

### Bishops

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

\*Chairman for the Month of July

### 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
- Victor Colage ..... 719-1490
- Lance Collier ..... 985-4407
- Kirk Crews ..... 339-9283
- Mike Erickson ..... 310-9916
- Tim Fry ..... 373-9121
- Jeff Goodale ..... 261-1188
- Rick Hall ..... 622-5131
- Dion Hayes ..... 214-533-5065
- Bob Higbee ..... 303-386-6405
- Gary Jenkins ..... 889-3585
- Jeff Leslie ..... 744-3444
- David Lord ..... 346-2228
- Buzz Nelson ..... 385-1588
- Lawrence Williams ..... 662-3419

### Church Office

- Phone ..... 561-848-1111
- Fax ..... 561-848-1198
- Website ..... [www.pblcoc.org](http://www.pblcoc.org)
- E-mail ..... [office@pblcoc.org](mailto:office@pblcoc.org)
- Ivan Villard ..... 667-8675
- Cindy Summerlot ..... 801-9457
- June Pack ..... 627-5363



Vol. LXI

July 17, 2022

No. 29

## New Bible Classes (JULY 17-SEPT. 21)

**SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:00 A.M.**

**Auditorium (David Sproule):**

### The Book of Acts (Part 1)

*The pivotal book in Bible study is the book of Acts in the New Testament, as it presents the glorious birth and growth of the church of Christ in rich and superb detail, and it sets forth God's marvelous plan of salvation for all men (in teaching and examples). This book is God's key to understanding and appreciating New Testament Christianity.*

**Adult 1 (Josh Blackmer & Dan Jenkins):**

### The Miracles of Jesus

*While reading about the life of Christ, one can hardly turn a page without an account of a miracle performed by Jesus of Nazareth. Why are they so prevalent? What purpose do they serve? What can we learn from them? This class will seek to answer those questions and glean faith-building knowledge from these miracles.*

**Conference Room (Dan Fuller & Willie Smith):**

### Fundamentals of the Faith (Part 2)

*It is essential that all Christians be rooted, built up and established in the faith (Col. 2:7). New Testament Christianity, with all of its doctrines and practices, finds its roots in "the faith" (i.e., the one gospel system) revealed in the New Testament. This class is especially for new converts and Christians who need to be firmly grounded in the fundamentals of the faith of Christ.*

**SEE PAGE 8 FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES**

## NEW BIBLE CLASSES FOR JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH

SUNDAY MORNINGS

### 1, 2 & 3 John and Jude

(Victor Colage)

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### The Church

(Ivan Villard)



By Dan Jenkins

## His Comforting Words in Our Times of Trial

Babylon lay on the horizon for God's chosen people, but none of them realized it. When God extended the life of King Hezekiah, an envoy from a small nation hundreds of miles away came to see the king. Hezekiah showed to them all the golden treasures Israel had amassed. He saw no danger, for when they came, Babylon was a small insignificant nation. How strange the words of the prophet Isaiah must have sounded to him. "Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left" (2 Kings 20:16-17).

Isaiah had another message which would help those who later would be carried to Babylon. It was about the nature of God in the midst of that terrible trouble they would endure. These words of comfort should be remembered by us whenever great trials come into our lives. They speak so clearly of the eternal, unchanging nature of God.

**"I have chosen you..."** There was that time when one nation was his chosen people. In the midst of trials, we must see how His mercy has made Christians His chosen ones.

**Fear not for I am with you..."** The peace He has given us, which surpasses the ability for any mortal to understand, is

based on the promise He has made that He will never forsake us. Faith in that promise conquers all fear.

**"Be not dismayed, for I am with you..."** His presence gives us more than the removal of fear. When trials come on, the ungodly are so often overwhelmed by them. Remember His words, "Be anxious for nothing."

**"I will strengthen you..."** When the Almighty One stands beside us, we can rest assured that He will give His strength to us. We are always greater than the enemy, and there is absolutely nothing that is a problem to the God who delivers us from every trial.

**"Yes, I will help you..."** The inclusion of this word "yes" is God's way of saying that He is determined to help us. There is no temptation for which He does not provide a way of relief, and our God, who cannot lie, will always help us.

**"I will uphold you..."** Paul lists those things which cannot separate us from God, and then concludes, "In all these things we are more than conquers through Him" (Rom. 8:37).

**"With My righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:8-10).** We sit on His right hand, the hand of strength, and it is that hand with which He works in our lives—always working righteously.

Take time right now to read all He says in the **bold** print above. It will help us all when we are tried.

Take time to read all the words in bold type. It will help us all.



By David Sproule

## Making the Return of Christ Simple

The denominational world has surely complicated what the Bible teaches about the return of Christ. They have added much to the simple information that we have in the Bible. Let's see just how simple it is.

(1) The timing of the return of Jesus is unknown and completely unpredictable (Matt. 24:36-44; 1 Thess. 5:2). There will be no signs to indicate the time is near.

(2) "All" of the "signs" in Matthew 24 before verse 34 were signs that would happen in that "generation" at the fall of the Jerusalem and destruction of "the temple" in A.D. 70. (24:1-34). None of them apply to Christ's coming at the end of time.

(3) "Every eye will see" Jesus when He is "revealed from heaven" with "a shout" and "with the trumpet of God" (Rev. 1:7; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Thess. 4:16). There will be nothing secretive about His return.

(4) When the "last trumpet" (1 Cor. 15:52) sounds on "the last day" (John 6:40, 44, 54), "all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth" in the same "hour" (John 5:28-29). The Bible never places any amount of time between the resurrection "of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15).

(5) The only people under discussion in First Thessalonians 4:13-17 are the "dead in Christ" and the "alive" in Christ

at the time of His coming. No one outside of Christ is in view. On the same day, the dead in Christ will be raised, and then the alive in Christ will be "caught up" to meet them.

(6) Once everyone on that "last day" is removed from the earth (the dead and the living), the earth will "pass away" (Matt. 24:35), "with a great noise," "the elements will melt with fervent heat," and everything "will be burned up" and "dissolved" (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Nothing will be left.

(7) Christ established His promised kingdom in the first century, just as He promised to do (Matt. 4:17; 16:18-19). The kingdom has been in existence since Acts 2 and Christians are part of it today (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). Christ will not step foot on this earth again (1 Thess. 4:17; Acts 1:9-11) nor be coming to set up and reign over a literal kingdom for a literal 1,000 years. Revelation is written in symbolic language (Rev. 1:1), including the events and time in chapter 20.

(8) At the time of Jesus' return, He will "sit on the throne" and "all nations will be gathered before Him" (Matt. 25:31-32). All will be judged on the same day (Acts 17:30-31).

(9) Christ will sentence the "righteous" to "eternal life" and the unrighteous to "everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46). The eternity of both realms is firmly established.

A lot is going to happen on that "last day." But it is not as complex or drawn out as some try to teach.

A lot is going to happen on that "last day."



By Josh Blackmer

## “Do Not Fear, I Will Help You”

I’ve wanted to tell people on several occasions that everything would be okay. There have been times when I wish I could’ve given people assurances about the future, and to let them know that as dark as it seems right now things would work out. Don’t be afraid, it will be okay. As much as I wanted to say it, I knew that wasn’t an assurance I could give. Things happen in this life outside of our control. No matter how bad we want to say it, we know that life isn’t always alright. There is only One that can give those kinds of assurances, and He does to those who love Him.

In one particular passage, God gives His assurances over and over. “Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand... For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’ Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you declares the Lord and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel” (Isa. 41:10, 13-14). This passage addresses several of our human concerns when we are in the grip of fear.

“Do not fear, for I am with you.” The presence of a capable confidant makes all the difference when fear has

seeped into our hearts. Fear tries to isolate and keep us from the source of our greatest strength—the Lord our God and those that follow Him. The presence of the Almighty is something that can drive away fear.

“Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.” Anxiety and fear go together. The chest tightens, breathing becomes labored, and rational thought slips away when anxiety grips us. God has said the I AM will be with us. It was the I AM that spoke the world into existence and breathed life into man. He is the one that is with us and asks us not to fear.

**Our God can make these assurances when man can’t.**

“Do not fear, I will help you.” The presence of the Almighty I AM should help with the anxieties of fear, but He doesn’t stop there. There are things He will do to help us. He will strengthen us and provide that help of encouragement and fortitude that is found in confident trust. If we can learn to trust Him, then fear has no place in us. He will uphold us with His righteous right hand. It is significant that it is His “righteous right hand.” The right hand is the hand of power and dominance, to the defeating of our enemies. Righteousness is the idea that his judgment and actions for us or even against us will always be right. He will not arbitrarily pass any judgments.

Our God can make these assurances when man can’t. He knows what is best for us. We need to learn to trust Him.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Mark of your ownership

Is the Christian life worth it? Is it “worth all the sorrows that here befall”? In all that the apostle Paul endured, he certainly insisted that it is well worth it! He pleaded, for example, with the churches of Galatia to remain true to the Christ and to His gospel and to not “turn away” from Him. In his next-to-last sentence in the letter, to show how very worthwhile it is to stay true to Christ, Paul stated, “I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus” (Gal. 6:17).

In those days, slaves were usually marked with the name or stamp of their owner, to prove to whom they belonged. In a very literal sense, Paul had received in his body “stripes above measure” (2 Cor. 11:23), having been beaten countless times for his devotion to Christ.

Does your life bear any “marks” of the one to whom you belong? I’m not talking about signs of physical beatings or branding marks. I’m talking about clear signs of steadfast devotion to, unwavering faith in and personal sacrifice in faithful service to your Savior. Is it obvious to whom you belong? – DS



### Greet is a personal imperative

Five times in the letters to New Testament Christians, instruction is given to “Greet one another,” “all the brethren,” with a “holy kiss” or “a kiss of love” (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14). In addition to those five, twenty-one other times Christians are instructed to “Greet” specified brethren. That’s 26 times where Christians are told to “Greet, Greet, Greet” one another.

Now, as you read through these instructions, it is interesting to see that there are no qualifications or conditions placed upon fulfilling this command to “Greet.” There is no verse that says to wait for others to greet you first. There is no verse that says to complain when others don’t seek you out to greet you. There is no verse that says to only greet those who you know, or who you like, or who you expect will be pleasant toward you.

Brothers and sisters, do we “greet” one another? Truly? Can we increase and improve in this area? – DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Joyce Barnhouse</b>	home from the hospital
<b>Jordan Beasley</b>	recovering at home from hospitalization
<b>Trish Clark</b>	recovering from a procedure on her ankle
<b>Linda Coe</b>	dealing with health issues
<b>Glen Dawson</b>	undergoing new chemo treatment, stage 4 lymphoma
<b>Katie Goodale</b>	having an MRI on her brain on July 14, nausea issues
<b>Judie Jenkins</b>	recovering from back surgery
<b>Diane Leslie</b>	recovering from knee replacement surgery
<b>Gwen Lyons</b>	Jupiter Rehab, recovering from surgery on broken ankle
<b>Cheryl Milton</b>	recovering from her cancer surgery
<b>Maurine Reed</b>	recovering from colon cancer surgery, still in hospital
<b>Sherri Richmond</b>	surgery to place arterial stent in her leg on July 21
<b>Sam Simpkins</b>	recovering from surgery for kidney and bladder cancer
<b>Betty White</b>	recovering from neck surgery
<b>Wesley Williams</b>	under Hospice Care at his son's home in Miami

## Ongoing Health Issues

<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Judy Carmack</b>	multiple health issues
<b>John Loftis</b>	back pain, weakness
<b>Joel Ramirez</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Sherri Richmond</b>	multiple health issues
<b>Peggy Simpkins</b>	chemo, rare cancer
<b>Henry Williams</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Joan Holloway
Glen & Josie Dawson	Inell Ingram
Dianne Frye	Daniel Johnson
Terri Hahn	Betty Matter
Margie Hardin	Joyce Parker
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley



**Karen Lester, upon the passing of her father, Hank Vanderwende, on Sunday, July 10.**

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Barbara Coe</b>	Linda Coe's mother, dealing with Alzheimer's disease
<b>Thelma Findley</b>	Maria Hackshaw's mother, congestive heart failure
<b>Rochelle Lord</b>	David Lord's mother, Delray Med. Ctr, broken humerus
<b>Mary Pietro</b>	Nick Pietro's mother, has malignant melanoma cancer
<b>Delores Sims</b>	Jimmie Banks' mother, undergoing chemo treatments
<b>Quinntavais Smith, Jr.</b>	Willie & Giselle's grandson, recovering from ear surgery

**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, July 17

- ◆ **New Bible Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for all children and adults. See the Welcome Desk for a schedule of classes.

## Sunday-Saturday, July 17-23

- ◆ **Jenkins/Blackmer Week at CFBC.** Donations are needed to help with scholarships for campers and activities during the week. See Josh Blackmer or Gary Jenkins for details.

## Monday, July 18

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Will resume on July 25.

## Tuesday, July 19

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

## Saturday, July 30

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

## Sunday, July 31

- ◆ **PBL Family Photos Updated.** If you've never had your photo taken in the Family Room, if your photo needs to be updated, or if you have been personally contacted, please have your photo taken **after morning services or before evening services** by Mike Erickson in the Family Room.

## Friday-Wednesday, August 5-10

- ◆ **Homecoming & Gospel Meeting hosted by the Gifford congregation.** Demetrius Bryant (Ft. Pierce) will be speaking each night at 7:00 p.m. (Monday-Wednesday). See the bulletin board for more details.

## Sunday, August 7

- ◆ **Shepherds Praying** at 5:30 p.m. in Adult 3. All members are invited to come and pray with them.
- ◆ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream (& scoops), toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship together.

*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*  
**Young Adults**

## Sunday-Saturday, July 17-23

- ◆ **Jenkins/Blackmer Week at CFBC.** Donations are needed to help with scholarships for campers and activities during the week. See Josh Blackmer or Gary Jenkins for details.

## Saturday, July 30

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Darin & Cindy Summerlot. Bring sides, desserts and drinks. See Ivan Villard for more details.

## Sunday, August 7

- ◆ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream (& scoops), toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship together.

## Friday, August 19

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Trish Clark. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.



**Palm Beach Lakes**  
**Youth**

## Sunday, July 17

- ◆ **New Bible Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for all children and adults.

## Sunday-Saturday, July 17-23

- ◆ **Jenkins/Blackmer Week at CFBC** for Age 10-Grade 12. Campers, please register online: [www.cfbiblecamp.org](http://www.cfbiblecamp.org). See Josh Blackmer or Gary Jenkins for details.

## Saturday-Wednesday, July 23-27

- ◆ **Upward Bound at CFBC.** Register online at [www.cfbiblecamp.org](http://www.cfbiblecamp.org).

## Sunday, August 7

- ◆ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream (& scoops), toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship together.

## Saturday, August 13

- ◆ **Charged By Christ with Clint Davison** from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for all Jr. High & Sr. High Youth.

# Children's Bible Education & Experience



**Age 3 thru Grade 5**

*Designed to develop and strengthen a living faith in the hearts of our children by walking them into the settings, narratives and truths of the living messages of God's Word!*

Semester #7

**July 17 thru November 30**

## Cradle Roll & Toddler Classes

June 2022  
thru  
August 2022

**Cradle Roll**  
**"Jesus Is Born"**  
*Gwen Lyons*

**Toddlers**  
**"Joseph"**  
*Sarah Collier*

	<b>Elisha: Double Portion</b>	<b>Elisha: Mighty Prophet</b>	<b>A Faithful Nation</b>	<b>Major Prophets</b>	<b>Daniel</b>
<b>Session 1</b> <i>July 17 thru Aug. 10</i>	<b>Grades 4-5</b> <i>Paul Metzkes</i>	<b>Ages 3-4</b> <i>Trish Clark</i>		<b>K &amp; Grade 1</b> <i>Samantha Eutsey</i>	<b>Grades 2 &amp; 3</b> <i>Mary Porter</i>
<b>Session 2</b> <i>Aug. 14 thru Sept. 7</i>	<b>Grades 2 &amp; 3</b> <i>Mary Porter</i>	<b>Grades 4-5</b> <i>Paul Metzkes</i>	<b>Ages 3-4</b> <i>Trish Clark</i>		<b>K &amp; Grade 1</b> <i>Samantha Eutsey</i>
<b>Session 3</b> <i>Sept. 11 thru Oct. 5</i>	<b>K &amp; Grade 1</b> <i>Cherylann Wineinger</i>	<b>Grades 2 &amp; 3</b> <i>Jennifer Goodale</i>	<b>Grades 4-5</b> <i>Jeff Goodale</i>	<b>Ages 3-4</b> <i>Daisy Lord</i>	
<b>Session 4</b> <i>Oct. 9 thru Nov. 2</i>		<b>K &amp; Grade 1</b> <i>Cherylann Wineinger</i>	<b>Grades 2 &amp; 3</b> <i>Jennifer Goodale</i>	<b>Grades 4-5</b> <i>Jeff Goodale</i>	<b>Ages 3-4</b> <i>Daisy Lord</i>
<b>Session 5</b> <i>Nov. 6 thru Nov. 30</i>	<b>Ages 3-4</b> <i>Daisy Lord</i>		<b>K &amp; Grade 1</b> <i>Cherylann Wineinger</i>	<b>Grades 2 &amp; 3</b> <i>Jennifer Goodale</i>	<b>Grades 4-5</b> <i>Jeff Goodale</i>

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

**Members Traveling**  
this week



**Thank You**  
for worshipping with us

Sunday,  
July 10

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Ms. Jasief Canton; Mr. Cris Cuevas; Mrs. Juna Dorcely; Mrs. Krystian Dubuisson; Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Kim Hutchison; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Sharon Mann; Mr. David Payne, II; Mr. David Perez; Mr. & Mrs. Antonio & Mona Smith; and Mr. David Whipple.

**OUT OF TOWN VISITORS:** Mrs. Joyce Blake, Stone Mountain, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Rod & Christie Cable, Sparks, NV; Ms. Jo Ann Campbell, The Villages, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Andrea Dawkins, Winter Park, FL 32790; Mr. & Mrs. Jack & Suzanne Dempsey, Plymouth, MI; Ms. Dorcas Francois, Corpus Christi, TX; Mr. Errol Gower-Winter, Lake Placid, FL; Mrs. Esther Guest, Conyers, GA; Miss Ronnica Jenkins, Brooklyn, NY; Mr. & Mrs. Brent & Lindsey McPherson, Nashville, TN; Mr. Mike McPherson, Nashville, TN; Ms. Iris Nunez, Dominican Republic; Mrs. Cathy Payne, Oneida, TN; and Ms. Cathy Steele, Frankfort, KY.



**Directory Changes**

**Tom Garrison** placed membership on Sunday, July 10.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week**

Monday, July 18th

Chuck & Marisa Reeves (Ann.)  
Carolina Beliech  
Marian Holland

Tuesday, July 19th

David & Traci Sproule (Ann.)  
Jeff Leslie

Wednesday, July 20th

Gorman Ericksen

Thursday, July 21st

Kirk & Mendy Crews (Ann.)  
Sandy Mann

Saturday, July 23rd

Sarah Collier  
Tina Wagner

**Those to Serve**

If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269.  
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, July 17**

Singing..... Gary Friedly  
Opening Prayer .....Robert Mariano  
Scripture Reading.....Victor Colage  
Singing  
Lord's Supper ..... Stephen Beliech  
Contribution  
Singing  
Sermon  
Singing  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Porter

Serve at Table:

Tim Cox                      Steward Lynch  
Trey Higbee                Tim Mahlbacher  
Namdidie Ikon             Taylor Reeves  
Richard Kelley            Willie Smith  
Orlando Lolo                Tyler Williams

**Sunday Evening, July 17**

Singing ..... Ivan Villard  
Opening Prayer ..... Tim Fry  
Scripture Reading .....Novel Brown  
Singing  
Lord's Supper.....Richard Watson  
Contribution  
Singing  
Sermon  
Singing  
Closing Prayer..... Ricky Smith

Serve at Table:

Silas Balfour                Richard Lerro

**Wednesday Evening, July 20**

Singing..... Ivan Villard  
Invitation.....Kane Campbell  
Family Prayer ..... Willie Smith

**Our Record**

Attendance	July 10	June Avg
Sun. Bible Study	165	176
Sun. AM Worship	245	251
Sun. PM Worship	115	130
Wed. Bible Study	114	143
Contribution	\$19,256	\$15,683

2022 Weekly Budget: \$15,220

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$35,525

Service Coordinator:  
Mike Damron

Ushers for this week: Rick Hall & Vincent Rogers  
Safety Team for this week: 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: **Cara & Vivian Blackmer**

## Belief or Obedience?

By Robert Lupo (Summer Intern)

John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. This passage has been used by many to downplay the importance of baptism. Is belief all that is needed to be saved? The New Testament is filled with passages that proclaim the essentiality of baptism (cf. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21), but what does John 3 really teach?

In verse 5, Jesus explains what it means to be born again. He says, "...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Jesus is talking about baptism. In this passage, Jesus spoke to a Pharisee, named Nicodemus. A Pharisee would have understood John's baptism. Some Pharisees even came to John to be baptized (Matt. 3:7). So, when Jesus told him to be born of water, he would have known that He was speaking of baptism.

The chapter continues this theme, recording John the Baptist's explanation of Jesus' baptism (v. 27-36). In his conclusion, the NKJV translates verse 36, "...he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." This may lead someone to say that he is emphasizing belief. However, the ESV, NASB and ASV more precisely translate it, "he who does not obey." Throughout the Bible, nothing is emphasized more than faith-based obedience. It is how we express our love to Him (John 14:15). If we do not obey God, we will not enter His kingdom and baptism is an act of obedience.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE CLASSES at 7:00 P.M.

**Auditorium (Richard Watson):**

### Exodus & Leviticus (Part 2)

*Exodus details the birth of a nation, of Abraham's family, and the promise of a great nation fulfilled. Leviticus teaches Israel how to be a Holy Nation, set apart by God. Two books, one great story, that speaks to the Christian's responsibility to be a holy people through the blood of Jesus Christ.*

**Adult 1 (Dan Jenkins):**

### Making Evangelism Personal Again

*Too often we rely on the pulpit as the primary source of reaching others with the gospel. A careful study of the teachings of Jesus and the early church shows just how important it is to lead others in a one-on-one study. "Come and see" how each of us can become involved, realizing that not everyone can teach everyone.*