22; Galatians 5:1-4; James 5:19-20; Hebrews 3:7-19; 6:4-6; 1 Timothy 4:1; etc. In these texts (and others), the Lord clearly teaches that one can fall away, He warns against it, and He gives numerous examples of it happening. Every Christian should truly “take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

While many New Testament Christians today know that the Bible does not teach the impossibility of apostasy—and they themselves do not teach or believe the doctrine—there are some who, nevertheless, are living like such a doctrine is true. They would not admit that, but an examination of their lives would lead to that conclusion.

Would you take a moment and search within your heart? Does the way that you are living support the idea that you, as a Christian, could never fall? Or does the way that you are living indicate that you are diligently trying to make your call and election sure? Some of us may be on dangerous

ground, believing that we are “safe” in our self-defined Christian life and going about trying to be of the world and of Christ at the same time. Such will not work. God warns us, “Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

Can you truly expect that you won’t fall if you don’t read God’s Word regularly and feed upon it like you do your physical nourishment (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:15)?

Can you truly expect that you won’t fall if you don’t pray regularly and keep a constantly open line of communication with your God (1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6-7)?

Can you truly expect that you won’t fall if you don’t worship the Lord every first day of the week—both attending and actually worshiping, which are not necessarily the same thing (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 4:10; 6:33)?

Can you truly expect that you won’t fall if you don’t regularly and unselfishly serve others in the church (Matt. 25:31-46; Gal. 5:13; 6:10)?

Can you truly expect that you won’t fall if you don’t talk about the Lord and the gospel with unbelievers and try to teach them the way of salvation (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:15)?

Jesus said, “Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing” (Matt. 24:46). Is that you?

On dangerous ground, believing we are “safe” in our self-defined Christian life



By Josh Blackmer

I Saw That Coming

Have you ever watched a terribly predictable movie? After twenty minutes, or less, the plot rears its boring head and you know everything that is going to happen. It wasn't your keen sense of deduction or mental prowess that ferreted out the details. In the place of subtle foreshadowing, these movies leave a trail of whole loaves instead of crumbs. Hallmark is the worse peddler for predictability. In the Christmas season, a decent plot is sidelined for a quick, sometimes unlikely, romance with a Christmas miracle. These leave you thinking, "I saw that coming."

When you start reading through the Bible, there are some patterns that emerge that leave you thinking the same thing. It has nothing to do with the brilliance of inspired authors. It has to do with the predictability of humans. With some exceptions, we are terribly predictable. The cycle of sin that plays over and over throughout our history with God is quite repetitive. Start with Adam and Eve and the original sin (Gen. 3). In the time of Noah, "God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:12). When we get to the period of the Hebrew people learning to trust God, we see the same cycle. Soon after leaving Egypt, they begin grumbling about going back (Ex. 15). At Sinai, Aaron built a golden calf

and the people worshipped it (Ex. 32). The ten spies gave an unfaithful report and a whole generation was doomed to die in the desert (Num. 13-14). There was the rebellion of Korah in which the ground opened up and swallowed all the people and possessions of those rebellious people (Num. 16). When you get to the book of Judges, the people make a covenant with the Canaanites, then begin to serve Baal and the Ashtaroth (Judg. 2). Space would fail me to write of all the disobedience of God's people throughout the ages.

The end of the disobedient is terribly predictable.

These have been used as examples in the New Testament to warn us against that same cycle. The author of Hebrews writes, "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God" (Heb. 3:12). "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience" (Heb. 4:11). "See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven" (Heb. 12:25).

The end of the disobedient is terribly predictable. God warns us not to follow the same path (Matt. 7:13). When the time comes for our judgment, we want to be able to say with joy, "I saw this coming," as we enter into the promised rest.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Expiration date

Some expiration dates probably get your attention more than others. What about expiration dates on coupons? If you had a coupon for a free meal, would you pay attention to that expiration date? If you had a coupon for a free car, would you pay attention to that expiration date? The expiration date indicates the last day you would have an opportunity to take advantage of savings. After that date, you'd be out of luck.

Would it get your attention to know that you have an expiration date on you? A date after which your saving will no longer be possible? Each of us has an expiration date—representing either the day that we die or the day that Christ returns. The problem is that you don't know what your date is. Your expiration date could be today, could be tomorrow, could be five years from now.

So, what do you do? The same thing you'd do if you had a coupon for a free car. Take advantage of that soul "savings" today—in case today is your expiration date. What do you need to do today? —DS



Create in me a clean heart

David needed forgiveness. After David had lusted for Bathsheba, sinned with Bathsheba, deceived Uriah and murdered Uriah, he was in a very bad place. Having added "sin to sin," he desperately needed God's saving grace.

But David asked for more than forgiveness. In Psalm 51, he immediately asked the Lord, "Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (51:1-2). David wanted the sin, with its guilt, removed from his account. But then he went further than that. More than just pardon from past sins, David pleaded for the ability to keep himself from sinning again. He begged the Lord, "Create in me a clean heart" (51:10).

"Out of the heart" proceed "evil things" (Mark 7:21-23), so David asked that the Lord might create within him a clean heart that would not want to do these evils again. The next time we ask the Lord for forgiveness from past sins, let's ask Him to create a clean heart that will not want to do those same sins again in the future. —DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Jimmie Banks	diagnosed with FSGS kidney disease
Karen Bibbee	undergoing rehab at home
Betty Davis	now at home
Glen Dawson	recovering at home from hospitalization
Shirley Hopkins	in Waterford for rehab
Mary Jackson	undergoing rehab on her hip
Sandy Mann	recovering from elbow surgery
Lorena Pittman	recovering from gallbladder surgery
Joel Ramirez	recovering at home and doing better
Maurine Reed	in Signature Health Care, rehab on her hip
Linda Studer	chemo treatments every 3 weeks (next is December 12)
Cherylann Wineinger	scheduled for surgery on December 12



The family of **Charles Norton**, upon his passing on Wednesday, November 27. Charles was a member at PBL for 23 years.

Long-Term Health Issues

Lillian Bankston dialysis treatments

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Hattie Daniels	Don & Betty Matter
Sandra Daniels	Deidra Miley
Josie Dawson	Harriet Morris
Annie Faison	Charles Norton
Dianne Frye	Leigh Puckett
Margie Hardin	Les Sawyer
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Joe Holland	Patricia Ventress

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Kay Estes	Cheryl & Chuck Milton's sister, medical testing
Ron Fernander	Turkessa Staley's father, Lakeside Health Center
Ann Freseman	Nicole Freseman's mother, undergoing rehab on her hip
Freddie King	Nadia King's father, in the final stages of cancer
Benjamin Smith	Mary Brown's brother, back at Darcy Hall rehab

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

Bahamas
Tavaro & Shameika Hanna



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 8

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

Friday, December 13

- ◆ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Andy & Letha Anderson.

Thursday, December 26

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. All classes (children and adults) will meet together in the Auditorium.

Tuesday, December 31

- ◆ **Midweek Bible Study** at 7:30 p.m. Regular Bible classes will meet for children and adults (instead of Wednesday night), then New Year's Eve Gathering will follow.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Gathering** at 9:00 p.m. in the Family Room. Bring your favorite games to play and some personal snacks for yourself. Singing in the New Year will begin at 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1

- ◆ **No Midweek Bible Study.** Meet on December 31.

Sunday, January 5

- ◆ **Every Member Present Sunday** for Bible Class and Worship. New plans for the new year will be presented, and every member is urged to be in attendance. Let's start the new year together!
- ◆ **North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 18

- ◆ **Widows & Widowers Luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the home of Kane & Fran Campbell. Come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. RSVP to Kane & Fran Campbell or Joan Holloway.

Tuesday, January 21

- ◆ **Family Groups 1 & 2 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of David & Skye Brown.

Sunday, January 26

- ◆ **Mission Sunday.** *Be praying about it!*

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ
Young Adults

Friday, December 13

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo & Holiday Party** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dion & Misty Hayes. See Ivan Villard for more details.

Monday, December 30

- ◆ **Young Adult Mini-Golf** at 7:00 p.m. at Lighthouse Cove Adventure Golf in Jupiter. See Ivan Villard for more details.

Saturday, January 4

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. See Ivan Villard for details.

Friday, January 10

- ◆ **Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout** at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible. See Michelle Franck for more details.

Tuesday, January 14

- ◆ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Hollie Crotts.



Palm Beach Lakes
Youth

Sunday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 14

- ◆ **Holiday Party for Grades 5 & Under** at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Taylor & Natalie Reeves. Wear something festive. See Taylor or Natalie for more details.
- ◆ **Jr. High Holiday Party** at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Sarah Collier. See Sarah, Ivan or Amber for details.
- ◆ **Sr. High Holiday Party** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Bob & Jennifer Higbee. Bring a \$5 white elephant gift. See Josh Blackmer for details.

Sunday, December 15

- ◆ **Jr. High & Sr. High Family Devo** after evening worship. Bring a potluck snack and drinks to share. All families are encouraged to come and hear about the plans for 2020. See Josh Blackmer for details.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ☆ NO Midweek Bible Study (moved to Dec. 31) a Julio & Flo Aristy a James & Michelle Green b Sarah Rodgers	2 a Gary & Jacqui Jenkins b Michael Archer b Ellen Gager	3 b Jacqueline Creary b Jessie Gower-Winter b Natalie Villa	4 ☆ Young Adult Devo a Joseph & Anthioda Charles b Gabrielle Newby
5 ☆ Every Member Present Sunday ☆ North Lake Nursing Home Visit	6 a Shaun & Emily Tyson b Bobby Ingraham b Joe Maloney	7 a Willie & Giselle Smith b Lucy Bond b Sandy Colage	8	9 a Matthew & Kasandra Jones b Brenda Collier	10 ☆ Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout b Marjorie Ruiz-Carmona	11 b Aisha Commander
12 ☆ Youth & Family Singing b Barbara King	13	14 ☆ Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night b Mary Coombs b Robin Davis b Cindy Nelson	15	16	17	18 ☆ Widows & Widowers Luncheon b Terry Denton
19 a Cornelius & Andrea Henderson	20 b Julie Charles b Norma Pratt b Kari Reeves	21 ☆ Family Groups 1 & 2 Meeting b Doug Carrick b Edward Gager b Bailey McDaniel	22 b Andrea Leslie	23 b Luther Robinson	24 b Keila McLeod	25
26 ☆ Mission Sunday ☆ 2 Week Mini-Session Classes Begin ☆ EDP Meeting ☆ Jr. High & Sr. High Family Devo b Jimmie Banks b Winifred Patterson	27 b Christene Bean b Ed Buonadonna b Sasha Smith	28 b Joyce Parker b Lana Smith	29 a Lawrence & Kay Richardson b Annie Faison	30 b Joyce Barnhouse b Dick Haines b Carol Hardman	31 a Tom & Sharon Masciarelli b Charles Hayes b Mary A. Jackson	

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

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshiping with us

Sunday,
December 1

LOCAL VISITORS: Ms. Nancy Bodin & Ryan; Mr. & Mrs. Terrence & Dionne Breaux; Mrs. Paulette Briggs; Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Ms. Maxine Griggs; Ms. Natasha Ortiz; Ms. Lizzie Rozier; Mr. & Mrs. Justin & Jacqueline Strohl; and Ms. Machel Williams and Macquas.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Ms. Helen Bashaw, Canal Winchester, OH; Mr. Channing Daniel, Gainesville, FL; Ms. Vernice Farrell, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Mr. & Mrs. Harold & Hope Gilmore, Decatur, AL; Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Patricia Hall, Maury City, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Leslie Higbee, Concord, NC; Ms. Bianca McIntosh, Abaco Bahamas; Mrs. Julie Smith, Wingate, NC; Mrs. Shirley Sneed, Hollywood, FL; and Mr. James Williams, Church Hill, MO.

Thank You notes

Birthdays & Anniversaries *This Week*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Sunday (December 8th)</u>
Harriet Morris | <u>Thursday (December 12th)</u>
Charlene Knowles
Tyrone Toson |
| <u>Monday (December 9th)</u>
Mike & Jean Archer (Ann.) | <u>Friday (December 13th)</u>
Kevin & Stephanie Weeks (Ann.) |
| <u>Tuesday (December 10th)</u>
Carolina Medina | <u>Saturday (December 14th)</u>
Tim Fry
Patricia Hackshaw
Daisy Lord
Juliette Mauvais |
| <u>Wednesday (December 11th)</u>
Tasha Ellis | |

To my church family,

Thank you for all of the endless hours you have spent in prayer on behalf of my mom, me, and my family. Thank you for your constant love and concern. I never would have made it through these years without you. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, countless cards and calls. I have seen the Spirit of God in you all. May God bless you as you strive to serve Him.

Love,
Trina Wright

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you all for your kindness during my illness.
Much love,
Ophelia Holmes

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, December 8

- Lead Singing Gary Friedly
- Opening Prayer Tim Cox
- Scripture Reading..... Jeff Goodale
- Presiding at Table Eugene Williams
- Serve at Table:
- Derrick Banks Bobby Ingraham
- Josiah Blackmer Jeff Leslie
- Cam Crotts Morris McDaniel
- Mike Damron Vincent Rogers
- Alternates:
- Novel Brown Dirk Summerlot
- Closing Prayer Jim Rogers

Sunday Evening, December 8

- Lead Singing John Loftis
- Opening Prayer Kane Campbell
- Scripture Reading..... Mike Ellis
- Presiding at Table..... Richard Watson
- Mike Erickson
- Trey Higbee
- Jeremy Maloney
- Closing Prayer L.H. Richardson
- Wednesday Evening, December 11**
- Lead Singing Josiah Blackmer
- Invitation..... Dirk Summerlot
- Family Prayer Richard Watson

Our Record

Attendance	<u>Dec. 1</u>	<u>Nov. Avg</u>
Sun. Bible Study	197	228
Sun. A.M. Worship	275	299
Sun. P.M. Worship	119	129
Wed. Bible Study	173	150
Contribution	\$13,954	\$14,061
2019 Weekly Budget: \$15,190		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -\$19,236		

Ushers for this week: Lawrence Williams (Head Usher); Tim Fry & Tim Mahlbacher
Safety Team for this week: Victor Colage & Darin Summerlot



Palm Beach Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Speaking where the Bible speaks, Silent where the Bible is silent.



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: **Misty Hayes, Kathy Nelson, Trevin Roman & Sully Tyson**



Phil Sanders, who has spoken numerous times at Palm Beach Lakes, is the host of the nationally televised program, *"In Search of the Lord's Way."*

This great, faith-building program is broadcast on **WGN** (out of Chicago) **every Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m.**

Locally, those channels are:
AT&T U-Verse (channel 180)
Comcast (channel 7)
DIRECTV (channel 307)
DISH (channel 239)



Be sure to check it out every week, record it, and tell others about it.



"All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence...And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col. 1:16-18; 3:17).