

# Announcements and Church News

## Our Sick

Eva Jane was unable to be out with cellulitis; Helen Stingle undergoing post surgery chemo; Gordon Methvin In Palm Gardens Rehab Rm 311; Jane Cuckler for cancer treatment; Sandy Caldwell unable to out from back pain; Steve Sarver for chemo treatment; Judy Cole— In Westchester Gardens Rehab recovering from a mini stroke.

## Prayer requests for family/friends;

Yllka Bejo's friend's grandson/leukemia; Jean Allison's—daughter, Robin/knee injury; Kim Taylor's— relative, Diane/lung cancer; Kay Jessup's great nephew Ethan and niece Abby/health issues; Freeman Cooper's—brother Isaac/health issues; Prayers for cancer- Priscilla Miller's brother; Joyce Feazell's daughter, Amanda was also recently in the hospital for high blood pressure; The George's—cousin, Zelia; Sandy Caldwell's—bro-in-law Larry.

## Remember the Shut-ins

**Manor Care:** Hazel Franck,  
**Bayou Gardens/Nebraska Ave:** Bob Vise  
**At Home:** Jean Allison, Winston & Thresa Sandlin

## Those to Serve Today

**Greeters**  
Max/Vicki Herman  
**Announcement**  
James George  
**Song Leaders**  
Patrick Bonelli/James George  
Wed.—James George

**Readers**  
Jim Follis/Tom George

**Lead Prayer**  
Matthew Kropp/Joe Bonelli

**Serve at Lord's Table**  
Mark Bernhardt/Freeman Cooper  
Tim Adams/Max Herman

## Activities

**Next Ladies Bible Class**— Tuesday, January 15th 2019 at 10:00am in the small building. All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend.

**Thursday Bible Study**—Will resume in January.

**44th Annual Lectureship**— At the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland from January 21st to the 24th. The topic is Do You Understand the Christian's Relationship to the Civil State? Lectureship books are available for \$16.00 and will be broadcast live at fsop.net. For more information flyers are in the foyer.

**Ladies Day**—Sebring Parkway Church of Christ on February 2, 2019. For more information flyers are in the foyer.

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**Communion Preparation**— The 2019 sign up sheet for preparing communion is on the console in the foyer. There are still plenty of months to choose from.

**Bible Reading Schedules**—On the table in the foyer are several different reading schedules.

### The Best Gifts To Give

To a friend...loyalty.  
To an enemy...forgiveness.  
To your boss...service  
To a child...a good example.  
To your father...respect.  
To your mother...devotion.  
To your wedded mate...love and faithfulness.  
To all people...charity.  
To God...your life.

## Birthdays This Week

Pamela Reeves—December 28th



**December 23, 2018**  
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Gospel Broadcasting Network  
http://gbntv.org



Bi-Monthly Publication



TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday watch & hear Phil Sanders - Speaker.



WTIS (1110 kHz) at 7:30 am Sunday hear Jody Apple as speaker.



## Elders

Joe Bonelli  
Charles Broyles  
James George  
Gordon Methvin

## Deacon

Max Herman

## Preacher

Charles Broyles  
Office: (727) 446-4808  
Home: (727) 442-7553

**Sunday Bible Study—9:30**

Charles Broyles  
Isaiah 21—22

**Sunday AM Worship—10:30**

Charles Broyles  
Jesus Is The Reason  
John 1:1-3, 14

**Pew Packers— 5:40pm**

**Sunday PM Worship— 6:00**

Charles Broyles  
Be Good For Goodness Sake  
Micah 6:8

**Ladies Bible Study-Tuesday**  
1/15 at 10:00am—Vicki Herman

**Wed. Bible Study— 7:00pm**  
Charles Broyles

**Thurs. Bible Study—TBA**  
Alleged Contradictions



### From the Preacher's Pen

## UNGRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT

In a couple of days, Christmas morning will once again be upon us. Countless children (of all ages) will awaken with excitement and make their way to the tree to finally open the many gifts left thereunder for them. Anxious parents and others who have patiently planned, purposed, purchased, put together, poured themselves into, and then packaged and placed so many precious expressions of their love and caring beneath the tree, will also be anxiously awaiting the excited expressions of loving gratitude on the surprised faces of those they have so sought to please...

However, in some cases, a cold, harsh, human reality will soon set in, as so many of those gifts of love – systematically planned and sacrificially purchased with only the best of intentions – will be unceremoniously cast aside, thoughtlessly tossed away, or rapidly returned to the store – totally unwanted, unloved, and unappreciated.

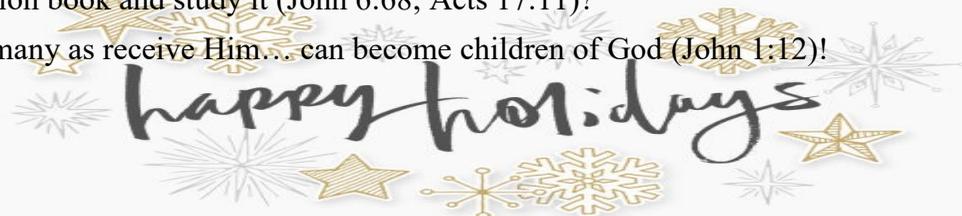
It is one thing to do that with those earthly items that are destined to perish with time (even though sometimes deeply hurting the loving giver in the process). It is quite another thing to do that with the greatest and most infinitely priceless and powerful gift you can ever receive in the entire universe though – hurting and rejecting almighty God and His great love more than you can possibly humanly imagine in the process.

From the Scriptures we understand that God, in His great and eternal love, mercy, and purpose, had a divine plan in place before time began, to give you the greatest of all gifts – eternal life, IN Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 3:8-12; 1 John 5:11-13, 20). Hence, God carefully wrapped His incredible gift in human flesh (John 1:14; Heb. 2:14-17), and gladly allowed His greatest of all gifts, to be placed upon – instead of under – a tree... just for you (Isa. 53:4-10; Acts 2:22-24; Gal. 3:13-14). This great gift of God's love even comes with a perfect, priceless, and divinely-inspired instruction book on how to get the absolute best out of life (Psa. 19:7-11)!

However, one difference is that while today's electronic gifts need to be recharged regularly if they are going to work correctly, when we receive God's gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus, it is WE who must be regularly recharged by being plugged into both the Bible and the Lord's church on a daily basis – lest we run out of power and die as well.

So, what are you doing with God's great and priceless gift to you? Have you received it (Rom. 6:1-5)? Have you exchanged it (1 John 2:15-17)? How often do you open the instruction book and study it (John 6:68; Acts 17:11)?

For as many as receive Him... can become children of God (John 1:12)!



## TIS THE SEASON

Tis the season! Tis the season of gratitude, gift giving, family get-togethers, and the time of the year when more people are probably more open to considering listening to and discussing the gospel message than at any other time of the entire year. Keeping in mind the absolutely essential nature of personal evangelism in the Lord's kingdom, tis definitely the season to take advantage of such abundant opportunities!

### *Tis the season... for questions!*

Now of course as we have known from the gospel accounts and the example of the Master Teacher Himself, "good teachers ask questions." And there are many good and appropriate Bible questions and 'conversation-starters' that we can use to pique people's curiosity, regarding some of those things that are typically tied to this time of year by those who don't know too overly much about the Word of God and what it actually says. (Remember, our job is not to convert anyone, but to get people into the Scriptures and let God and His word convert them. We have the best chance of accomplishing that when we simply ask them nice, basic, non-antagonistic questions that, #1). Get them to wonder about the real biblical facts of the matter and to question their former understandings, and then, #2). Go check it out for themselves in God's holy word.) For example, when pictures, depictions, or discussions come up regarding the "nativity scene," we need to ask those we love, questions like: "How many wise men does the Bible say there were?" or "Did the 'wise men' actually visit the manger where the baby Jesus was born, or the house where He was later on?" Or perhaps we might ask as we sit around one's angel-topped Christmas tree with their family, "Were there actually ever any female angels mentioned anywhere in the scriptures?"

Pique their curiosity. Make them think. Give them things to reconsider which they always just took for granted that they knew. As they discover discrepancies between what they always thought for sure was true and what the God of the Bible actually says, it might just cause them to wonder about what other things they thought were surely in the Scriptures, but yet which never were... things like the 'sinner's prayer for salvation,' instrumental music in New Testament worship, and/or, that man-made denominational churches and doctrines which completely contradict the sacred scriptures are still completely acceptable to God as well; or, said another way, that it doesn't matter that much what one 'believes,' as long as one 'believes.'

Tis the season to get people thinkin'! Tis the season to help people reason! Tis the season, to get'em to: hungerin' and thirstin', and studyin' and searchin' – to questionin' and re-searchin'! Tis the season! And we all know what God said about that, don't we? "Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2NKJV). Now is the time! Tis the season!