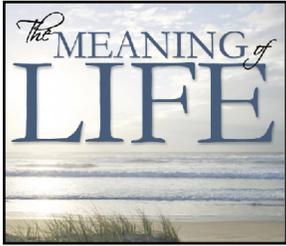


# "The Fault in Our Stars"— We Have the Answers!

Last Thursday, five teenage girls, my wife, and I together saw the movie, "The Fault in Our Stars." It was about teenage cancer patients and the struggles they endure along the way to death. The two main characters met at a cancer support group, fell in love, etc., etc. This article is not a critique of the film (though there were some things we discussed afterward, such as glamorized fornication and the use of foul language). There were two things that set the plot about which I wanted to stand up and shout, "We have the answers!" First, there was a scene in which the terminally ill teenagers discussed whether or not there was an afterlife and what it would be like. One of them said she would like to believe there was, but "Where is the evidence?" The un-get-over-able evidence for an afterlife consisting of either eternal bliss or eternal torment, depending upon our relationship to God is as simple as this: If God exists (and He does), and if the Bible is the inspired word of God (and it is), and if the Bible teaches there is an afterlife consisting of either eternal bliss or eternal torment, depending upon our relationship to God (and it does), then we can KNOW that there is an afterlife consisting of either eternal bliss or eternal torment, depending upon our relationship to God! Many, if not all, people base what they do now on how they view the afterlife. If there is no accounting of our actions to God when this life is over, then there is nothing wrong with sex outside of marriage or using foul language. However, "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has (*continued in bottom left section*)



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## The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

[continued from above] done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Terminal disease is no excuse for sinning—eternity is at stake! Yes, there is an afterlife. Let us live in such a way that heaven will be our home. Second, the inward struggle that plagued one of the main characters was his desire to make a difference and be remembered by everyone versus the reality that he would die being known only among a few friends. He thought his life would have been lived in vain without the fame he desired. However, the answer to that struggle is also simple: a God-approved life is most valuable, whether recognized by others or not. Because of the bodily resurrection at the end of time, a Christian's "labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). With God's recognition, we have all the recognition we need! The answers for which these terminal teenagers longed are found in the true meaning of life as revealed in the God-inspired Scriptures! Let us not be led astray by Hollywood's portrayal of the meaning of life!

♥ Brian



**Sunday, June 21** Our monthly youth devotional and activity will coincide with the corn roast that will kick off our VBS. We will have Gospel singing, a message from God's word, and some games for the young (and older, if they want) people. If for some reason the corn roast falls through, the devotional will be hosted by the Kenyons. Let us plan to enjoy the fellowship with one another in Christ! **June 29 thru July 5** is the "Alan Mullins week" at **Central Florida Bible Camp**. Several from the SFA congregation and other area churches of Christ will be there. This is a great time for our youth to learn God's word and to form life-long friendships with other Christians!

# The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
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## ELDERS

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Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

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Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

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## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.  
Worship.....10:30a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald.....Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

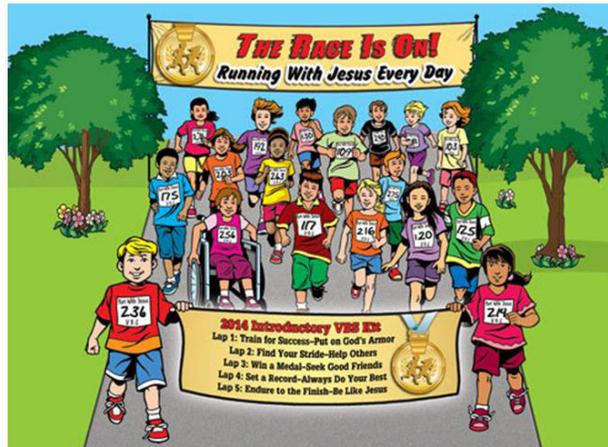
## EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

## WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com  
www.sfacc.net

# You're Invited!



**JOIN US FOR VBS! June 22-26, 2014**

South Florida Ave. church of Christ  
1807 S. Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
863-682-4702

Sunday 6:00-7:00pm

Monday-Thursday 7:00-8:30pm

### Adult Bible Class Teachers Include:

Robert Williams (Sunday)  
Eric Dawkins (Monday and Tuesday)  
Bob Bauer (Wednesday)  
Mike Elledge (Thursday)

### Children's Bible Classes Include:

Cradle Roll  
Pre-School  
K-12  
\*Chad Tagtow will be teaching all teenage classes

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!**

# The Beautiful Bride of Christ

*Tami Cobble Brown*

What is more beautiful than a wedding? The soft glow of candlelight, colorful flowers and romantic music are just the prelude to a lovely ceremony that joins a man and woman as husband and wife. What a fitting word picture God gives us when he describes Christ's church as a beautiful bride.

John gives us a glimpse of the vision that he saw in Revelation 21:2: "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." We learn from Hebrews 12:22-23 that this holy city of Jerusalem is the "the general assembly and church of the firstborn." So, in what ways is the church like a beautiful bride?

**First, the bride has to prepare herself for her husband.** John also wrote in Revelation 19:7-8, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

At a wedding, all eyes are on the bride as she gracefully marches down the aisle in her beautiful and carefully selected wedding gown. Can you imagine going to a formal wedding where the bride comes down the aisle in torn blue jeans and a sweatshirt? That would be totally unacceptable! Equally unacceptable in God's eyes is a member of his church who is not clothed with the spiritual garments that John calls "the righteous acts of the saints." Isaiah put it this way: "My soul shall be joyful in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments and as a bride adorns herself with jewels" (Isaiah 61:10). People are watching us, so we must show by our conduct and conversation that we are always ready to meet the Bridegroom.

**Second, the bride is dearly loved by the bridegroom.** Paul made the comparison of Christ and the church to a husband and wife in Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it." In verse 33, Paul also gave a command to the wife to respect her husband. A wife who realizes she is truly loved by her husband will have no trouble respecting him and submitting to his authority. Since Christ loved us so much that he willingly suffered and died for our salvation, we as the bride of Christ should respond to such great love with gratitude and submission to Christ.

**Third, the bride should be faithful to her husband.** Many times in the Old Testament, God describes his people, the nation of Israel, as a wife who has committed adultery. The 16th chapter of Ezekiel gives some pretty graphic descriptions of Israel "playing the harlot" with other nations and other gods. In Jeremiah 2:32, God lamented, "Can a virgin forget her ornaments or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten Me days without number."

Adultery is the ultimate betrayal. How it must hurt God when we turn from him to engage in some worldly pleasure. As the bride of Christ, we must be faithful to him, not just on Sunday, but every day. Commitment to Christ is not a weekly talk, but a daily walk.

**Last of all, the bride can anticipate a great wedding feast.** An important part of any wedding is the reception. That's when everyone can enjoy the festivities and celebrate the union of the bride and groom. The Bible describes a great wedding feast in Revelation 19:9. "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Jesus gave his invitation in Revelation 22:17: "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." What a wonderful wedding feast in heaven that will be, and it will last for all eternity. The good news is that we are all invited. It is a marriage made in heaven, and I'm sure the bride will be radiant!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Sam Bolding is now at Emeritus at Oakbridge, rm 136, 3110 Oakbridge E. Lakeland, FL 33803.  
Also: Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, & Lewis Tillis.

**Shut In Members:** Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

**Others:** Vera Jackson, Marilyn Eick, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

## Upcoming Events

**June 21st:** - The Men's Breakfast will be held at Orange Street in Auburndale at 8:00 am.

**June 21st:** - Corn Roast here at So. Fla. Ave. at 5:00 pm. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

**June 21st:** - Monthly devotion & activity will be hosted by Brian & Jagie Kenyon.

**June 22nd-26th:** - Our Vacation Bible School. There will be classes for children and adults.

## Visitors

Rex Cox, Jane Jessee, Nancy Jacobs, Chris Lester, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Long, Linda Pennington, Elizabeth Sisk, Corrine Titus.

## Placed Membership

Our hearts were glad last Sunday when Deborah Leonard placed membership with us. Please get to know, and welcome Deborah into our church family. Her address will be added to our directory.

## Congratulations

To Garrett & Megan Sheumaker who were married May 16th in Little Rock AR. Garrett is the son of Becky and Dr. Bobby Sheumaker. They will reside in Little Rock.

Also to Ron & Kristen Cox who were married June 3rd in Bartow Florida. They reside in Lakeland.

**NOTE: We need a Canopy type shade protector for the grass area for the Corn Roast. Please bring one if you can.**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
Jimmy Sweeney..... **Assist**..... David Williams

### June 15, 2014

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer**..... Charles Paulin

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Josh Estridge  
**Greeters** ..... The Williams Family  
**Att. Cards**..... Sebastian Rapley & Quadarius Askew  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Tim Croson

### Wed. June 18, 2014

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Tyler Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Phil Fife

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231*

### Sunday, June 22, 2014

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer**..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Sanford  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... C. J. Grimes  
**Greeters** ..... Frank & Ginny Hamby  
**Att. Cards**..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Tim Croson

### Wed. June 25, 2014

**Song Leader** ..... Antonio Martin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

May 18 .....	\$4,219.01
May 25 .....	\$4,122.00
Jun 01 .....	\$4,867.95
Jun 08, .....	\$5,711.47
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$4,512.55</b>
<b>2014 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,256.38</b>

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

**"Important Basics"**

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

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