

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

Church Office

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Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ

Vol. LVIII

December 15, 2019

No. 50



January: **To Spread the Gospel Near and Far**
 February: **To Make My Marriage Stronger**
 March: **To Defend God's Truth**
 April: **To Work More in His Kingdom**
 May: **When Storms of Life Are Raging**
 June: **To Deeper Knowledge and Faith in Christ**
 July: **To Greater Patience with Others**
 August: **When Unrighteousness Seems to Prevail**
 September: **To Become a Stronger Leader**
 October: **To Uphold God's Church**
 November: **To Look More Like Jesus**
 December: **To the Eternal Prize of Heaven**

"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."



By Dan Jenkins

Discovering the Bible on a Deserted Island

Sometimes great truths can be taught by using the most simple thoughts. This is why both Old Testament prophets and even Jesus employed objects and stories to illustrate great truths. The following story is far from being equal with those, but perhaps it will help us understand the truth about the church Jesus built and the religious division in our world.

Imagine a man, isolated on a deserted island, who finds a Bible which has washed ashore. He begins reading it and is so fascinated. There is much he struggles to comprehend, but he learns what this book taught about the origin of man and the earth. He learns about a holy God who expects His creation to obey Him, punishes those who turn away and rewards those who obey Him. He learns of God making a great nation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and sending prophets to tell that nation that someday a great One would come to deal with all of man's sinful disobedience.

An amazing thing happens. These words are powerful, and he begins to believe these truths. He has a simple faith which comes from hearing the simple truth. As he reads more, he finds that the great One came—His name was Jesus. He died. He was raised. He ascended back to heaven and left men on the earth to show a new way and established the church.

Sometimes great truths can be clearly understood by simple stories

The man's faith grows. He changes his life, and he is immersed so that God will wash away all his sins. He worships like those apostles taught men to worship. He lives by the moral precepts they taught. Because he did what those twelve men taught others to do to become members of the church, he does what they did, and God adds him to that church.

This story is not an actual event, but if the Bible is from God and is written in such a way that a common man can understand it, *it could happen*. That Bible this man found was from God, and God fulfilled the promises He made to those who would seek to find Him, hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Now imagine that man being rescued and coming into our world. He would learn of churches begun by the Pope, Luther, Wesley, Calvin, Smith, Russell, and other churches based on ecclesiastical hierarchy. He would readily see how different they were from the simple church Jesus started. He would struggle to see the many "faiths" on which these churches were built, but he knew where his faith came from. He had the *same faith* as those taught by the apostles, and he was so glad the circumstances in his life had taught him the simple truth.

Does this story interest you? Would you like to know more? Let's talk. We are like that man who seeks to build our simple faith on the One who came years ago.



By David Sproule

Make No Provision for the Flesh

Do you ever plan ahead? Most folks when they go on vacation will plan ahead. Before most folks have surgery, they will plan ahead. Even when most folks go to the grocery store, they will plan ahead. Putting our minds to events—to consider as many aspects of those events in advance—is an essential life skill. But not all advanced planning is good.

In Romans 13:14, Christians are given two instructions, which is actually one instruction with two contrasting sides. Let's start with the second part, where God commands (with a present middle imperative), "Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." The Greek word for "provision" is *pro-noia*, which is a compound word with the prefix *pro*, meaning "before," and the verb *noeo*, "to think." The expression in this verse literally means, "give no forethought to" those things of the flesh.

The challenge that the devil throws in the path of every Christian (and non-Christian, as well) is "the flesh." "The lust of the flesh" is in his arsenal at every turn (1 John 2:16), in order that we might "fulfill its desires." It is impossible for us to "live according to the flesh" and "live according to the Spirit" at the same time (Rom. 8:1-14), but this is much more than just the actions that we take. In Romans 13:14, God calls upon

I must clothe myself with the Lord—not just on the outside

us to not even let our thoughts wonder over into the arena of the flesh. By letting our minds dwell upon the passions and desires of this world, we are, in essence, planning ahead (and giving forethought) to how we might fulfill those carnal cravings. But the Lord knows that if we cut off the thoughts "before" we can "think" them that we cannot then sin against Him. Thus, we must "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). Have you done that? Or are you still letting those passions and desires live in your heart?

The first part of this instruction in Romans 13:14 states, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Place this in contrast with the second part of the verse. Rather than think on the things of the flesh, God expects me to make a determined choice to think the way Christ thought (Phil. 2:5-8) and to live the way Christ lived (1 Pet. 2:21). I must clothe myself with the Lord—not just on the outside (as we might sometimes picture clothing), but on the very deepest parts of the inside of my heart. How do I do that?

I must bathe myself in His word (Psa. 119). I must not allow myself to be conformed to the fleshly lusts of this world (1 Pet. 2:9). I must love what He loves, want what He wants, hate what He hates, etc. Rather than allowing my heart to plan ahead to fulfill fleshly desires, I need to find joy in planning ahead to fulfill godly desires and make provision for Him!



By Josh Blackmer

Your Person of the Year

Here it is! The end of the year! With it comes all the countdowns and end of the year reflections. One of the year-end traditions is Time Magazine’s Person of the Year that highlights that year’s most influential person. You may not notice it but many notable people have been on the cover of the magazine. From Mahatma Gandhi (1930) and Winston Churchill (1940) to Adolf Hitler (1938) and Joseph Stalin (1940, 1942). Presidents, scientists, Nobel Peace Prize winners, and groups of people like the American Fighting Man (1950) and You (2006). This year, they selected Greta Thunberg, the youngest to ever be named. Greta is a 16-year-old climate change activist from Sweden. She organized students to strike for climate change and became famous for her “how dare you” address to the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Whether or not she impacted our lives for anything other than a good meme is debatable. However, who has influenced our lives this year?

As is common, at the end of a year we will take a moment and look back at what this year held for us. We count the year by units of time. What if we counted it by the encounters with people in our lives? Of those encounters, how many were significant? It could be that someone said something that stuck with you. It may have been positive or negative, but it caused a

great change in your life. It could be that influence came at the hand of unexpected change in the life of someone close to you. When we look back, we can see that our lives are heavily influenced by those around us. This raises the question, who are we keeping around us?

It has been said, “Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.” In our spiritual lives, this is not sound advice. We need to keep those close that will move us “to love and good deeds” (Heb. 10:24). The immediate context of that verse is the general assembly of the church (Heb. 10:25). If we looked back on 2019, what percentage of Sundays were we in worship with the saints? How many times did I fellowship with my brothers and sisters? Would that have made a difference in our lives?

There are many things that are out of our control. There are people that unknowingly influence us throughout the year, and we can’t change that. We can control who we spend time with. We can choose to be around people that are going to help us on our Christian walk (John 13:34; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:2). We need to stay away from those that would be a negative influence as much as is in our control (Prov. 16:29; 28:10). Let’s look back on our year and see who our person of the year has been. Christ will always be our greatest influence, but others can help (1 Cor. 11:1).

Let’s look back on our year and see who has been our person of the year.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

It is worth it!

They wiggle. They squirm. They sometimes have a tough time sitting still and being quiet. But that’s ok! Having little kids in worship is one of the best things that can happen—for the church and for the kids! Parents, please know that while you might have a tough time keeping them quiet and still in those first couple years, if you keep at it, it will be worth it!

Parents are charged with bringing their children up in the way they should go (Prov. 22:6). Do you want your children to be in worship every week when they’re older? You be there now. Do you want your children to enjoy worship when they’re older? You enjoy it now. Do you want your children to refrain from complaining about worship when they’re older? You refrain now.

The best habit we can instill within our children’s hearts is (1) being in worship, (2) participating in worship and (3) enjoying worship. There is One who is worthy of our worship and worthy of every effort we make with our children. Help them to love God as much as you do! – DS



“Your call is important to us. Please continue to hold.”

You’ve experienced it, haven’t you? You call the “Customer Service” line for a company to get some help, and you are immediately put on hold. You listen to the soft and easy music for minutes upon minutes. The music is only occasionally interrupted by a recorded message that says, “Your call is important to us. We are currently assisting other customers. The next available representative will be with you shortly. Please continue to hold.” Isn’t that just great?

Aren’t you glad that your Father doesn’t work like that? Can you imagine hearing this message when you pray, “Your prayer is important to Me. I am currently assisting another Christian. I will be with you as soon as I am done. Please continue to hold.” How often would you pray?

Here is one of the best statements in the Bible: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers” (1 Pet. 3:12). There is no “waiting in line.” There is no “Please hold.” He is “always” (Eph. 6:18) available “without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17)! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Karen Bibbee	undergoing rehab at home
Betty Davis	now at home
Shirley Hopkins	in Waterford for rehab
Mary Jackson	undergoing rehab on her hip
Sandy Mann	recovering from elbow surgery
Lorena Pittman	recovering at home from gallbladder surgery
Connye Plouffe	Gardens Medical Center (room 269), surgery on leg
Maurine Reed	now at home, still undergoing rehab
Linda Studer	chemo treatments every 3 weeks
Cherylann Wineinger	recovering from surgery (Dec. 12)



Matthew & Nadia King, upon the passing of their father, **Freddie King**, last week. The funeral will be in our building on Saturday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m.

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	Leigh Puckett
Dianne Frye	Les Sawyer
Margie Hardin	Ricky Smedley
Loretta Holaday	Patricia Ventress
Joe Holland	

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Kay Estes	Cheryl & Chuck Milton's sister, at home and improving
Ron Fernander	Turkessa Staley's father, Lakeside Health Center
Ann Freseman	Nicole Freseman's mother, undergoing rehab on her hip
Conrad Mills	Tasha Ellis' brother, upcoming medical evaluation
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

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.** Every dollar given will be used for mission work. *Be preparing for it! Be praying about it!*
- ◆ **2 Week Mini Session Classes Begin.** Age 3-Grade 5 meet in the Sr. High Room. Jr. High, Sr. High and all adults meet in the Auditorium.
- ◆ **EDP Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ
Young Adults

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 Crofts.

Saturday, February 1

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



Palm Beach Lakes
Youth

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.

Tuesday, December 31

- ◆ **Sr. High Lock-In.** Bring things to keep yourself awake. Do not bring anything for sleeping (pillows, blankets, etc.). See Josh Blackmer for more 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.

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.

PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Men's Worship Service Assignments - January, 2020

January 5

January 12

January 19

January 26

Morning Worship Service					
Song Leader	Gary Friedly	Bobbo Lupo	Gary Friedly	Bobbo Lupo	
Opening Prayer	Freddie Gadson	John Loftis	Dan Fuller	Willie Smith	
Scripture Reading	David Lord	Joe Maloney	Stephen Beliech	Scott Studer	
Presiding at Table	Jeff Goodale	Gary Jenkins	Morris McDaniel	Victor Colage	
Serving at Table:	Novel Brown	Derrick Banks	Ed Buonadonna	Tim Cox	
	Mike Erickson	Chuck Clark	Lance Collier	Devin Eutsey	
	Bobby Ingraham	Dion Hayes	Andy Fernandez	Rick Hall	
	Daniel Lord	Bill Ingram, Jr.	Ed Gager	Bob Higbee	
	Gary Seames	Chad Morgan	Graysen Hayes	Ken Long	
	Jonathan Swayne	Taylor Reeves	Chuck Reeves, Sr.	Tim Mahlbacher	
	David Thorpe	Jim Rogers	L.H. Richardson	Robert Mariano	
	Marty Williams	Tyler Williams	Ken Tipton	Nahum Villard	
Closing Prayer	David Holiday	Andy Anderson	Chris Thompson	Kevin Weeks	

Evening Worship Service					
Song Leader	Stephen Beliech	Ken Tipton	Dion Hayes	John Loftis	
Opening Prayer	Josh Blackmer	Simon Tyson	Eugene Williams	Jim Davis	
Scripture Reading	Ivan Villard, Jr.	Daniel Wagner	Darin Summerlot	Lawrence Williams	
Presiding at Table	Dan McLeod	Jeff Leslie	David Brown	Johnny Davis	
Serving at Table:	Mike Ellis	Josiah Blackmer	Gorman Ericksen	Cam Crotts	
	Paul Metzkes	Jeremy Maloney	Trey Higbee	Glen Dawson	
	Jerry Pittman	Nick Pietro	Richard Lerro	Eddie Gooden	
Closing Prayer	Tim Fry	Henry Williams	Dirk Summerlot	Harrison Crotts	

Alternates:					
	Max Fonrose	Nate Nelson	Kirk Crews	Kane Campbell	
	Dick Kelley	Richard Watson	Phil Porter	Mike Damron	

Technical Assignments					
<i>Morning:</i>	Computer	Nate Nelson	Kirk Crews	Bob Higbee	Ivan Villard, Jr.
	Audio	Buzz Nelson	TBD	John Loftis	David Brown
	Video	Cam Crotts	Dan McLeod	Scott Studer	Jerry Pittman
<i>Evening:</i>	Computer	David Sproule	Kirk Crews	Bob Higbee	Ivan Villard, Jr.
	Audio	Buzz Nelson	TBD	John Loftis	David Brown
	Video	Cam Crotts	Dan McLeod	Scott Studer	Jerry Pittman

Ushers - Morning & Evening Services (Sunday & Wednesday)					
<i>Ushers</i>		Jan. 5 & 8	Jan. 12 & 15	Jan. 19 & 22	Jan. 26 & 29
Head Usher:	Jimmie Banks	—————→			
	Namidie Ikon	Jordan Beasley	Orlando Lolo	Errol Gower-Winter	
	Vince Rogers	Kevin Weeks	Nahum Villard	Paul Metzkes	
Safety Team	Bob Higbee	Rick Hall	David Lord	Daniel Swayne	
	Seth Watson	Shaun Tyson	Bobbo Lupo	Seth Watson	

Please consider this opportunity to serve as special and dress accordingly.

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.

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,
December 8

LOCAL VISITORS: Miss Ava Davis; Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Miss Jamie Granino; Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Jean Pieros; Ms. Lizzie Rozier; and Ms. Machel Williams and Macquas.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Mr. Jim Collins, Stuart, FL; Mrs. Lynda Davis, Equality, AL; Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Patricia Hall, Maury City, TN; Mr. Park Jimin, Korea; Mr. Fresco McBride, Freeport, Bahamas; Ms. Bianca McIntosh, Marsh Harbour, Abaco Bahamas; Mr. Leslie Szakacs, Parkland, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Randy & Wendy Wood, Jasper, AL; and Mrs. Brittnea Yegros, Alejandro & Gabriela, Asuncion, Paraguay.

It's girl!

Congratulations to **Chris & Brittany Thompson** upon the birth of their daughter, **Nautica Marie**, on Tuesday, December 10, weighing 6 lb. 13 oz. Everyone is doing well, but they have requested no visitors for the next few weeks.

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week



Thanks for all the prayers, phone calls and cards sent on my behalf during my recent surgery. I love my church family and your willingness to serve others in need.

Love,
Lorena Pittman

Monday (December 16th)
Julie Fontaine

Thursday (December 19th) cont.
Mary Quinn
Angie Seames
Brittany Thompson

Wednesday (December 18th)
Ted & Karen Friesner (Ann.)
Rick & Melinda Price (Ann.)

Friday (December 20th)
Eugene Williams

Thursday (December 19th)
Victor & Sandy Colage (Ann.)
Patricia Patterson

Saturday (December 21st)
Casey Bound

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 15

Lead Singing Robert Lupo
Opening Prayer Ivan Villard, Jr.
Scripture Reading Ken Tipton
Presiding at Table Stephen Beliech
Serve at Table:
Jordan Beasley Graysen Hayes
Kirk Crews Dan McLeod
Harrison Crotts David Thorpe
Eddie Gooden Daniel Wagner
Alternates:
Gary Jenkins Taylor Reeves
Closing Prayer Jim Davis

Sunday Evening, December 15

Lead Singing Jerry Pittman
Opening Prayer Chuck Clark
Scripture Reading Tyler Williams
Presiding at Table David Lord
Paul Metzkes
Nate Nelson
Nick Pietro
Closing Prayer Gary Seames

Wednesday Evening, December 18

Lead Singing Harrison Crotts
Invitation Shaun Tyson
Family Prayer Jeff Leslie

Our Record

Attendance	<u>Dec. 1</u>	<u>Nov. Avg</u>
Sun. Bible Study	210	228
Sun. A.M. Worship	308	299
Sun. P.M. Worship	142	129
Wed. Bible Study	150	150
Contribution	\$14,280	\$14,061
2019 Weekly Budget: \$15,190		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: -\$20,146		

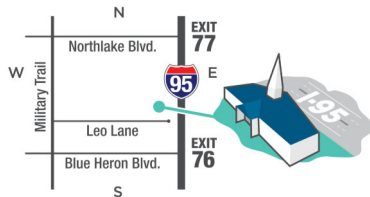
Ushers for this week: Lawrence Williams (Head Usher); Chuck Reeves, Sr. & Daniel Swayne
Safety Team for this week: Nahum Villard & Seth Watson



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: Daniel Lord, Tyler Williams & Josiah Blackmer

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Strengthen and defend your faith!

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

The Bible says...

1. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

2. Repent of your sinful ways

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

3. Confess your faith in Jesus

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus...you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

4. Be immersed in water

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

5. Commit to a lifetime of faithful service

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).