

Elders

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



Vol. LXII

January 15, 2023

No. 3

Welcome New Members



Green, Jamie

Group 3

Baptized November 27



Jackson, Sylvester & Crystal Burroughs

Group 4

Restored November 20; Baptized December 11



Tipton, Cecilia

***Cayden Scriven & *Chelse Tipton**

Group 3

Identified December 18

READING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

*A Chapter
A Day*

This Week's Reading:

*Matthew 11 -
Matthew 15*



MISSION
Sunday

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

Jan.
29



By Dan Jenkins

He Also Ran to Meet the Prodigal

When we read the story of the prodigal son, we are so impressed that the father ran to meet him and immediately gave him such blessings. Have you considered that when Jesus lived on this earth, He showed the same kind of love for the wayward? He was Immanuel, God with us, and to see Him was to see the Father (John 14:9).

Those in the first century had their own ideas about those who would be part of the kingdom. When Jesus talked about how it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for those who trusted riches to enter into the kingdom, His disciples asked, “Who then can be saved” (Matt. 19:25)? The disciples had the rich at the top of their list, but Jesus’ list was so different. He came to seek and save the lost, but like the father of the prodigal understood, prodigals would be part of the kingdom.

When He chose His apostles, He chose ignorant and unlearned fishermen (Acts 4:13). He chose a tax collector—the most despised occupation among the Jews (Luke 5:27). He chose a Zealot—a Jewish “terrorist” (Luke 6:15). He surrounded Himself with men whom He knew would all forsake Him in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:31, 56). Why? Because His heart was like the heart of the father of the prodigal. The prodigal turned

completely away from the father and these apostles all fled from Jesus at His darkest hour. Yet, He longed for their return. He never rebuked them for this after His resurrection. He did not rebuke, He received. We must never overlook the message He gave to the women at the tomb, “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee” (Matt. 28:7).

Look at His life and see how He treated people so differently. He received and defended the woman taken in adultery (John 8:3-11). He accepted the thief on the cross, who at first blasphemed Him, and gave Him entrance that same hour to Paradise (Matt. 27:43-44; Luke 23:43). That thief had mocked Jesus by saying that Jesus was worthy of death and questioned that even God would not accept Jesus—yet Jesus, like the father of the prodigal, received Him.

Read the story of His life. He exemplified the heart of God who had said, “To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My word” (Isa. 66:2). Jesus was like His Father and always “ran” to prodigals who sought Him.

Can I add one other person to those who Jesus so readily received when they sought Him? We sometimes overlook this person in the list of those whom He received. You already know that person. That person is you! Think about this.

We overlook that Jesus was and still is like the father of the prodigal son



By David Sproule

Matthew? Really?

What’s the first book of the New Testament? You can name it, almost as automatically as you can name your own children. But wait! Think about this for a moment. The first book of God’s marvelous New Testament, where He is bringing His eternal plan to fruition, was written by a man named Matthew. Do you know who this is?

Matthew was a Jew, so it is not surprising that God would select a Jew to write this all-important book in revealing the unfolding of His plan. In fact, the second and third books of the New Testament call him by his more common name—Levi (Mark 2:14-15; Luke 5:27-29). But, here’s the deal. Matthew was a tax collector!

Tax collectors were despised! As ones who collected taxes for Rome, they were viewed by the Jews as traitors, oppressors and apostates, who were perpetuating the rule of a pagan power. Even more, they were considered to be dishonest scoundrels, as many of them demanded and collected more taxes than Rome required in order to enrich themselves. The animosity that was held toward these individuals is seen throughout the gospel accounts (Matt. 9:11; 11:19; Luke 18:11; 19:7). So, isn’t it intriguing that God would use a tax collector to write the first book of the New Testament?

Look at the passage where Matthew was called to be an apostle (Luke 5:27-32), and you will see why God chose to use such a man. When Jesus called Matthew to “Follow Me,” the very next statement says, “So he left all, rose up, and followed Him” (5:27-28). He immediately went after Jesus.

Matthew then invited Jesus into “his own house” and “gave Him a great feast” (5:29). How many others had done that with the Lord? Matthew apparently invited “a great number of tax collectors and others” to come and sit down with Jesus at this feast (5:29). He was trying to help others to see what he saw in Jesus.

Unfortunately, there were a host of critics who looked down on Matthew and his fellow tax collectors. Jesus was quick to answer them and remind them of that which should have been quite obvious—the Son of God came to call to Himself those who were spiritually “sick” (i.e., “sinners”), that they might have an opportunity to repent and be made right with Him (5:31-32). Matthew became the ideal disciple to write the book bridging the Old Testament and the New Testament.

We would do well to see people the way God sees them—not as the world sees them, not as their past life sees them, not as “those you like to pin everyone into some category” see them. Everyone needs Christ and needs an opportunity to be made right with Him!

God used a tax collector to write the first book of the New Testament



By Josh Blackmer

The Expectations of God

Clearly communicated expectations are very helpful. When you start a new job, part of the interview process and even into the first few weeks is getting to know what is expected of your position. If that is clearly defined, then you are able to work toward achieving the expected standards. However, if your duties are vague or unclear, then there is some uncertainty about how you should proceed. In like manner, God has not left us with an ambiguous idea of how He expects us to live. Throughout the Bible, we see clear and direct commands.

God’s first commands to mankind were given to Adam and Eve. They were to multiply, have dominion over nature and not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 1:28-29; 2:16-17). This wasn’t burdensome. He communicated what they were supposed to do, what they were supposed to eat, what they couldn’t eat, and what would happen if they disobeyed. Yet, they were deceived, and they disobeyed. It is interesting that since the time that the knowledge of good and evil was introduced to mankind, we have had more commandments from God. A knowledge of good and evil requires a choice and guidance on how to live. Those next generations after Adam and Eve slowly degraded to the point that God destroyed the world. The salvation of mankind depended on one man follow-

ing the commands of God (Gen. 6:5-8,13-22; 1 Pet. 3:20).

As you follow the generations from Noah, to Abraham, to the people of Israel under the direction of Moses, you find the commands of God to Israel. These books, known as the Law, Torah, or Pentateuch, contain 613 commandments of God. However, in all the complexity there is a way to simplify the concept of obedience and understand what is expected.

Following clearly communicated expectations will help us stay on task.

The ability to do what is pleasing to God starts with the heart. God said, “Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always” (Deut. 5:29a). I need to make sure my heart is in line with the will of God. He communicated exactly what He wanted and the expectation of the kind of heart that would be obedient. “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the LORD’S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good” (Deut. 10:12-13).

When asked about the most important commandment, Jesus quoted from the law of Moses about the love of God and the love for your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40; Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18). Following clearly communicated expectations will help us stay on task. God has commanded this for our good.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

“I am blessed!”

You control your perspective! Do you believe that? So often “bad things” happen in our lives and we think the worst, we fear the worst and we look for someone or something to blame. But, you control your perspective! Every single time!

Recently, I was on the phone with one of our “older” members (you decide what you think that word “older” means). This older member was NOT complaining (not by any stretch), but he/she was filling me on all the latest things happening in his/her life (problems with every part of the house, troubles with family, several personal health issues, etc.). Then, after 18 minutes and 30 seconds of life’s trials, he/she said (with much passion and sincerity), “I am blessed!”

What? “Blessed”? None of that sounds like “Blessed”! But, what I’ve learned from this “older” member (and others) is that it’s all in your perspective, and you control your perspective! Let the older teach the younger (Tit. 2:1-5)? Yes! If you will take the time to look, you will see that, no matter what is happening, you are “blessed,” too (Eph. 1:3; John 10:10)! – DS



Why should it be incredible to you?

The apostle Paul had been arrested, imprisoned and confined without cause for well over two years because he preached “the resurrection of the dead” (Act 23:6; 24:21; 28:20). When he finally stood on trial before King Agrippa, Paul asked the question to the king and the multitude that was gathered, “Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?” (Acts 26:8). Think about that question.

If God is truly God, what is there that is “impossible” (Mark 10:27) for Him? What is there that He is not “able to do” (Eph. 3:20)? As the Almighty God “who made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24) and “who made you and formed you from the womb” (Isa. 44:2), why should it be thought incredible that God raises the dead or does any other mighty work?

Child of God, do not limit your God! Do not make Him fit your expectations! Do not demote Him or doubt His might! Why should it be incredible to you that He can make a difference in your life? – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Novel Brown	in ICU at St. Mary's with fluid in his lungs
Cheryl Floyd	dealing with severe back pain
Patricia Hackshaw	recovering from major surgery
Gwen Lyons	had her ankle surgery postponed again
Owen Miley	recovering from back surgery
Cheryl Milton	recovering at home
Maurine Reed	JFK Medical Center, undergoing tests
Don Seay	at Luxe Rehab in Jupiter (room 127)
Sam Simpkins	surgery for 3 cancerous tumors on his bladder on Feb. 8
Jettie Sweetenburg	lung cancer, chemo & radiation treatments



Winifred Patterson, upon the passing of her brother, Renford Hermitt.

Ongoing Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
Judy Carmack	multiple health issues
Robin Landen	multiple health issues
John Loftis	back pain, weakness
Joel Ramirez	dialysis treatments
Sherri Richmond	multiple health issues
Henry Williams	dialysis treatments

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Inell Ingram
Josie Dawson	Daniel Johnson
Zula Garrett	Betty Matter
Terri Hahn	Joyce Parker
Margie Hardin	Leigh Puckett
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Joan Holloway	

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Joan Alberga	Ally Alberga's mother, health continues to decline
Gerod Byrd	Cheryl Floyd's brother, eye surgery on January 19
Barbara Coe	Linda Coe's mother, dealing with low blood pressure
Frank Daniels	Melinda Price's father, treatments for prostate cancer
Don Fields	Trish Clark's brother, awaiting biopsy results
Diane McArthur	Maxine McCoy's mother, still dealing with heart issues
Chelsea McLean	Brad Dubuisson's sister, undergoing chemo for cancer
Clara Medina	Carolina Medina's sister, ongoing health issues
Mary Pietro	Nicholas Pietro's mother, radiation on 15 brain tumors
Joe Deem	Allison Roman's father, Martin Memorial, mini-strokes
Lillie Teague	Sabrina Pietro's mother, dealing with spreading cancer
Joe Villegas	Maxine McCoy's son, hospitalized last week

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, January 15

- ◆ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.
- ◆ **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.

Monday, January 16

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

Tuesday, January 17

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

Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, 2022

- ◆ **Youth & Family Camping Trip** at Fisheating Creek. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 15. Cost is \$25 per person. We will worship with the Clewiston congregation that Sunday. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

Friday, January 27

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Allison Roman. 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, January 28

- ◆ **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. Please RSVP to Kane & Fran Campbell.
- ◆ **Men's Day hosted by Savona Blvd.** from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Act Like Men." Cost is \$30 per person. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Port St. Lucie. See the bulletin board for details.
- ◆ **Family Group 1 & 2 Meeting** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Josh & Cara Blackmer. This will be a potluck event. Please bring a main dish, dessert or drinks. This is for all PBL members and families who live north of Blue Heron.

Sunday, January 29

- ◆ **Mission Sunday.** Every dollar given will be used for mission work. Be preparing for it! Be praying about it!

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, 2022

- ◆ **Youth & Family Camping Trip** at Fisheating Creek. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 15. Cost is \$25 per person. We will worship with the Clewiston congregation that Sunday. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

Friday, January 27

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Allison Roman. 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, February 4

- ◆ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Dirk & Elizabeth Summerlot.

Monday, February 6

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. 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 15

- ◆ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, 2022

- ◆ **Youth & Family Camping Trip** at Fisheating Creek. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 15. Cost is \$25 per person. We will worship with the Clewiston congregation that Sunday. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

Friday, January 27

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

Monday, February 6

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. 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.

Equipping & Edifying Families

7 Keys to Happiness in the Home

by Stan Mitchell



- 1. Keep in Mind That God's Plan for Marriage and the Home Has Always Been the Best!**
 - a. God's original intention in marriage: "What God has joined together ..." (Mark 10:9).
 - b. When humans break the God-given pattern for marriage, sorrow and heartbreak are the result.
 - c. Hollywood and some social scientists have claimed that humans are not designed for monogamy. The Bible suggests the opposite: God designed marriage for the benefit of humans (Heb. 13:4).
 - d. The God who created human beings wired them for life-long marriage.
- 2. Learn to Use Words Well!**
 - a. We tend not to give words enough credit for their power either to hurt or to heal.
 - b. Rash (poorly thought-out) words hurt the other (Prov. 12:18).
 - c. Words are ready to ambush the victim at any time (Prov. 12:6).
 - d. Use words designed to build others up (Eph. 4:29). So...are you a building contractor or a demolition expert?
- 3. Learn to Become a Good Listener!**
 - a. Quick to hear, slow to speak (Jas. 1:19).
 - b. When you are talking...you must not be listening (Prov. 18:2).
 - c. Listen to the other side of the story; consider the possibility that there is another side of the story (Prov. 18:13).
 - d. The first principle of being a good listener is being quiet (Prov. 17:28)!
 - e. You have the responsibility to get what the other person said right. You do not have the right to fly off the handle on the basis of what you think he said, or suppose he said!
- 4. Forgive!**
 - b. Forgiven people forgive (Eph. 4:32).
 - c. If only we had as high expectations for ourselves as we do for the other!
 - d. You have only two choices: forgive or have no relationships at all. There is no third option (Matt. 6:14-15).
- 5. Ask Not What Your Marriage Can Do for You But What You Can Do for Your Marriage!**
 - a. The Golden Rule – "Do unto others" still works (Matt. 7:12).
 - b. Brecheen and Faulkner's chapter, "The Problem with Us Is Me," is still a pretty good way to approach the issue.
 - c. Why not rather be wronged? If the relationship is that important to you (1 Cor. 6:7).
- 6. Before You Give Your Heart to Your Partner, Give Your Heart to God!**
 - a. Seek God's Kingdom first (Matt. 6:33).
 - b. We are all aware of the love triangle that destroys a marriage. Here is a love triangle that builds a marriage: You, your spouse and God.
 - c. Be involved in a congregation. Become an essential part of its work.
 - d. Question a woman asked me: "If two people are genuine Christians, can they get married and be truly happy?"
- 7. Grow!**
 - a. We are commanded to grow (2 Pet. 3:18).
 - b. On a day-to-day basis we should be changing into the image of Christ (Heb. 3:18).
 - c. You cannot substantially change your outward appearance; you can however change the inside (1 Sam. 16:6-7).
 - d. In Christ, there is the possibility of change, growth. This is the premise upon which all of Christianity is founded, and a better Christian becomes a better spouse

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

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
January 8

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. Terrence Breaux; Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Kim Hutchison; Mr. Elijah McMeans; Mrs. Liz Otero; and Mr. & Mrs. Arpit & Swati Samson.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. Jerry Cole, Okeechobee, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Terry & Regina Crews, St. Albans, MO; Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Andrea Dawkins, Winter Park, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Janie Flournoy, Lauderhill, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Phil & Rebekah Gray, Birmingham, AL; Mr. & Mrs. David & Edythe Luzier, West Decatur, PA; and Mrs. Jacqueline Parker, Ringgold, GA.



Directory Changes

Edward & Ellen Gager no longer have a home phone number. They are only using their cell phones.

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Friday, January 20th
Julie Charles

Saturday, January 21st
Edward Gager

PBL Family Photos

Sunday, January 15



After morning worship or before evening worship in the Family Room!

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, January 15

Singing Dion Hayes
Opening Prayer Jeff Leslie
Scripture Reading Jim Rogers
Singing
Lord's Supper Michael Ellis
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Josh Blackmer

Serve at Table:

Lance Collier Hunter Hinton
Gorman Ericksen Luther Robinson
Michael Erickson Islay Rodriguez
Connor Goodale Cristian Suarez
Jeff Goodale Joseph Snyder

Sunday Evening, January 15

Singing Ivan Villard
Opening Prayer Johnny Davis
Scripture Reading Graysen Hayes
Singing
Lord's Supper Joe Maloney
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer John Hoelzer

Serve at Table:

Jim Davis Kameron Heitler

Audio this week: James Green
Computer this week: Bob Higbee
Video this week: Scott Studer

Wednesday Evening, January 18

Singing Daniel Wagner
Invitation Richard Watson
Family Prayer Dan Fuller

Our Record

Attendance	Jan. 8	Dec. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	172	160
Sun. AM Worship	269	251
Sun. PM Worship	119	110
Wed. Bible Study	134	125
Contribution	\$20,553	\$16,261

2023 Weekly Budget: \$TBA

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

Service Coordinator:
Mike Damron

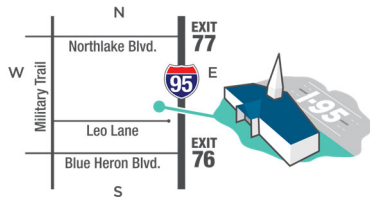
Ushers for this week: Lawrence Williams & Marty Williams
Safety Team for this week: Kirk Crews



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: **Tim & Susie Cox**



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





This great, faith-building program is broadcast on **NewsNation every Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m.**

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



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

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*

