

## 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 July

## Evangelists

Dan Jenkins ..... 379-2325  
 David Sproule ..... 301-2230  
 Josh Blackmer ..... 319-1418  
 Robert Lupo ..... 315-1411

## Deacons

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

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READING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

## A Chapter A Day

This Week's Reading:

1 Corinthians 3 -  
 1 Corinthians 7



By Dan Jenkins

## Rejoice in the Lord *Always*

Christianity was never designed to be a religion of sadness. The words “joy” and “rejoice” are found more than 400 times in the Bible. How could any relationship with God be anything other than the most marvelous experience one could have on this earth? When Paul described the fruit of the Spirit working in our lives, the second word he used was “joy.” Life with Him can never be a life of despair and gloom.

**There is joy associated for those who teach others.** There is great joy for those who teach. When Jesus told His disciples that the fields were ready to be reaped, He said that both those who sow and those who reap shall rejoice together (John 4:36). The psalmist said that those who sow shall without doubt come rejoicing (Psa. 126:5-6).

**There is joy for those who are taught about Jesus.** On the day of Pentecost, there were 3,000 who received the word with joy (Acts 2:41). When Philip preached in Samaria, “There was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:8). The Ethiopian “...went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). The man who found the treasure of the kingdom, “...for joy over it goes and sells all he had and buys the field” (Matt. 13:44). Think about your own experience. Has there ever been any day surpassing the day your sins were forgiven?

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice.”**

**There is joy in the midst of trials as a Christian.** When adversity comes into our lives, God tells us to “...count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (Jas. 1:3). How can this be? God gives the answer in the verses that follow. It is the trials in our lives which make us “...perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” Notice also that God said, “count it all joy”! We must not focus on the trials of adversity but on the results of them.

Jesus used some amazing words to describe our response when we are hated by others for His sake. “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy” (Luke 6:23). He does not see such times of adversity as a time to weep but as a time to rejoice. But, even more than just a time for joy—a time to leap for joy!

**There is immeasurable joy awaiting us at the end of our lives.** As Paul journeyed to Jerusalem for the final time, he passed through many cities. In every one of them there were prophets who foretold the chains and tribulations which he would face when he arrived. Such did not deter his resolve, for he longed to “...finish my race with joy” (Acts 20:24). It was this same joy which Jesus spoke of when His disciples were rejoicing that they had the power to cast out demons. He said, “Do not rejoice in this ... but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice.”



By David Sproule

## Your Past, Present and Future

In school you learned about the three main verb tenses in English: past, present and future. These tenses describe three very different timeframes. One could say that a boy “threw” the ball (past tense), or a boy “is throwing” the ball (present tense) or a boy “will throw” the ball (future tense).

Those same tenses can be used to describe a Christian’s life. The New Testament talks definitively about a Christian’s PAST life, with a great emphasis on leaving it in the past. Terminology is used to speak of one’s “former conduct” (Gal. 1:13; Eph. 4:22), when one was conforming to “former lusts” (1 Pet. 1:14). The word “once” is used in consideration of when Christians “once walked according to the course of this world” (Eph. 2:2), “once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh” (Eph. 2:3), “once were far off” (Eph. 2:13), “were once disobedient to God” (Rom. 11:30), “were once darkness” (Eph. 5:8), “were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived” (Tit. 3:3). The desire of God is that “once” that “former” life of the past has been “crucified” with Christ, that we should “no longer” live that life (Rom. 6:6).

The New Testament talks definitively about a Christian’s PRESENT life, with a great emphasis on living every day for Christ. Terminology is used to speak of “the life which I

now live in the flesh” (Gal. 2:20), “now in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:13), “now you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8), “now also Christ will be magnified in my body” (Phil. 1:20). Present tense verbs permeate the New Testament to describe the Christian’s present life—“speaking the truth in love...give no opportunity to the devil...let him labor, working with his hands...Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth...be kind to one another...forgiving one another...” (Eph. 4:15, 27, 28, 29, 32). The present tense “living sacrifice” of our present lives (Rom. 12) is detailed over and over in Scripture.

The New Testament talks definitively about a Christian’s FUTURE life, with a great emphasis on focusing our attention and energies in that direction. Terminology is used to speak of God’s promise that He “will give to eat from the tree of life” (Rev. 2:7), “will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10), “will give of the fountain of the water of life freely” (Rev. 21:6), for the “faithful” Christian “will appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4), “will receive the crown of life” (Jas. 1:12), “will be supplied [an entrance] into the everlasting kingdom” (2 Pet. 1:11). We can know for certain that these things “will” happen in the future.

How critical it is for one to “repent” of his PAST life (2 Pet. 3:9) and live “in holy conduct and godliness” in the PRESENT (3:11), in order to be ready for “the coming of the day of God” (3:12) in the FUTURE.

**Those same tenses can be used to describe a Christian’s life.**





By Robert Lupo

## Danger Looms!

I looked at my newsfeed and saw a shocking headline. "Asteroid danger looms! 170-foot space rock heading for Earth today." Immediately I wondered, "Why I am just now hearing about this? Shouldn't we have a little bit more of a heads-up before we are obliterated by space debris? Something isn't adding up."

Upon opening the article, I breathe a sigh of relief. The title is another example of "clickbait." As opposed to what I was led to believe, the asteroid in question was not on a collision course with earth, it was just passing by very closely.

So, how close does an asteroid have to get to garner such a dramatic warning? The article states, "The Asteroid 2022 VP1 is expected to make its closest approach to the planet at a distance of 6.6 million kilometers..." That's 4.1 million miles! To put that into perspective, the moon is only 238,900 miles away from the earth and we aren't worried about it careening into our backyard anytime soon. But, an asteroid that is seventeen times farther away makes headlines.

Isn't it interesting, how much power the threat of death holds over us? The tiniest possibility of physical harm is enough to drive us into a panic. This asteroid was discovered

using NASA's asteroid tracking telescope, NEOWISE, which is used to warn of potentially dangerous asteroids. We have spent millions of dollars to prevent an astronomically small chance of danger.

Why then do we not have the same amount of urgency when it comes to our eternal soul? Danger certainly looms for us all. Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..." This isn't "clickbait." Death is not floating out in the ether, millions of miles away. Death is guaranteed, and when we die, we will have to answer for our sins. "For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23).

We don't know when death will come for us nor when Jesus will return (2 Pet. 3:10). Yet, many live their lives like hell is millions of miles away. Death and judgment are coming, and the only path to safety is through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." And in Revelation 2:10, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

While we're busy watching the skies for asteroids, are we missing the warnings God gave to save us from eternal destruction? There is no satellite to tell us when the Lord will come. If we are not living right, we need to repent today.

**Death is not  
floating out in  
the ether,  
millions of miles  
away.**

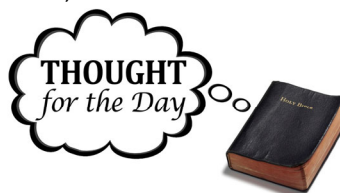
## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Is your faith "precious"?

When you read through the letters of Peter, you will come across the word "precious" several times. Of all the things that he describes as "precious," the first one is our "faith" (1 Pet. 1:7). Have you ever thought about your faith being "precious"?

The Greek word "pertains to being of exceptional value; of great worth; costly." Have you ever considered the value and worth of your faith? The fact that "now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1:8) is of exceptional value. However, Peter is not merely saying that your faith is of great worth. Note his words carefully: "...you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:6-7). It is the *genuineness* of your faith that is precious (of exceptional value) in the eyes of God, when it has been tested and found to be strong.

Is your faith "precious"? Has it been strengthened by trials? That adds true value! – DS



### They did not stop teaching

The apostles endured brutal persecution because they were "preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42; 2:30-38; 4:10-12). The Jewish council arrested the apostles (4:1-4; 5:17-18, 26), put them on trial (4:5-22; 5:27-40), "severely threatened... further threatened them" (4:17-21), and "beat" them (5:40). Through all of this, the council "commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus" (4:17-18; 5:28, 40). But the apostles "did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (5:42). They did not stop!

Brethren, our society, some of our governing officials and people all around us are trying to get us to stop talking about Jesus, stop living for Jesus, stop quoting the Bible, stop teaching the Bible, stop following the moral and Biblical code of the Bible. Brethren, we cannot stop!

We cannot stop speaking about and living for Jesus! That is our very purpose for living (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)! That is the very thing the world needs (Rom. 1:15-18)! May God help us to have their "boldness" (Acts 4:13, 29; 5:41-42) and not stop! – DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Judy Carmack</b>	hip replacement surgery postponed, undergoing tests
<b>Loretta Holaday</b>	knee replacement surgery on July 6
<b>Trudie Holland</b>	in Luxe Rehab (room 141), hip replacement surgery
<b>Dan Johnson</b>	recovering at home
<b>Dick Kelley</b>	dealing with some health issues
<b>Carolyn Kemp</b>	now in rehab, recovering from car accident
<b>Gwen Lyons</b>	cataract surgery on July 25
<b>Don Seay</b>	recovering at home from hospitalization
<b>Willie Smith</b>	dealing with some health issues
<b>Bereather Williams</b>	fell and is undergoing tests



**Robin Davis**, upon the passing of her mother, **Josie Brian**, on Wednesday, June 28.

## Ongoing Health Issues

<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Judy Carmack</b>	multiple health issues
<b>Robin Landen</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>Henry Williams</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

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

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Myrick Bassie</b>	Yolanda Stewart's father, suffering serious health issues
<b>Louie Bone</b>	Betty Davis' brother, recovering from a broken hip
<b>Chet Brown</b>	Loni Fuller's brother, in pain after knee replacement
<b>Dominic Clough</b>	Marcia Clough-Moss' brother, in the hospital
<b>Jonathan Jenkins</b>	Dan & Judie's son, recovering at home from accident
<b>Genia Kane</b>	Marty Williams' brother, in the hospital, heart condition
<b>Delores Sims</b>	Jimmie Banks' mother, cancer in her lymph nodes now





# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, July 9

- ♦ **Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. All members are welcome to attend this class.
- ♦ **His Kids Class** will not meet again until October.

## Monday, July 10

- ♦ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Class will resume after the parking lot construction has been completed.

## Tuesday, July 11

- ♦ **No Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** Class will resume after the parking lot construction has been completed.

## Saturday, July 15

- ♦ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. Location TBD. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.

## Sunday-Saturday, July 16-22

- ♦ **Forever Camp (formerly Jenkins/Blackmer Week) at CFBC for Age 10-Grade 12.** Campers must register online at [www.cfbiblecamp.org](http://www.cfbiblecamp.org) by July 8. Counselors and staff volunteers are needed. Donations are also needed to help with scholarships for campers and activities during the week. See Josh Blackmer for more details.

## Sunday, July 16

- ♦ **Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. All members are welcome to attend this class.

## Sunday, July 23

- ♦ **No Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. Class will resume next week.

## Sunday, July 30

- ♦ **Wayne Parker Mission Report** at 9:00 a.m. Jr. High, Sr. High and all adults will meet in the Auditorium.
- ♦ **Wedding Shower for Jimmie Banks & Cherylann Wineinger** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room. They are registered at Amazon. See Casey Bound for more details.
- ♦ **Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. All members are welcome to attend this class.

## Sunday, August 6

- ♦ **Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. All members are welcome to attend this class.
- ♦ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream, toppings and drinks to share.

## Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

### Sunday, July 9

- ♦ **Leadership Training Course** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. All members are welcome to attend this class.

### Sunday-Saturday, July 16-22

- ♦ **Forever Camp (formerly Jenkins/Blackmer Week) at CFBC for Age 10-Grade 12.** Counselors and staff volunteers are needed. Donations are also needed to help with scholarships for campers and activities during the week. See Josh Blackmer for more details.

### Sunday, July 30

- ♦ **Wedding Shower for Jimmie Banks & Cherylann Wineinger** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room. They are registered at Amazon. See Casey Bound for details.

### Saturday, August 5

- ♦ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Robert & Reanna Lupo.

### Sunday, August 6

- ♦ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship.



## Palm Beach Lakes Youth

### Sunday, July 9

- ♦ **His Kids Class** will not meet again until October.

### Sunday-Saturday, July 16-22

- ♦ **Forever Camp (formerly Jenkins/Blackmer Week) at CFBC for Age 10-Grade 12.** Campers, please register online at [www.cfbiblecamp.org](http://www.cfbiblecamp.org). Counselors and staff volunteers are needed. See Josh Blackmer for more details.

### Saturday-Wednesday, July 22-26

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

### Sunday, August 6

- ♦ **Back-to-School Ice Cream Social** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream, toppings and drinks to share.

### Sunday, August 20

- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room.

# *Equipping & Edifying Families*

## 8 Warning Signs Your Child Is Headed for Trouble



As parents, it is an important duty to monitor our child and his or her activities. This allows us to decipher what path a kid is headed down. When you just focus on punishment and not the root of the issue, there is a good chance he or she could become a problem child. Here are some of the common signs of a child heading the wrong direction. It is important to recognize these and take the appropriate steps to guide your child back down a positive path.

**1. Mood Swings.** Everyone experiences the occasional change in moods. Teenagers with exploding hormones, in particular, are prone to ups and downs. The key here is to determine if the lows and highs are too excessive, or if your child quickly shifts from euphoria to depression seemingly without cause. Be empathetic and a source of stability. Be calm. Adding to the drama will only make things worse. Finally, try to get your child to communicate what he is truly feeling in the moment.

**2. Withdrawal.** Not every child is a social butterfly, but that doesn't mean there is a problem. However, if you see signs of withdrawal it could be cause for concern. Watch for signs of depression, lack of confidence, and if he feels rejected by other children.

**3. Hiding Things.** When you find out they have been hiding something, even if it's trivial, it should tell you that they have entered into suspect behavior. At the very least they are creating habits of secrecy. It either says they are fine with bad behavior or they don't trust you. Each of those is dangerous.

**4. Dropping Grades.** If a child is getting lower-than-normal grades, something is wrong somewhere. It could be a learning disability, laziness, need for more instruction, or any number of social or domestic issues. It could also be a sign of depression or discontentment. Get to the core of the matter instead of just punishing.

**5. Sudden Change of Friends.** Making new friends is a good thing. A red flag is when they stop spending time with one friend group and start hanging out with a totally new group of people. It's important to find out what they are drawn to with the new group and what the breakdown was with their former friends. Relationships have a complexity and kids need their parents help in navigating them. Breakdowns in friendships hurt. Wounded hearts often gravitate to unhealthy coping mechanisms to numb or distract from the pain.

**6. Fluctuating Weight.** Sudden weight loss and gain are normally associated with an unhealthy desire to control. Being a child can feel turbulent and unstable. As a way to deal with the stress, eating disorders or mass consumption can emerge. With these dysfunctional coping strategies, food can easily be replaced by drugs and alcohol or cutting as a way to control feelings of fear, anxiety, and insecurity.

**7. Personality Changes.** Puberty is bound to bring some personality changes, but keep an eye on it. When a generally upbeat kid becomes more pessimistic or an outgoing kid becomes quieter, there is something driving the negative change. Perhaps they are doing things they know you wouldn't approve of or they are being bullied at school. Maybe they are desperate for approval they aren't getting. Ask them questions such as, "Do you feel like your world is changing a bit? How do you feel about that?" You may also try, "You know when I was your age I had a hard time. How are you coping with the changes going on around you?"

**8. Changing The Way They Dress.** It's fine to experiment with new looks. After all, kids don't develop a full sense of identity until their mid-twenties. However, a sudden change in dress and image could be more than experimenting. It may be a deep sign of insecurity. Starting to wear more revealing clothing tends to be a step towards sexual activity, while baggy/over covering can be a sign they are hiding something. For example, when a kid always wears long sleeves, even when it is warm, they may be hiding scars from self-cutting. As it has been said before, get to the heart of the issues. Ask questions and be a safe place for your kids as they try to navigate life.



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

**Members Traveling**  
this week



**Thank You**  
for worshipping with us

Sunday,  
July 2

## Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

### Monday, July 10th

John Loftis  
Sarah Smedley

### Tuesday, July 11th

Karen Friesner

### Thursday, July 13th

Novel Brown

### Friday, July 14th

Kassandra Jones

### Saturday, July 15th

Robert & Norma Mariano (Ann.)



We rejoice with **Sonia Davidson** who was baptized on Sunday, July 2 after evening services.

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Mr. Johnny Belden; Ms. Monique Brown; Paul & Sonia Davidson; Miss Jodiann Ellis; Ms. Careen Ellis; Mr. Alton Ellis; Mr. Sterling Frederick; Ms. Vera Gibson; Ms. Nikki Hahn; Miss Halle Johnson; Mrs. Rosemary LaConte; Mr. Rai Masuda; Mrs. Heather & Miss Katlyn Mayne; Mr. Don McClintock; Mrs. Liz Otero; Mr. David Payne, II; Ms. Lizzie Rozier; Mrs. Susan Shelt; Mrs. Trellini Smith; Mr. Nahum St. Hilaire; Mrs. Brenda Star; Mrs. Alva Ward; Mr. Trevor Wellington; and Mr. Terry West.

**OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS:** Ms. Merle Alexander; Mrs. Sandra Allen; Walt & Hazel Arthur; Bill & Lori Boyd; Mr. Ron Brackett; Mr. Skyler Buckner; Mr. Kevin Cain; Jacob & Lauren Campbell; Brent & Yvonne Clark; Mrs. Kinsey Deming; Jack & Suzanne Dempsey; Mrs. Kristen Dye; Ms. Lorna Emmanuel; Mrs. Shirley Fenn; Ms. Cheri Flatt; Mrs. Janine Flegert; G.R. & Cherrye Fletcher; Ms. Dorcas Francois; Tom & Anita Genduso; Pete & Kristi Harker; Mr. Tim Heath; Frank & Elizabeth Hill; Jerry & Shirley Hopkins; Keith & Susan Joy; Eddie & Madolyn Lewis; Ms. Regina Mayne; Brent & Lindsey McPherson; Mr. Michael Menendez & Mrs. Astrid Arevalo; David & Cathy Payne; Mr. John Pisani; Ms. Jackie Price; Chuck & Mary Reeves; Michael & Beth Rosenblum; Mr. Adam Seal; Ms. Darlene Smith; Mr. Madio Smith; David & Bette Sproule; Mr. Scotty Studer; Mr. Shane Studer; Mr. Simon Tyson; Mrs. Lenis Villard; Al & Rhonda Washington; and Mrs. Michelle Warren

## 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 9**

Sermon (Part 1)  
Singing ..... Stephen Beliech  
Opening Prayer ..... Orlando Lolo  
Singing  
Lord's Supper ..... Douglas Alvarenga  
Contribution  
Scripture Reading ..... Phil Porter  
Singing  
Sermon (Part 2)  
Singing  
Closing Prayer ..... Robert Mariano

#### Serve at Table:

Troy Alberga	Tim Mahlbacher
Tim Fry	John Patrick
Namdidie Ikon	Taylor Reeves
Richard Kelley	Seth Watson
Steward Lynch	Tyler Williams

### **Sunday Evening, July 9**

Singing ..... Ivan Villard  
Opening Prayer ..... Novel Brown  
Scripture Reading ..... Willie Smith  
Singing  
Lord's Supper ..... Victor Colage  
Contribution  
Singing  
Sermon  
Singing  
Closing Prayer ..... Tom Garrison

#### Serve at Table:

Troy Alberga      Silas Balfour

Audio this week: David Brown

Computer this week: Cris Cuevas

Video this week: Edward Gager

### **Wednesday Evening, July 12**

Singing ..... Graysen Hayes  
Invitation ..... Dirk Summerlot  
Family Prayer ..... Johnny Davis

## Our Record

Attendance	July 2	June Avg
Sun. Bible Study	232	160
Sun. AM Worship	381	251
Sun. PM Worship	216	113
Wed. Bible Study	131	143
Contribution	\$18,623	\$16,302

2023 Weekly Budget: \$16,450

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$13,437

Service Coordinator:  
Eugene Williams

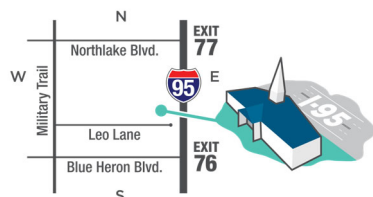
Ushers for this week: Tim Cox & Nahum Villard  
Safety Team for this week: Vince Rogers



# 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: **Debi Watson & Kelly Sproule**

## Don't Conform to the Lint Roller

By Simon Tyson (Summer Intern)

There was a video online that showcased a man doing a harmless prank that doubled as a social experiment. He stood outside a local establishment with a typical mask on and was pretending to check people with a handheld metal detector. Every person that walked into that building, without hesitation, stopped and let him scan them. The funniest part of this whole video was that it was not a metal detector— it was a lint roller!

In a similar fashion to this video, is it possible that we conform to the world without even thinking about it? We may be walking straight into a sinful atmosphere, or a situation that may lead to sin, and not even realize it because we have not stopped to think about what we are doing. The world has many ways of “normalizing” sins that should not be normal— sins that have become so intertwined with our culture that it can become easy to not think about it thoroughly.

May I encourage us to always have our minds prepared to analyze the situation before us (1 Pet. 1:13), choose the right company and situations to be a part of (1 Cor. 15:33), and keep the focus on Christ and the eternal goal (Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:2). As Romans 12:2 tells us, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” As we go about our week, may we not be deceived by the lint rollers of this world!

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