

Bishops

Dan Fuller.....685-4454
Dion Hayes.....214-533-5065
Paul Metzkes.....870-8042
*Phil Porter339-3662
*Chairman for the Month of January

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins379-2325
David Sproule.....301-2230
Robert Lupo315-1411

Deacons

David Brown.....972-7608
Victor Colage.....719-1490
Kirk Crews339-9283
Mike Erickson.....310-9916
Andres Fernandez768-3530
Tim Fry373-9121
Jeff Goodale261-1188
Rick Hall622-5131
Gary Jenkins.....889-3585
Jeff Leslie.....744-3444
Buzz Nelson385-1588
Lawrence Williams662-3419

Church Office

Phone561-848-1111
Fax.....561-848-1198
Website.....www.pblcoc.org
E-mailoffice@pblcoc.org
Ivan Villard667-8675
Cindy Nelson801-9457
June Pack627-5363

**Vol. LXV****January 11, 2026****No. 2**

Walking WITH JESUS

1 Peter 2:21**2025-2026**



Uniformity or Diversity

The world has changed so drastically from what it was just a short time ago. Morality has been redefined. Marriage has been redefined. Righteousness has been redefined. Realistically, we are not as concerned about godliness as we once were.

By Dan Jenkins

We have become a society characterized by being a “non-judgmental” pluralistic one, where each person uses his own judgment and his own definition about right and wrong. Our tolerant attitude seems to delight that such diversity is the norm.

Jesus established the church to bring unity of mankind together in His body, the church. The first century world had many gods and each of them allowed whatever actions their gods approved. Wrath, anger and injustice was part of paganism. Christ built the church to enable men to change and to be part of God’s eternal plan to bring all men together in the one body.

Both paganism and Judaism were splintered by thinking its world view was the right one. “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Prov. 17:6). Christianity was designed to bring uniformity, not diversity. Paul gives the Ephesians the basis of the unity and the bond of peace that Christ could bring about by giving seven “ones” of unity (Eph. 4:4-6).

“There is one body...” (v. 4). That one body is the

Paul gives the basis of unity and peace by giving the seven “ones” of unity

church (Eph. 1:22-23), and every person becomes part of it by giving up every wrong concept they once embraced. It was not divided into denominations, all wore the same religious name (1 Cor. 1:10-13), and all spoke the same truth.

“There is...one Spirit” (v. 4). In the absence of the written Bible, the Holy Spirit of God gave the same message to every church in the same words. They followed the words of the Spirit. Unity comes about when we use the words given by the Spirit to discover and define truth.

“There is...one hope” (v. 4). The common goal of getting each other to heaven regardless of the cost brought about a common unity, not diversity.

“There is...one Lord” (v. 5). Here is the key to religious unity. Jesus was the one Lord of every member, and they united together listening, not to their own hearts, but to the one Lord.

“There is...one faith” (v. 5). True faith comes only from the one Book, and unity is found when we build our faith on what He says. He alone defines the one faith.

“There is...one baptism” (v. 5). Every person was immersed in water for the same reason. It was the final step into the relationship with the one Lord.

“There is...one God” (v. 6). Unity is His plan, but it will come about only when we truly make Jehovah our God!



By David Sproule

The Immediacy of Baptism Is a Lesson Itself

The subject of baptism is one of the most thrilling of all Bible subjects. Yet, due to the diverse teachings that exist today about baptism, it sometimes loses its thrill in the midst of discrepancy. While the Bible clearly teaches the essentiality of baptism in order to obtain salvation from sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16), many religious groups today teach that baptism is not essential to be saved. If that is true, then why were individuals so quick to be baptized in New Testament times? Let’s look at it.

On Pentecost, about three thousand souls were baptized “THAT DAY” (Acts 2:41). Why does the Bible even include that detail? What difference does it make to tell us what day they were baptized and how soon after hearing the gospel it happened? Those Jews likely did not come prepared to be submerged in water that day, so why do it THAT DAY? The Bible answer: Because it was essential “for the remission of sins” (2:38).

The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized beside THE ROAD in a DESERTED PLACE (Acts 8:38). The man was traveling home from Jerusalem to Ethiopia by chariot and was in an unpopulated (and likely unfamiliar) location. Why did he get baptized after hearing one sermon? Why didn’t he wait until he got home to invite family, friends and witnesses? Why did

Baptism is an absolute requirement in order to be saved from sins

they STOP everything to be baptized? The Bible answer: Because it was essential for “rejoicing” over his salvation (8:39).

The Philippian jailer was baptized IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT (Acts 16:33). The Bible tells us that Paul and Silas were praying and singing in an inner prison at midnight (16:25). Why does the Bible tell us the time? What possible difference could that have? They taught the jailer and his household the gospel (16:32), and “the SAME HOUR of the

night...IMMEDIATELY he and all his family were baptized” (16:33). Why not wait until morning light? Why go through the trouble of a middle-of-the-night baptism? The Bible answer: Because it was essential to be “saved” from sins and “rejoice” (16:30, 34).

Ananias asked Saul of Tarsus why he was WAITING to be baptized (Acts 22:16). What an interesting question to ask. So, why did Ananias ask this question? Why didn’t Saul wait to go back to Jerusalem and gather the biggest crowd possible to witness this persecutor being baptized? The Bible answer: Because it was essential to “wash away sins” (22:16). That cannot wait!

In every way possible, the Bible affirms in clear language that baptism is an absolute requirement in order to be saved from sins. If it wasn’t, all of these examples could have waited for another day or another location. Let’s allow the Bible to do the teaching and for us to do the obeying.



The Goodness of God

How good is our God? James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above..." That means every blessing, every kindness and every mercy that we receive originates with our heavenly Father.

The Lord has shaped the universe to our benefit. He "...formed the world to be inhabited..." (Isa. 45:18), gave it to man (Psa. 115:16), and gave us dominion over it (Gen. 1:26-28). He is impartial, providentially caring for the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45). He especially cares for those He purchased in the church. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." Above all, He demonstrated His goodness in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son (Rom. 5:8).

With such a good God, it is right for us to praise Him. He alone deserves all of our heart and soul in declaring His goodness. To help us find the words to say, the Lord gave us the book of Psalms and many other praises throughout the Holy Scriptures. And when we put these words to tunes, we are able to declare our gratefulness with one another in beautiful harmonies.

Every now and then, a song is written that perfectly

expresses how we feel about our God. That is why we have been learning the song, "The Goodness of God."

The first verse declares, "I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails me." This concept comes right from Lamentations 3:22. "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not." This tells of the great faithfulness of God to love and forgive His children.

**With such a good
God, it is right
for us to praise**

Him.

In the chorus, we sing, "All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good!" This speaks of how we know the Lord's character. My life is all the evidence I need that God never stops being good. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).

Then, the chorus ends by proclaiming, "With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God." This expresses our commitment to giving our all to praise the Lord, just like David declared in Psalm 103:1-2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!"

I hope you have been enjoying learning this song that does such a great job reminding us of all the qualities that make our God so good. The Lord is truly worthy of our praise. Let us never fail to recognize all that He has done (and continues to do) for us and to sing His praises with all of our heart, soul and strength.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Limit personal interactions?

We are living in a time when personal interactions are intentionally being limited and even eliminated, and it is deemed as progress. Instead of going into a store, just do curbside pickup. Instead of going to a restaurant, just have delivery. Instead of speaking with a customer representative on the phone, just interact with the automated system. We shop online, we bank online, we have virtual healthcare, and we get annoyed sometimes when we have to interact with a real person.

Fellow Christian, let us not get so disconnected that we lose sight of our need for personal interactions and our responsibility to such. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires personal interaction. Serving our fellow Christians requires personal interaction. Caring for those in need requires personal interaction. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus requires personal interaction.

Let's break out of the digital world and seek daily opportunities to love, serve, encourage, teach and "do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). –

DS



What you miss when you miss

The nature of the Lord's church (by definition and by design) is to be an assembling people, who "come together as a church... in one place" (1 Cor. 11:18, 20). Rather than view that merely as a "requirement," children of God ought to share the heart of the hymnist Joseph Swain, who wrote of "How sweet, how heavenly" it is when God's people "delight" in each other's presence.

Some folks miss assembling often, while others don't miss as often. But, can I share with you what you miss when you do miss? You miss warm hugs. You miss gentle handshakes. You miss looking a sister in the eye and seeing her smile. You miss sitting next to someone who loves you because of Jesus. You miss hearing the beautiful singing voices around you, while you blend your singing for them to hear as well. You miss the sense of belonging and family. You miss being an encouragement to others just by your presence. You miss how much it means when you are here. Nothing is as good as or can replace what you miss.

When you miss, oh, how deeply you are missed! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Dianne Halenda	improving after many months of blood clot issues
Tiffany Mayes	awaiting results from thyroid biopsy
Jackie Stout	Gardens Court, rehab for broken leg
Brittany Summerlot	undergoing medical testing

Ongoing Health Issues

Jimmie Banks	dialysis treatments
Judy Carmack	chronic health issues
John Loftis	back pain, weakness
Tiffany Mayes	dialysis treatments
Sherri Richmond	multiple health issues

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Barbara Coe	Linda Coe's mother, issues as Alzheimer's progresses
Tania Llarena	Islay Rodriguez's sister, multiple myeloma cancer
Garry Lyons	Gwen Lyons' brother, recovering from heart surgery

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Kassandra Jones
Gloria Boyd	Leigh Puckett
Josie Dawson	Don Seay
Zula Garrett	Ricky Smedley
Loretta Holaday	Samuel Williams

Remember Our Mission Works

Pacific Islands
Robert & Mary Martin
Wayne & Kristi Parker

Africa
Nnanna Aforji
Tamuka Arunashe

Bahamas
Tavaro & Shameika Hanna

United States
Apologetics Press
Robert C. Lupo
Mauricio & Kayla Yegros

Answering Macedonian Calls
Josh & Cara Blackmer



Church Family *Calendar of Events*

Sunday, January 11

- ♦ **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 12

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

Tuesday, January 13

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

Saturday, January 17

- ♦ **New Members' Banquet** at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Tim or Beth Fry for more details. Please RSVP to the church office (office@pblococ.org).

Saturday, January 24

- ♦ **Ladies' Day hosted by Liberty City** from 8:00 a.m. until noon. See the bulletin board for more details.

Sunday, January 25

- ♦ **Mission Sunday.** 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.

Thursday, January 29

- ♦ **"Digging Deep" Women's Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Misty Hayes or Lisa Metzkes for more details.

Saturday, January 31

- ♦ **Widows & Widowers Gathering** at 4:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See John Hoelzer for more details.

Monday, February 2

- ♦ **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.

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8

- ♦ **Family Seminar with Steve Minor.** The focus will be "Family Strong: Building Homes That Last."

Young Adults

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ

Sunday, January 11

- ♦ **Young Adult Bible Study** at 9:00 a.m. in Adult 3. All young adults are encouraged to join as we continue our study on "Fundamentals of the Faith."

Friday, January 30

- ♦ **Young Adult Game Night** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nicole Freseman. Bring finger foods, desserts, and drinks to share. We will be doing a "Second Chance Gift Exchange." Got a gift that wasn't quite your style? Bring it and give it a second life with someone else! See Ivan Villard for details.

Saturday-Sunday, February 7-8

- ♦ **Family Seminar with Steve Minor.** The focus will be "Family Strong: Building Homes That Last."

Saturday, February 21

- ♦ **Chill & Grill Day hosted by the Young Adults** at 2:00 p.m. on the church property. See Ivan for more details.



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Sunday, January 11

- ♦ **Jr. High & Sr. High Family Devo** after morning worship. Bring a potluck dish to share. See Robert Lupo for more details.

Sunday, January 18

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

Saturday, February 14

- ♦ **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. Jr. High & Sr. High Youth should arrive at 4:00 p.m. Please wear a white button-up shirt and black pants. RSVP to Robert Lupo.

Thursday-Sunday, February 19-22

- ♦ **Challenge Youth Conference for Jr. High & Sr. High Youth** in Pigeon Forge, TN. Cost is \$40 per person. Meet at the church building on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and return late Sunday evening. See Robert Lupo for more details.

“Can I Still Be Saved If I’ve Sinned Deliberately?”

by Wayne Jackson



What does Hebrews 10:26 mean when it says there is no sacrifice for sins if we deliberately sin? Does this mean I cannot be saved if I deliberately sin after becoming a Christian?

The following passage has struck terror into the heart of many a poor soul:

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (Heb. 10:26-27 ESV).

What does it mean? Is anyone who sins “deliberately” beyond hope of salvation?

That hardly can be the case, since the Bible teaches that God is willing to forgive us of all sin (cf. Tit. 2:14; 1 Jn. 1:9), provided we submit to Heaven’s plan for pardon.

The key to this passage is in understanding that the recipients of the letter to the Hebrews were on the brink of **renouncing Jesus** as their Messiah and Savior. They were being tempted to revert to the Mosaic regime in anticipation of some **other Redeemer** yet to come.

Since the supposed other savior-to-be would provide the **real cleansing**, some labored under the illusion that they could thus plunge themselves back into **a life of sin** until the remedy arrived.

A consideration of certain grammatical forms within this text is essential to grasping the significance of the inspired admonition.

The verb “sin” (*hamartanonton*) is a present tense participle, which conveys the concept of a **continuing** and **habitual life** of sin. It suggests a resolute action of abandonment of moral and religious restraint.

This reckless course, it should be noted, is pursued by one who has “received the knowledge of the truth.” The Greek term for “knowledge” is a strong one. The thought might be paraphrased as “[we] **very well knew** the truth.”

Thrusting gospel truth from his mind, the apostate wantonly turns his back on the Savior.

When one embarks upon such a course, while anticipating another **future deliverer** (who does not exist), what hope has he? None!

That this represents a clear example of one who falls from the grace of God is evident from the subsequent context. The transgressor is described as one who has “trodden under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant **wherewith he was sanctified** an unholy [or common] thing” (Heb. 10:29).

This describes those who had been sanctified by Christ’s blood, hence were Christian people (cf. 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26). But now they are close to renouncing their allegiance to the Lord (cf. 2 Pet. 2:2b).

Their looming fate is a “fierceness of fire” that will consume God’s adversaries (Heb. 10:27), a “sorer punishment” than that of mere death (Heb. 10:28-29).

Could they receive pardon if they **turn back** to the Lord? Of course they could, if they but would.

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

Members **Traveling**
this week



Thank You
for worshiping with us

Sunday,
January 4



Family Photos Updated!

Sunday, January 11

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Monday, January 12th

Douglas & Carolina Alvarenga (Ann.)
Addison Collins
Barbara King

Wednesday, January 14th

Silas Balfour
Mary Coombs
Robin Davis
Cindy Nelson

Tuesday, January 13th

Jace Buonadonna

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 11

Singing Dion Hayes
Lord's Supper Dan Jenkins
Singing
Opening Prayer Ivan Villard
Scripture Reading James Green
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Jeff Leslie

Serve at Table:
Casey Crews Michael Menendez
Kirk Crews Islay Rodriguez
Connor Goodale Jim Rogers
Sylvester Jackson Joseph Snyder

Sunday Evening, January 11

Singing Robert Lupo
Opening Prayer Jeff Goodale
Scripture Reading John Patrick
Singing
Lord's Supper Jimmie Banks
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Mike Archer

Serve at Table:
Kameron Heitler John Hoelzer

Audio this week: David Brown
Computer this week: Buzz Nelson
Video this week: Scott Studer

Wednesday Evening, January 14

Singing Freddie Gadson
Invitation Jeff Goodale
Family Prayer John Hoelzer

Our Record

Attendance	Jan 4	Dec Avg
Sun. Bible Study	142	152
Sun. AM Worship	258	249
Sun. PM Worship	107	106
Wed. Bible Study	133	106
Contribution	\$17,649	\$17,145

2026 Weekly Budget: TBA

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

Service Coordinator:
Eugene Williams

Ushers for this week: Kane Campbell & Marty Williams
Safety Team for this week: Vincent 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: **Dan Jenkins** (Preaching at PBL's Homecoming in 2023)

**I will guard my ways,
that I may not sin
with my tongue;**

I will guard my mouth with a muzzle,
so long as the wicked are in my presence.

Psalm 39:1

