

Elders

Johnny Davis 307-4232
 *Dan Fuller..... 685-4454
 Jerry Hopkins 818-7164
 Paul Metzkes..... 870-8042
 Phil Porter 575-4782
 Richard Watson..... 307-2608

*Chairman for the Month of January

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins 379-2325
 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
 Jeff Leslie..... 744-3444
 Buzz Nelson..... 627-4890
 Jerry Pittman..... 389-2935
 Ivan Villard 422-5041

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Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ

Vol. LX

January 17, 2021

No. 3

New Bible Classes

JANUARY 17 THRU MARCH 24

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:00 A.M.

<i>James</i>	Richard Watson (Auditorium)
<i>Bible Background for a Richer Understanding</i>	David Sproule (Family Room)
<i>Sr. High: Church History</i>	Josh Blackmer
<i>Jr. High: Letters to the Churches</i>	Victor Colage

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M.

<i>Minor Prophets (Hosea-Jonah)</i>	Josh Blackmer (Auditorium)
<i>Ladies: Hindsight 2020: Processing Emotional Overload</i>	Cara Blackmer (Adult 1-2)
<i>Sr. High: The Pentateuch</i>	Robert Lupo
<i>Jr. High: Bible Basics</i>	Ivan Villard

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



By Dan Jenkins

The Lord Your God Is Testing You

"The Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul" (Deut. 13:3). The most important question is how do I respond to the tests that the Lord sends? If I fail the test, then it makes no difference how fervently I may claim to love the Lord. It makes no difference how deeply I might *feel* that I love the Lord with all my heart. When I fail the test, God knows that this failure shows I really do not love Him.

What was the test God gave? Read the rest of the chapter, and you will see it involved false teachers and religious leaders who tried to keep men from obeying God. The test is simple. Does my love cause me to obey the Lord or to ignore what He says? "Christians" in America are failing the test!

"Christendom" in our land struggles how to deal with homosexuality. A quick Google search will reveal how many denominations are changing their teachings. Within the last year, the United Methodist Church has a major doctrinal shift and two distinct Methodist groups now exist. Others who have ordained homosexuals as church leaders included the Evangelical Lutheran Church (since 2010), the Presbyterian Church USA (since 2012), the Episcopal Church, the Disciples of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, the Mennonite Church in the

USA (2013) and a host of others in our land are struggling in their conventions about what they should teach.

Internationally, the same is true. Ordination of homosexuals is practiced in the Anglican Church of Canada (since 2016); The Anglican Church in New Zealand; the Anglican churches in South Africa, Brazil, Wales, Ireland and South India. The same is true of the Reformed churches in Switzerland; the Protestant Church in the Netherlands; the Church of Sweden; The Danish National Church; the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland; the Church of Iceland and scores of others.

Homosexuality is just one aspect of the fact that mankind, while claiming to deeply love the Lord, has failed God's testing of their love. The very basis of religious division and denominations is when we are ignoring what God says about a matter and then failing the test. Our world has failed the test of how to worship, baptism, the Lord's supper, the role of women in the public assemblies and most important of all in teaching what one must do to be saved.

Let me appeal to every member of the Lord's church. Read Deuteronomy 13, and see that those who are advocating changes in His church are failing the test. If we truly love the Lord, we will realize that God's tests will confront us to allow us to visually see if our understanding of it means to know the depth of our love for Him. Pray about these matters.

**Teaching about
homosexuality is
one test our
world fails while
we "love" God**



By David Sproule

The Changeless in a Changing World

Wow! There is a lot that is changing around us! Changes are taking place in our government, with our leaders and our system of laws. Changes are taking place in our culture, with what is considered appropriate and what is tolerated. What was once considered a God-fearing nation (to some extent) now seems like a God-hating nation. Changes are taking place in our homes, in our schools, in our jobs, in everything around us. All of these changes sure create an abiding sense of instability and insecurity. Is there anything that can ground us and secure us and keep us calm in the midst of chaos? Consider this.

God doesn't change. "I am the Lord, I do not change" (Mal. 3:6). "There is no variation or shadow of turning" with God (Jas. 1:17). "His purpose is unchangeable" (Heb. 6:17).

Jesus doesn't change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). "Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail" (Heb. 1:12). Jesus is "Him who is and who was and who is to come" (Rev. 1:4).

The Bible doesn't change. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35). "The word of God...lives and abides forever...All flesh

is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Pet. 1:23-25). "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it" (Deut. 4:2).

God's plan for man's redemption doesn't change.

"You are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another" (Gal. 1:6-7). "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

God's expectations of mankind don't change. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (Ecc. 12:13).

With so much changing around us, let us be thankful for, focused on, devoted to and sharing those eternal things of God which do not change

**Is there
anything that can
ground us and
secure us?**



By Josh Blackmer

Are We Keeping the World Out of the Church?

South Florida has a ground water issue that not many other places in the U.S. deal with—the salinization of fresh water aquifers. Since 1985, there has been an increase in the salinity of the Biscayne Aquifer. In that time, there has been a 12-17% decrease in available freshwater. There are many factors, one of those is the amount of fresh water pumped out. If it is not replaced, it leaves room for salt water to seep in if the aquifer is inside the salt-water intrusion line. It is a threat to the purity of our water. There is a similar threat to the church.

We are here in this world and we are charged to keep the church “without spot or wrinkle” (Eph. 5:27). What are we allowing to seep into the church? The world around us is far from holy. The United States is seemingly more and more polarized on issues. Many are getting a steady diet of half-truths and politicized information, all of which drives a larger wedge between neighbors. While in the recent past we may have been able to talk about these differences and still be civil, even friendly, it seems like that ability is also slipping away. Is that also seeping into the church?

To keep the influences of the world around us out we must stand on the truth of God’s word. There is a lot of infor-

mation out there that is being spun in every direction. The church should not be a place where that happens. “I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). Filling our hearts up with His truth should leave little room for the deception that is in the world. “Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You” (Psa. 119:11).

What are we doing to keep the world out of the church?

To keep the influences of the world around us out of the church we must strive for unity. It is what Christ prayed for (John 17:21-22). It was what Paul prescribed for the churches (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3). “Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil. 2:2-4). Do your part to maintain unity in the church (Rom. 12:18).

Lastly, to keep the influences out we must labor in love. “Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity” (Col. 3:14). Love looks for the best in others and keeps no record of wrongs (1 Cor. 13:4-7). We will need all of these and more for the church to keep the world out.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

“God, help me to have this focus”

When Paul wrote the book of Romans, he told the church that his “heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved” (10:1), and he went so far as to say, “I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren,” so that they might be saved (9:3). Paul wanted all people to be saved, but have you ever considered what these folks had done to him?

They spent time “contradicting and blaspheming” and “opposed the things” that he spoke (Acts 13:45). They “stirred up” a revolt, “raised up persecution” and “expelled” Paul from their region (13:50). They “poisoned” the minds of the multitudes (14:2) and made a “violent attempt...to abuse and stone” (14:5). Eventually they “stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city” (14:19).

Yet, after years and years of this kind of treatment, he was still willing to be accursed from Christ, if that meant they could be saved. Paul looked beyond himself to the eternal salvation of even his enemies. Here’s the question: Do we do that for those who have done us wrong? – DS



Opportunities abound

As we know, opportunities to do wrong and to gratify the flesh abound all around us. And sometimes Christians think that they can take advantage of their “forgiving God” who “always forgives them,” and use that liberty to do some things that they should not. Paul warned about this in Galatians 5:13 – “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh...” Meditate on that for a moment.

As we know, opportunities to do right and to make a difference in the lives of others abound all around us. Do you not have just as many, if not more, opportunities to do good during your day than to do evil? That’s why Paul went on in that same verse to say, “...do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love [use liberty as an opportunity to] serve one another.”

Opportunities abound all around us! For good and for evil. For right and for wrong. For helping people and for hurting people. Which opportunities will we choose? – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Adrienne Banks	undergoing medical tests
Gorman Ericksen	fell and fractured his shoulder a few weeks ago
Patricia Hackshaw	recovering from an outpatient surgery
Charles Hayes	recovering at home
Joan Holloway	in Jupiter Rehabilitation and is improving
Dan Johnson	back at home, after being treated for an infection
John Loftis	still dealing with severe back pain and weakness
Betty Matter	in Palms West Hospital with COVID-19
Don Matter	in Gardens Medical Center with COVID-19
Cheryl Milton	dealing with some medical issues
Willie Smith	having back surgery on February 2

Ongoing Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
Terri Hahn	leukemia
Inell Ingram	Courtyard Gardens (Jupiter)
Joel Ramirez	dialysis treatments

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Josie Dawson	Don & Betty Matter
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

Linda Baker	Dick & Marcia Kelley's daughter, tested positive for COVID
Shelley Dayman	Ally Alberga's sister, nursing home, stage 4 kidney disease
Ronald Fernander	Turkessa Staley's father, Good Samaritan Medical Center
Geraldine Marshall	Betty Sanders' sister, in a nursing home with COVID-19
Clara Medina	Carolina Alvarenga's sister, having severe health issues
Rocky Meess	Micky Affron's father, surgery was cancelled
Willie Smith, Sr.	Ricky Smith's father, recovering from COVID-19





Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 17

- ♦ **New 10-Week Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for Jr. High, Sr. High and adults.

Monday, January 18

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

Tuesday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 31

- ♦ **Mission Sunday.** Every dollar given will be used for mission work. Be preparing for it! Be praying about it!
- ♦ **EDP Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

Friday-Sunday, February 5-7

- ♦ **Mother-Daughter Retreat at CFBC.** Cost is \$40 per person. Register online at www.cfbiblecamp.org.

Saturday, February 13

- ♦ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth.** Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 13 (cont.)

- ♦ **Sweetheart Banquet.** PBL members 55+ years old or married 25+ years are invited. RSVP to Sarah Collier or Ivan & Amber Villard.

Sunday, February 14

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

Monday, March 1

- ♦ **Men Meet Monday Night** at 7:00 p.m. on the church property. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils.

Wednesday, March 3

- ♦ **Prayer Meeting** to prepare for the Gospel Meeting. Jr. High, Sr. High and adults will meet together in the auditorium after the devotional. Children in Grade 5 and under will have their regular classes.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Tuesday, February 2

- ♦ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jacqui Jenkins. See Cindy Nelson for details.

Friday-Monday, February 5-8

- ♦ **Youth & Young Adult Family Camping Trip** at Highlands Hammock State Park. Cost is \$25 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 24. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

Friday, February 12

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

Monday, March 1

- ♦ **Men Meet Monday Night** at 7:00 p.m. on the church property. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils.



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Sunday, January 24

- ♦ **Jr. High & Sr. High Devo** after evening worship. Bring drinks or desserts.

Friday-Monday, February 5-8

- ♦ **Youth & Young Adult Family Camping Trip** at Highlands Hammock State Park. Cost is \$25 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 24. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

Friday, February 12

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

Sunday, February 28

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

Monday, March 1

- ♦ **Men Meet Monday Night** at 7:00 p.m. on the church property. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited.

Equipping & Edifying Families

5 Essentials in Raising Respectful Teenagers



“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” is a great movie. This is almost an objective fact. The humor is driven by the idea that this high school kid is significantly more clever and intelligent than any and all adults he encounters. It, of course, plays to what all teenagers know to be true: They are smarter than the adults who try to tell them what to do. If you have a teenager, this dynamic is not news to you.

Teens distrust authority. This is both developmental (pushing boundaries) and a result of the seemingly daily dose of information we get about authority figures who have failed us (see church abuse, political scandal, incidents of police brutality). And yet we know that authority isn’t inherently bad. In fact, in most cases, our teens need to respect authority to thrive in life. Here are 5 essentials in raising respectful teenagers.

1. Be honest.

Don’t lie to your teen. Certain teachers, ministers, politicians, police officers, and others in authority do terrible things. Dismissing the truth about them because you’re afraid your teen then will distrust all authority simply reinforces the idea that authority figures (e.g., you) can’t be trusted. Raising respectful teenagers begins with being honest with them.

2. Be the change you wish to see.

If you want to prove that authority figures are worthy of respect, be the kind of authority figure who is worthy of respect. Make a list of what you want your teen to have modeled for him or her in their authority figures. Then ask yourself: “Do I display this for my teens? Are they more or less likely to trust authority figures based on their interactions with me?”

3. Be intentional.

While most of the authority figures your teen will interact with are not ones you get to choose, you can be intentional about creating connections with adults who model the kind of integrity you want your child to see. Do you know someone who is in a position of authority who models what you want your teen to see? Be intentional about spending time with that person and your teen. Expose your teens to folks who are worthy of their respect. Then talk with them about that experience.

4. Be respectful to authority yourself.

Raising respectful teenagers is as much about modeling as anything. How do you respond to the authority figures in your life? How do you talk about your parents? What do you say about your boss while at home? How do you speak about politicians? You are teaching your teen how to view authority the same way you view authority. Be respectful.

5. Be respectful to teens.

It’s easy for us to dismiss the concerns of teens as naïve or self-centered or simply ignorant of how the “real world” works. However, raising respectful teenagers is impossible if your teen doesn’t feel respected him or herself. Of course you still need to correct your teen and challenge him or her. But dismissing a teen’s viewpoints or refusing to take a teen seriously is a great way to undermine his or her ability to respect you—and all other authority figures.

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

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
January 10

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Monday (January 18th)

Terry Denton

Thursday (January 21st)

Edward Gager

Tuesday (January 19th)

Cornelius & Andrea Henderson (Ann.)

Friday (January 22nd)

Andrea Leslie

Wednesday (January 20th)

Julie Charles
Norma Pratt

Saturday (January 23rd)

Luther Robinson

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. Silas Balfour; Mr. & Mrs. Terry & Regina Crews; Mr. Jesse Hover; Mr. Garfield Walks; and Mr. Brandon Widner.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mrs. Jessica Boggs, Neosho, MO; Mr. & Mrs. Caleb & Bethany Boggs, Neosho, MO; Mr. Joshua Lupo, Murray, KY; Mrs. Jacqueline Parker, Ringgold, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Chris Smith, Henderson, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Stephanie Weeks, Valdosta, GA.



Wedding Announcement

Congratulations to **Sam Ford & Katie Sproule** who were married on Friday, January 8.

Congratulations to **Douglas Alvarenga & Carolina Medina** who were married on Tuesday, January 12.

News & Notes

Nate Nelson has resigned as a deacon at Palm Beach Lakes. We thank Nate for all of his work as a deacon and we look forward to his continued service for the Lord.

Thank You  notes

Thanks so much to the PBL church family for the support after the unexpected passing of my daughter, Camele. God bless you all.

Isolyn Sinclair

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 at the front of the auditorium 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 17

Lead Singing Gary Friedly
Opening Prayer Bill Ingram, Jr.
Scripture Reading Tim Cox
Presiding at Table Eugene Williams
Serve at Table TBD
Closing Prayer Paul Metzkes

Sunday Evening, January 17

Lead Singing Jerry Pittman
Opening Prayer Andy Anderson
Scripture Reading Tyler Williams
Presiding at Table Johnny Davis
Serve at Table TBD
Closing Prayer Richard Watson

Wednesday Evening, January 20

Lead Singing Harrison Crotts
Invitation Chuck Clark
Family Prayer Phil Porter

Our Record

	<u>Jan. 10</u>	<u>Dec. Avg</u>
Attendance		
Sun. Bible Study	163	144
Sun. AM Worship	207	197
Sun. PM Worship	125	118
Wed. Bible Study	107	121
Contribution	\$16,679	\$15,792

2021 Weekly Budget: TBA

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: TBA

Ushers for this week: Lance Collier (Head Usher); Gorman Ericksen

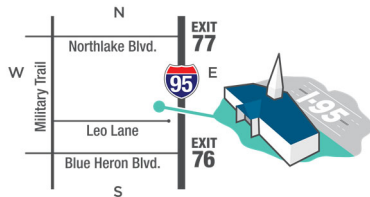
Safety Team for this week: David Lord



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: **Skye Brown & Trudie Holland**

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 31

Mission Sunday

March 1-4

Gospel Meeting with Dan Winkler

Theme: *"The Greatest Name on Earth"*

April 11

New Bible Class Semester Begins

April 16

Ladies' Day with Brittany Owens-Davis

Theme: *"Beauty for Ashes"*

May 1

Power Up! A Recharge for Christian Men

Theme: *"Empowered By God"*

May 21-23

Biblical Creation Seminar with Dr. Jeff Miller