

Shepherds

- 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 September

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
- E-mail office@pblcoc.org
- Ivan Villard 667-8675
- Cindy Summerlot 801-9457
- June Pack 627-5363



Vol. LXI

September 4, 2022

No. 36

Welcome New Members



Cooley, Janice

Group 2

Baptized August 12



Whipple, David

Group 3

Baptized August 16





By Dan Jenkins

Covid and Churches Without Elders

For more than two years, congregations have had to deal with Covid and the restrictions on public gathers. It has been such a difficult time worldwide as it was increasingly difficult to maintain assembling to worship like the Lord wants. In far too many places, making decisions about how to deal with Covid created an emotional division as every member had strong convictions as to how it should be handled.

It was difficult in congregations where there were elders, as they immediately realized that whatever decision was made would likely upset several members of the various congregation where they served as overseers. In those congregations where there were no elders, it was far more difficult. The attendance at most congregations is not what it once was. If the attendance where you worship is more than 60-70% of what it was “pre-Covid,” you are so blessed.

The reality is that our society is returning to the way it was two years ago. One truth that seems fairly obvious is that far too many may never return. The habit of regular attendance is no longer their lifestyle. Some have become “virtual” worshipers, if they worship at all, and are satisfied to use their Sundays in far different ways. All of us are struggling. We are wondering what we might do to get back to where we were.

Let’s consider the tremendous impact about how to get individuals who once came regularly to return to congregations without elders. At some point, we must decide we will return to what we once did—meeting twice on Sundays, mid-week Bible studies, Vacation Bible Schools, church dinners, gospel meetings, singings and so many other activities.

It may even be difficult for those congregations who have no elders to make the decisions about resuming what helped the church grow spiritually. As congregations are impacted, remember that the Lord commanded us to come together in one place to eat the Lord’s Supper. There is no “virtual worship” option about never resuming meeting together.

In those meetings to deal with recovering from Covid in all aspects of the work of the church, especially where decisions are usually made in a men’s meeting, the words of Paul to the Corinthians seem so appropriate: “Let all things be done for edification...let all things be done decently and in order...let all that you do be done with love” (14:26, 40; 16:14).

We will discuss this more next week, but let me assure you I have worshiped and preached in congregations with elders and in those without elders and I understand how difficult returning to worship we once had will be, especially where there are no elders. I am praying for you. More next week.

The road to recovery from Covid without elders is exceptionally difficult



By David Sproule

It’s Not a Verse About Heaven, But It’s Still Meaningful

There are some verses that are taken out of context more than others. In fact, there are some verses that are so often quoted that people know the verse (and can almost quote it themselves), but neither the quoter nor the hearers realize that the verse is not being used in the context in which it was written. First Corinthians 2:9 is one such verse.

This verse is often quoted by a preacher who is trying to explain how wonderful heaven is going to be and how unimaginable its splendor really is. This verse is often read at funerals for a Christian to comfort family members with what God has in store for their dearly departed. Here is what the verse says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” Out of context, it certainly sounds like a nice description of heaven, but in context, heaven is not in view.

In First Corinthians chapter two, Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to have absolute confidence in the foundation of their faith. Their faith was not initiated because of Paul’s “excellence of speech or of wisdom” (2:1) or his “persuasive words of human wisdom” (2:4). Paul told them that their faith was not “in the wisdom of men but in the pow-

er of God” (2:5). He assured these brethren that “the wisdom” that he preached to them was “ordained before the ages for our glory” (2:7), and it was being “revealed” to the inspired writers by “God...through His Spirit” (2:10).

Stop for just a minute and take in all of this context. The “wisdom of men” was going to come “to nothing” (2:6), because “the wisdom of [that] age” could foresee nothing. The wisdom of God, on the other hand, could foresee everything. God had a glorious, eternal plan for man’s redemption, which had been “hidden” (2:7) in the mind of God until the unfolding of the Christian age. Now, “the Spirit of God” was revealing “the mind of God” and “the things of God” to inspired men, so that they could speak and write the “words” of God for man to know and understand (2:10-13).

Go back to verse 9. These inspired men were making known (through inspired revelation) “the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” What things had God prepared for those who love Him? His redemption through the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7). His church (1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 2:11-3:13). All spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3). His special providence (Rom. 8:28). His abiding presence (1 John 4:13). The list goes on and on.

The verse is not about heaven. It’s about all of the tremendous things that God prepared for us now, in this age.

What things had God prepared for those who love Him?



By Josh Blackmer

Fishers, Hunters and Laborers

It is refreshing to take a deeper look into a subject that you thought was exhausted only to find more information. There is a principle from the book of Jeremiah that echoes into the New Testament and sheds light on a very common passage.

Jeremiah’s message from the Lord was one of doom. Judah had done evil and it was time for her to go into captivity. There was no turning back; this would happen. However, there were messages throughout the book of a future restoration. The following was one of those messages. “‘Therefore behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when it will no longer be said, “As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,” but, “As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.” For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers. Behold, I am going to send for many fishermen,’ declares the LORD, ‘and they will fish for them; and afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks’” (Jer. 16:14-16). God will no longer be known for bringing them out of Egyptian bondage but bringing them back from captivity in their foreign lands. He would redeem them back to their lands. The fisherman con-

We can be part of that grand design.

cept is interesting and might remind us another passage.

Jesus called Peter and Andrew by the Sea of Galilee saying, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). It is assumed that He was making reference to their profession, as they were fishermen and they were in the act of mending their nets. That is likely what was happening. However, it is interesting to look at this event by the lake in light of this passage from Jeremiah. God tells us that He was going to send forth “fishermen” to “fish for them.” Could it be that Jesus was also referencing the idea that they would be agents of redemption? Israel was still scattered spiritually. The priestly system was corrupt. Jesus called the teachers of that time, “blind guides of the blind” (Matt. 15:14). There was a need to come back to God.

On another occasion, Jesus saw the people and “felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest’” (Matt. 9:36-38). Whether it is fishermen, hunters or laborers, the concept is the same. God was going to send people to call the lost back (Luke 15:4-7). The idea had a long history in Jewish thought. Jesus was using that to highlight what would soon unfold. We can be part of that grand design.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Why the church of Christ?

Has someone ever asked you why you are part of the church that you are? There are surely many reasons that someone could offer (and often, very personal reasons) to that kind of question, but can I ask you to think about something? If someone asked you the reason you are part of your church, could you answer, “Because it’s the one you read about in the Bible”?

Think about the simplicity but also the certainty of that answer. The Bible teaches that there is “one church” (Eph. 1:22-23+4:4). Is your church that church? The church that is in the Bible remained steadfast in teaching the “one faith” (Eph. 4:5), the pure “doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9-11), without any kind of addition, subtraction or modification (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19). The church in the Bible preached the same message everywhere (1 Cor. 1:10; 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; 16:1). The church in the Bible worshiped in the same way (Acts 2:42; 20:7) and taught the same plan of salvation (Acts 2:38; 8:35-39; 16:30-34; 22:16; Rom. 10:13-17; etc.).

Is your church the one that’s in the Bible? Are you absolutely certain? – DS



The enemy will “keep on” until he’s finished

Stephen stood before the 71 members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, after having lies stirred up about his preaching (Acts 6:10-14). Upon hearing Stephen’s sharply pointed sermon directed at them, these Jewish supreme court justices “cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him” (6:57-58).

The next verse says, “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” (6:59).

The force of the verbs in this verse indicates that “as” Stephen “kept on calling on God,” these enraged and out-of-control religious leaders “kept on stoning him.” Which one was causing the other? Was Stephen constantly praying because they were constantly stoning him, or were they constantly stoning him because he was constantly praying to God? It was a vicious cycle.

What would you be doing if someone was trying to silence you from speaking about Jesus? Would they be able to get you to stop before they gave up and stopped themselves? – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Linda Coe	still has a blood clot and awaiting surgery on her knee
Glen Dawson	remains very weak, undergoing tests
Dan Johnson	back at Promedica (room 609), second surg postponed
Lynne Jorgensen	recovering at home from her recent fall
Dick Kelley	dealing with vertigo
Robin Landen	dealing with several health issues, severe blood disorder
David Lord	recovering at home
Gwen Lyons	recovering at home
Cheryl Milton	slowly improving from her post-surgery infection
Maurine Reed	at Hamlin Place on Hypoluxo Road for rehab
Jettie Sweetenburg	spot on her lung, undergoing tests
Betty White	recovering from neck surgery and eye procedure

Ongoing Health Issues

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

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Lamatron Gadson	Freddie Gadson's sister, under Hospice Care
Rocky Meess	Micky Affron's father, congestive heart failure
Beverly Michaelian	Lynne Jorgensen's mother, rehab on her broken femur
Delores Sims	Jimmie Banks' mother, awaiting test results
Curtis White	Betty White's brother, in hospital, undergoing tests
Samuel Williams	Adelene Honore's brother, undergoing tests, very weak

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, September 4

- ◆ **House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart Labeling** at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Room. Everyone is encouraged to come and help out.
- ◆ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Monday, September 5

- ◆ **NO Monday Night Bible Study.** Resumes next week.

Tuesday, September 6

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

Friday-Sunday, September 9-11

- ◆ **Gospel Meeting hosted by Sebring Parkway** each night at 7:00 p.m. (Friday-Saturday). Melvin Otey will be speaking on "Meditations on the Christ."

Friday, September 9

- ◆ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Dirk & Elizabeth Summerlot. Bring a potluck dish to share. This is for all PBL members and families who live south of Southern Blvd.

Friday, September 9 (cont.)

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Skye Brown. 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.

Saturday, September 10

- ◆ **Ladies' Day hosted by Miami Gardens** from 8:00 a.m. until noon. This year's theme is "The Measure of Women: God's Standard vs. Man's Standard." See the bulletin board for more details.

Sunday, September 11

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

Monday, September 12

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 & up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Friday, September 9

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Skye Brown. 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.

Saturday, September 10

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

Monday, September 12

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 & up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

Friday-Saturday, September 16-17

- ◆ **Marriage Seminar with Wayne & Tami Roberts** on Friday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. until noon. Childcare will be available (for Grades 5 & under only). Please RSVP to Josh Blackmer for childcare.



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Friday, September 9

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Skye Brown. 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.

Sunday, September 11

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

Monday, September 12

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 & up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plates/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

Friday-Saturday, September 16-17

- ◆ **Jr. High & Sr. High Family Service Project.** We are offering childcare during the Marriage Seminar (Friday & Saturday). See Josh Blackmer if you can help out.



Imitators of *GOD*

EPHESIANS 5:1

HIS Patience

SEPTEMBER

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

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
August 28

LOCAL VISITORS: Nathan Cox; LaDon Cruz; Ms. Susan Hinrichs; Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Kim Hutchison; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Sharon Mann; Anne Marzullo; Ms. Lonna Pate; Mr. Islay Rodriguez; Mr. & Mrs. Arpit & Swati Samson; Mr. & Mrs. Cristian & Lisa Suarez; Ms. Heather Wagner; Ms. Machel Williams

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Tavaro & Shameika Hanna and family, Freeport, Bahamas; Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Jan Yoho, Savannah, GA.

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Sunday, September 4th

Gary & Doris Friedly (Ann.)
Nate Nelson
Marty Williams

Wednesday, September 7th (cont.)

Daniel Wagner

Thursday, September 8th

Trinity Franck
Verdell March

Tuesday, September 6th

Derrick Banks

Friday, September 9th

Jennifer Walker

Wednesday, September 7th

Ariana Aristy
Bill Ingram, Jr.
Scott Lewis

Saturday, September 10th

Debi Watson



Directory Changes

Gary & Angie Seames moved to Missouri.

Casey Commander has moved to north Florida, and **Aisha** will join him soon.



**His Shoes.
Her Shoes.**

A Marriage Seminar

with Wayne & Tami Roberts

SEPTEMBER 16-17

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, September 4

Singing Gary Friedly
Lord's Supper Freddie Gadson
Singing
Opening Prayer Gary Jenkins
Scripture Reading Dan Fuller
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer David Holaday

Serve at Table:

Troy Alberga Cody Price
David Brown Chuck Reeves, Jr.
Ed Buonadonna Dirk Summerlot
Addison Collins Brandan Widner
Bill Ingram, Jr. Eugene Williams

Sunday Evening, September 4

Singing Ivan Villard
Lord's Supper Dion Hayes
Singing
Opening Prayer Darin Summerlot
Scripture Reading Paul Metzkes
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Daniel Wagner

Serve at Table:

Devin Eutsey Leonard Williams

Wednesday Evening, September 7

Singing Ivan Villard
Invitation Jeff Goodale
Family Prayer Dion Hayes

Our Record

Attendance	Aug. 28	July Avg
Sun. Bible Study	173	150
Sun. AM Worship	247	238
Sun. PM Worship	138	111
Wed. Bible Study	142	124
Contribution	\$17,808	\$16,751

2022 Weekly Budget: \$15,220

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$40,389

Service Coordinator:
Bob Higbee

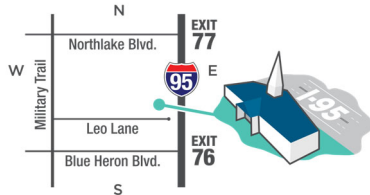
Ushers for this week: Andres Fernandez & Edward Gager
Safety Team for this week: Daniel Swayne



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.

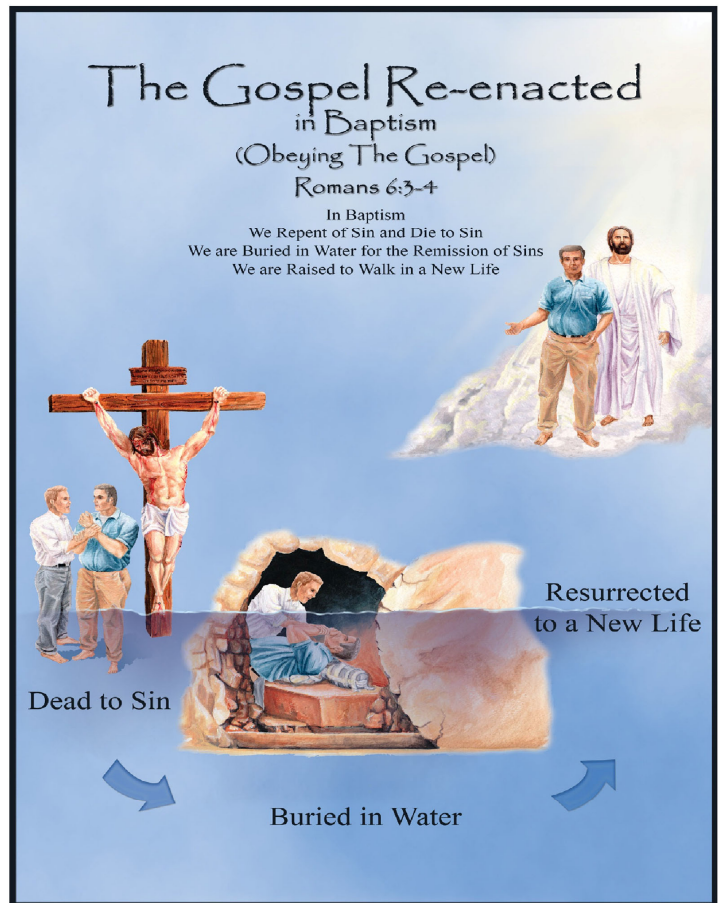
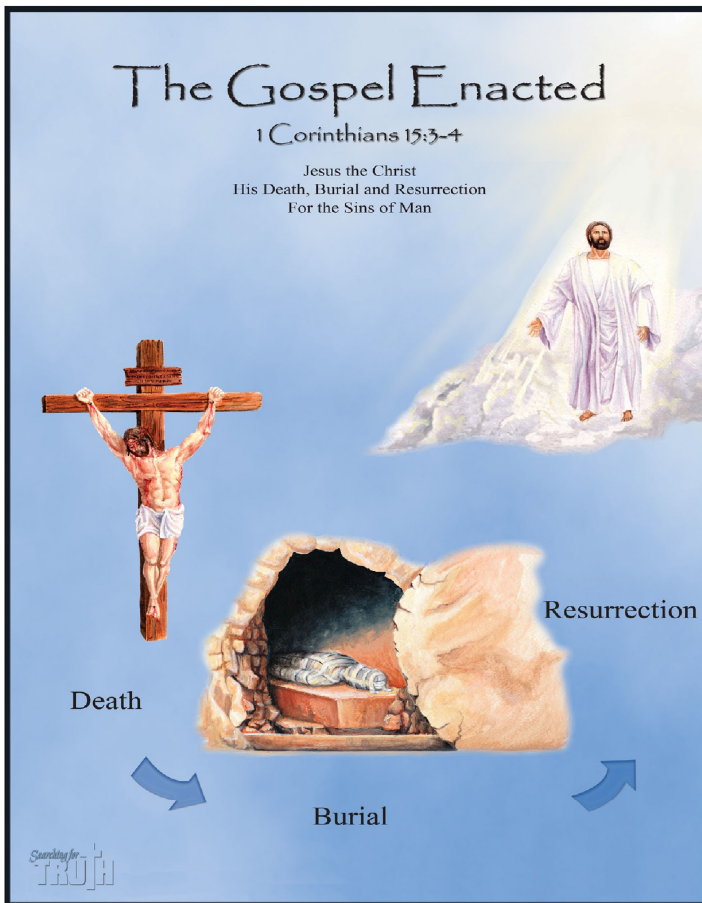
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible classes 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: **Trey Higbee, Daniel Lord & Tyler Williams**



(Chart from World Video Bible School, wvbs.org)