

### 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 January

### Evangelists

Dan Jenkins ..... 379-2325  
David Sproule ..... 301-2230  
Robert Lupo ..... 315-1411

### Deacons

David Brown ..... 972-7608  
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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June Pack ..... 627-5363



*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

Vol. LXIII

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No. 2

# STAND *in the* GAP



EZEKIEL 22:30



By Dan Jenkins

## Skilled and Unskilled Servants

They had been slaves in Egypt, and their work involved taking mud and straw and producing bricks for the Egyptians. However, after they crossed the Red Sea the task before many of them changed. God gave a precise description of the tabernacle and its furnishing, and none of them had the ability to take the wood, the gold, the fabrics and create a place where God could meet them in the Most Holy Place. Unskilled men were expected to become skilled.

God had a solution for this, and it involved two chosen men, Bezalel and Aholiab. He filled them with the Holy Spirit to give these unskilled men the divine skills to create the tabernacle (Ex. 31:3-11; 35:30-35). The Spirit gave these two men the wisdom to teach others how to accomplish this task (35:34).

There is an amazing parallel to this in building the church of Christ. He took “unskilled fishermen” and filled them with the Spirit to become part of the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20). These apostles became the source, by the laying on of hands, to give specialized abilities (described as gifts of the Spirit) to others to insure the new temple of God was built.

What happened as the apostles were martyred and no longer did men have this divine skill instantly given to them is parallel to the events in Exodus. Paul had laid his hands on

Timothy, but since only the apostles had the power to fill men with the Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:18), Timothy could not impart the Spirit to others. Since this was true, how could the church survive? Timothy, with the divine gift he had, was told to take the truths he had received and give it to others. Just as Bezalel and Aholiab taught those Jews, who once made bricks of mud, how to do God’s works, so Timothy was told to do the same. Timothy was told to teach unskilled men the truths he knew, who were then told to teach others these same truths.

**God takes unskilled babes in Christ to become skilled teachers of others.**

What does this have to do with us and our place in the kingdom of God? It is obvious there are no apostles among us, but we stand in the same place those men stood who were taught by Timothy. They did not need the apostles’ hands laid on them. Through Timothy and other inspired men, they received all the truth that pertains to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). Like them, we have the scriptures which perfectly and completely supplies all the truth (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

However, just having the Bible is not enough. God expects us to take the time to learn the truth and teach others. Read the closing verses of Hebrews chapter five to see how God looks at us when we fail to learn Bible truths and fail to give it to others. God wants all of us, who are unskilled teachers, to become skilled teachers of others. God help us!



By David Sproule

## Five Reasons to Love and Study the Book of Acts (Part 1)

Of the 66 books in the Bible, which book should Christians know the best and study the most? That’s a hard question and the answer varies, perhaps, to each individual Christian. But, the book of Acts is such a key book to Christianity, for it shows the inception and the early years of the religion of Jesus Christ on this earth. There is much to learn, to love and to live in this book. Let’s consider five reasons that every Christian should know and study this book. First, we learn about how to become a Christian.

There is anything but unanimity among religious groups today regarding how one is converted to Christ and is saved from sin. Such disagreement was unknown in the early days of Christianity. Everyone became a Christian in exactly the same way! This is why we should love this book!

From the first account of conversion in chapter 2, we see the steps involved and required to become a Christian, which we then see duplicated time after time throughout the book. Having heard (cf. Rom. 10:14) the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them (including His death, burial and resurrection—vss. 22-36; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4), those of a tender and receptive heart were “cut to the heart” as they believed the message of Christ preached to them (2:37; cf. Rom. 10:14). In or-

der to secure “the forgiveness of sins,” which they so desperately needed, they were to “repent” (2:38; cf. Luke 13:3) and “be baptized” (2:38; cf. Mark 16:16). Not everyone chose to change their ways and give their lives to the Lord, but “those who gladly received his word were baptized” (2:41), in order that they might be “saved” (1 Pet. 3:21) and become a “disciple” (Matt. 28:19), which is a “Christian” (Acts 11:26).

**We learn about how to become a Christian.**

The teachings of Christ had been followed precisely and the pattern of salvation had been clearly laid out. Throughout the rest of the book, “many” were “obedient to the faith” (6:7), by following the exact same steps. When individuals “heard” the gospel preached (8:6, 35; 9:6; 10:34-43; 16:13-14, 32; 18:8; 19:5), they “believed” that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (8:12, 37; 9:42; 10:43; 15:7; 11:21; 13:6-12, 48; 14:1; 16:31; 17:12, 34; 18:8), they “repented” of their sins (3:19; 22:16; 11:18; 16:33; 17:30), they “confessed” their faith in Jesus Christ (8:36-38), and they were “baptized” in order to have their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus and become a New Testament Christian (8:12, 13, 16, 36, 38; 9:18; 22:16; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5).

We need to love and study this book so that we can see the clear plan of salvation taught and then obeyed, in order that lost souls could be converted to Christ. That plan has not changed. We need to teach it and obey it today!



By Robert Lupo

## A Clearer Picture of the Universe

Growing up in the nineties nothing was cooler to me than space. My father recognized this and gave my brothers and I a book of pictures from the brand-new Hubble Space Telescope. The detail and color Hubble captured was beyond anything I thought possible. From planets, to galaxies, quasars, and nebulas, every page contained incredible images of God's beautiful creation.

Now, there is a new space telescope that dwarfs the capabilities of Hubble, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Elizabeth Howell and Daisy Dobrijevic write about its advances in their article for Space.com, "NASA's James Webb Space Telescope: The ultimate guide." The main difference is the Webb telescope's focus on infrared light rather than visible light. They write, "The JWST will observe this infrared light in great detail and shed light on some of the oldest stars and galaxies in the universe" (Howell). Truly amazing.

However, as a Christian, I can't help seeing a tragic irony. No matter how deeply or clearly our scientists gaze into the cosmos, it cannot tell them a thing about what the God that created it desires for them to do.

Most astronomers refuse to see God's hand in creation. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God;

and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge" (NKJV). We can know God exists just by looking at the sky. Imagine having the ability to peer farther and with more detail than any man before into the vast expanse of our universe and not be able to see the evidence for the hand that created it. How did something so complex and magnificent come into existence? Because there is a God.

**...We will not find God's will for us written in the stars.**

Since God exists, we need to know what our place is in His universe. But, we will not find God's will for us written in the stars. Isaiah 47:13-14 says, "You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you. Behold, they shall be as stubble, The fire shall burn them; They shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame." We will only find God's will in His word, the Bible. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

We can have a clearer picture of the universe than ever before. God has shown who He is and what His will for us is. If we want to know Him, we do not need to look any farther than His Holy Word.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### In what does God "delight"?

There are certain people that you know exactly "what is pleasing" to them. For some it's fresh flowers. Others like the solitude of holding a fishing pole on a quiet lake. For many it's a trip through the Starbucks drive-thru. But what is it that is a "delight" to God? Or, as the Hebrew word is defined, what "is pleasing" to God?

Perhaps multiple answers could be given, but focus on Proverbs 15:8 – "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright is His delight."

Think about that. God finds "delight" in "the prayer of the upright." As a child of God, when you pray, God does not find your words, your petitions, your heartache to be a burden or an annoyance. Instead, listening to you, sympathizing with you and responding to you is "His delight." Remember that every time you pray, and may you "trust" Him and "delight yourself in the Lord" (Psa. 37:3-4) every time you get to take your cares, requests and thanksgivings to Him! – DS



### Did you do it with "joy and gladness"?

Only two chapters in the Bible have more verses than the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy (i.e., Numbers 7 and Psalm 119; 1 Kings 8 has more words but fewer verses). The length of the chapter should tell us something. Moses is about ready to die and he is laying out the "Blessings of Obedience" (in 14 verses) and the "Curses on Disobedience" (in 54 verses). The warnings are real and vivid! He tells the children of Israel what "the Lord will" do to punish them. But why would the Lord punish His own people?

We know that they would be "destroyed because [they] did not obey the voice of the Lord" (28:45). But notice what added detail of their disobedience that Moses inserts into verse 47, "Because [they] did not serve the Lord [their] God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything." Wow! God is not simply looking for us to obey Him. He is looking for us to obey Him "with joy and gladness of heart"! So, do you? "The abundance of everything" that He does for us provides easy motivation! – DS





# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Connor Goodale</b>	having 4 wisdom teeth removed on Jan. 13
<b>Jennifer Goodale</b>	recovering from outpatient procedure
<b>Charles Hayes</b>	in Bethesda West, expects to go home Jan. 11
<b>Ophelia Holmes</b>	awaiting further diagnosis and treatment plan for mass
<b>Judie Jenkins</b>	fractured sternum
<b>Dan Johnson</b>	discharged from the hospital
<b>Lynne Jorgensen</b>	recovering from a medical procedure
<b>Dick Kelley</b>	JFK Hospital, undergoing tests
<b>Norma Mariano</b>	has the shunt in her brain turned back on
<b>Juliette Mauvais</b>	still dealing with severe pain
<b>Joel Ramirez</b>	seeing a specialist for possible heart surgery

## Ongoing 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

Millie Ames	Inell Ingram
Lillian Bankston	Daniel Johnson
Judy Carmack	Kasandra Jones
Josie Dawson	Betty Matter
Zula Garrett	Joyce Parker
Terri Hahn	Leigh Puckett
Margie Hardin	Maurine Reed
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Joan Holloway	

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Patterson Alexander</b>	Jean Archer's brother, hospital, multiple health issues
<b>Bud Anderson</b>	Sherrie Tibbetts' son, terminal lung cancer
<b>Lashara Babcock</b>	Ayanna Babcock-Sutherland's sister, in hospital
<b>Myrick Bassie</b>	Yolanda Stewart's father, suffering serious health issues
<b>Ignacio Ramirez</b>	Joel Ramirez's father, cancer, recovering heart attack
<b>Eddy Rodriguez</b>	Islay Rodriguez's brother, lung cancer

**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 14

- ♦ **Meeting to Plan Adult Activities for 2024** after morning worship in Adult 1-2. See Gary Jenkins for details.
- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Monday, January 15

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

## Tuesday, January 16

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

## Friday, January 26

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cherylann Banks. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

## Saturday, January 27

- ♦ **Widows & Widowers Luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the home of Kane & Fran Campbell. Please RSVP to Kane & Fran Campbell.

## Sunday, January 28

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

## Saturday, February 3

- ♦ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High & Sr. High Youth.** Begins at 5:00 p.m. PBL members 55+ years old or married 25+ years are invited. Please RSVP to Robert Lupo by Sunday, January 28.

## Monday, February 5

- ♦ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 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. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

## Friday, February 9

- ♦ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lance & Brenda Collier. Please bring a potluck dish. This is for all PBL members and families who live south of Southern Blvd.

## Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

### Friday, January 26

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cherylann Banks. 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 27

- ♦ **Young Adult Game Night** at 5:00 p.m. Location TBD. See Ivan Villard for more details.

### Monday, February 5

- ♦ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 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. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

### Friday-Monday, February 9-12

- ♦ **PBL Family Camping Trip** at Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring, Florida. All members are encouraged to enjoy this time of fellowship and camping. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby. Cost is \$35 per person.



## Palm Beach Lakes Youth

### Sunday, January 14

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

### Friday, January 26

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cherylann Banks. 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 3

- ♦ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High & Sr. High Youth.** Jr. High & Sr. High Youth should arrive at 4:00 p.m. Please wear a white button-up shirt and black pants (no holes).

### Monday, February 5

- ♦ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 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.

2024 Theme:

# STAND *in the* GAP

*January*

To Take the Gospel to the Lost World

*February*

To Strengthen and Protect Our Youth

*March*

To Defend the Truth of the Bible

*April*

To Reach People I Know with the Gospel

*May*

To Serve More Effectively in the Church

*June*

To Grow More in My Faith and Devotion

*July*

To Defend the Church of the Bible

*August*

To Encourage Brethren Who Might Be Overlooked

*September*

To Reinforce Our Godly Homes

*October*

To Defend the Morality of the Bible

*November*

To Foster Stronger Relationships in the Church

*December*

To Exemplify Christ Who Stood in the Gap for Us

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

Members **Traveling**  
this week



**Thank You**  
for worshipping with us

Sunday,  
January 7



**MISSION**  
*Sunday*  
TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

**January 28**

**EVERY DOLLAR GIVEN  
WILL BE USED FOR MISSION WORK.**

**BE PREPARING FOR IT!  
BE PRAYING ABOUT IT!**



*"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."*

Ezekiel 22:30

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** *This Week*

Sunday, January 14th

Silas Balfour  
Mary Coombs  
Robin Davis  
Cindy Nelson

Saturday, January 20th

Julie Charles

### 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 14

Singing ..... Gary Friedly  
Lord's Supper ..... Victor Colage  
Singing  
Opening Prayer ..... Willie Smith  
Scripture Reading ..... Orlando Lolo  
Singing  
Contribution  
Singing  
Sermon  
Singing  
Closing Prayer ..... Ricky Smith

#### Serve at Table:

Troy Alberga      Steward Lynch  
Douglas Alvarenga      Tim Mahlbacher  
Ryan Hankins      Robert Mariano  
Namdidie Ikon      Taylor Reeves  
Todd Juckett      Tyler Williams

#### Sunday Evening, January 14

Singing ..... Ivan Villard  
Opening Prayer ..... Tim Fry  
Scripture Reading ..... Richard Watson  
Singing  
Lord's Supper ..... Tom Garrison  
Contribution  
Singing  
Sermon  
Singing  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Porter

#### Serve at Table:

Nicholas Pietro      Trevin Roman

Audio this week: David Brown

Computer this week: Buzz Nelson

Video this week: Scott Studer

#### Wednesday Evening, January 17

Singing ..... Jimmie Banks  
Invitation ..... Islay Rodriguez  
Family Prayer ..... Jeff Goodale

### Our Record

Attendance	Jan. 7	Dec. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	157	154
Sun. AM Worship	278	263
Sun. PM Worship	130	119
Wed. Bible Study	114	134
Contribution	\$19,963	\$16,732

2024 Weekly Budget: TBD

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

Service Coordinators:  
Eugene Williams

Ushers for this week: Tim Cox & Nahum Villard  
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: **Elizabeth Summerlot, Reanna Lupo & Daisy Lord**

The point is this:

whoever  
**SOWS  
SPARINGLY**

will also  
**REAP  
SPARINGLY,**



and whoever  
**SOWS  
BOUNTIFULLY**

will also  
**REAP  
BOUNTIFULLY.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7