

Thanks to all who came to our fellowship meal and congregational meeting last Sunday! We appreciate your interest in our education and youth programs. We all have the same goal in mind for the South Florida Avenue church of Christ. We probably have different ways of expressing it. At the moment, I would express it like this: Being a Scripturally sound congregation, where each member is attractively enthusiastic about living God's way! Paul said that through "speaking the truth in love,"

Together ...



... We Can

we "may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:15-16). All of that simply means the church must grow from "the inside out." Truth spoken in love is the only thing that results in true growth. Our youth (and adults) must recognize that Christ is the head of the church, and that He is the one in whom we must grow in "all things" (cf. Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18). The church, or body of Christ, is to be an extension of its Head. The

terms "joined ... knit together ... every joint ... every part" all emphasize the reliance that each of us must have on Christ and one another in the truth if we are to grow as a church. We're off to a good start! Let us continue to cooperate in the truth with one another, not just in our education and youth programs, but in all areas of this congregation's service! ❤️ *Brian Kenyon*



South Florida Avenue
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 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

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



Saturday, September 14 --- There will be a youth devotional and fellowship at the home of David and Nikki Williams. If you need directions, see Brian (or the Williams'). Kyle Smith, FSOP student and teen class speaker at last summer's VBS, will be the speaker. Future dates, Lord willing, of our youth devotionals are **October 19** and **November 16**. If you would like to host one of these youth devotionals, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have suggestions, please see Brian or Jason.

Sunday, October 6 --- There will be a "Fellowship in Service" following evening worship services. Please join us as we will write cards to members and those connected with our congregation in special need of encouragement. Bring finger foods and enjoy this time of fellowship as we serve the Lord! Also mark your calendar for future dates, Lord willing, **November 3**, **December 1**, and **January 5, 2014!** If you would like to host/coordinate one of these, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thanks!

We appreciate the adults so far who have volunteered to help with our young people in the L2L program. We are in the process of "fine tuning" our coordination of young people, mentors, events, and schedules. We are planning to meet (at the very least) each second Sunday of the month, though there may be more meetings in between. We look forward to a great L2L year and wonderful time of learning the Book of Acts!



The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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THE SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
1807 S. FLORIDA AVENUE, LAKELAND, FL 33803

Basic Bible Knowledge Class

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
David Williams
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Robert McAnally
(863) 682-3600

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

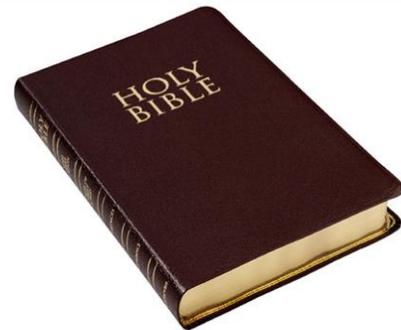
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Fall 2013 Class Schedule

- **September 11, 2013** (Week #1)
Topic: How To Read Your Bible
- **September 18, 2013** (Week #2)
Topic: What Is Biblical Authority?
- **September 25, 2013** (Week #3)
Topic: What Was The Old Testament Law?
- **October 16, 2013** (Week #4)
Topic: What Is The New Testament Law?
- **October 23, 2013** (Week #5)
Topic: What The Bible Says About The New Testament Church
- **October 30, 2013** (Week #6)
Topic: Why Are There So Many Churches?
- **November 13, 2013** (Week #7)
Topic: How Do I Become A Member of The Lord's Church
- **November 20, 2013** (Week #8)
Topic: Am I Right In The Sight of God?



All Classes Will Be Held In Our Fellowship Hall and Will Start At 7:00pm



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ invites you to an 8-week basic Bible knowledge series of lessons. This class is designed to meet the needs of anyone who:

- ◆ Is not familiar with the Bible
- ◆ Wants to know more about The New Testament Church
- ◆ Is seeking the truth about Christianity
- ◆ Is unsure about what church is right for him or her
- ◆ Is feeling like he/she should be worshipping God, but isn't
- ◆ Wants to do something good for himself/herself
- ◆ Is feeling like something isn't right with or is missing from the doctrine that is being delivered at his/her denomination
- ◆ Wants to be a part of a church, but doesn't know which one is the right one to attend

The great thing about this class is that it is simple to understand, sound doctrine and no one will be put down or criticized for having a lack of knowledge, because our whole goal is to build knowledge in understanding God's word and the truth that is found within it. Please don't miss this opportunity to help build your basic Bible knowledge.

Phone #: (863) 682-4702 www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

The Secret of Human Happiness

Alan E. Highers

Every human being desires to be happy and at peace. Men abhor misery, suffering, unpleasantness and unhappiness. It was this sentiment that caused Ella Wheeler Wilcox to write:

Laugh and the world laughs with you;
Weep and you weep alone.
For the sad old earth
Must borrow its mirth;
But has trouble enough of its own.

Not only does man long for happiness, but God intended that his creatures should be happy. It is safe to say that the pursuits and endeavors of men through the ages have been in quest of true and lasting happiness, but frequently to no avail. This is not due to the failure of God who has done his part, but the failure of men to do theirs. This human failure is twofold, to recognize that happiness is of two kinds and to seek for genuine happiness where it may be found.

The kind of happiness for which most men seek is purely animalistic pleasure. It consists in eating, drinking, sleeping, lusting and conquering -- the same kind of happiness that an animal might seek and find. A Gospel preacher during a meeting heard two couples in the hotel room next to his drinking, fighting, arguing, laughing and cursing throughout the night. The next day he heard them exclaim in voices of jubilation, "Didn't we have a wonderful time last night!" They had a pale, pathetic idea of happiness, a cheap imitation, a fading fancy, fitting well into the statement of Paul, "But she that giveth herself to pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Timothy 5:6).

Because men all too often are seeking the wrong kind of happiness, with mere momentary pleasure, they conduct their search in the wrong place. They hope through the allurements of the world, through drunkenness, gambling, debauchery and degradation to achieve peace and satisfaction. Ah, how shallow! We all need to remember:

This world can never give
The bliss for which we sigh;
'Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

It is little known among people generally that there is one Bible book given over entirely to a discussion of human happiness, and that the writer was one who had access to all the world could offer for happiness. The name of the book is Ecclesiastes and the author was Solomon. In this book, he gives the world the benefit of his own experiences in the assiduous search for real happiness.

Solomon possessed that, materially, for which most men sigh. If the world and its wealth could make a person

happy, surely Solomon would have been a happy man! Of him the Bible says: "So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom" (1 Kings 10:23). But in Ecclesiastes he gave this comment: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance, with increase: this also is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Like many of our own generation, Solomon also sought happiness in pleasure. Said he, "I searched in my heart how to cheer my flesh with wine." By his own experience, then, he was able to say: "I said in my heart, Come now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure; and, behold, this also was vanity" (Ecclesiastes 2:1-3).

Known for his wisdom, power and prestige, Solomon would be envied by many a modern man whose heart would say: "Were I in his position, then I would be happy." Solomon himself, however, remarked as follows: "And I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also was a striving after the wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:17).

It is interesting to note that Solomon possessed the very things that most people of our day are striving to obtain. They seem to feel that if they can secure more material gain, more learning, prestige and power, and indulge in more learning, prestige, that happiness will be the inevitable result. The message of Solomon to us is that he had these things, and they did not bring happiness! That is why they are called "vanity" (emptiness) and "a striving after the wind" (a fruitless search).

In the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, Solomon reaches the grand climax of all his experiences. He gives "the end of the matter" in one of the most sublime and majestic passages of the Bible, with *multum in parvo*, when he states: "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). It will be noted that the word duty is in italics in the text, indicating that it was supplied by the translators. The sense, literally, is therefore: "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole of man." This is all there is to man; this is the full purpose of man's existence from the time of Adam until now!

True happiness, therefore, is not to be found in riches, pleasure, power or whatever the world might have to offer. Sadly enough, this is where many people (even within the church) are seeking to find it.

Is this preoccupation with worldly affairs not the main influence that saps the spiritual strength out of the church of the Lord and renders it an impotent force in the eyes of the world? Peace, perfect peace, is found only in living for Christ, only in doing God's will, only by placing the kingdom of God first in our hearts.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Dick & Joyce Burbage, JoAnn Hoback. Sam Bolding, Faith West, Ann Howard, Louise Starks, Jacquelin Dopwell, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Louis Tillis, Jane Kirkland, Jo Chancey, & Annie Coone.

Shut In Members: Artis Bassett, Mary Shoemake.

Others: Steve Roberts, Gene & Irma Dampier, Bonnie Hendrick, Christina Feussner, Kathy Peel & Danny Edmonds.

Upcoming Events

Sept 14th - Youth Devotional at 6:00 pm. See back page.

Sept. 21st - Men's Breakfast at South Florida Avenue at 8:00am.

Sept. 21st - Ninth Annual One Day Lectureship at So. Seminole Church of Christ. Registration at 9:00 am.

Oct. 4th-6th - Gospel Meeting at Osprey Avenue Church of Christ. See bulletin board for information.

Oct. 6th -9th - Gospel Meeting here at South Florida Florida Avenue. Jimmy Clark will be the speaker.

Visitors

Bill Cline, Ronald Cox, Larry Exum, Wanda & Amy Powell, Mr. & Mrs. Sean Rennells & sons, Peggy Richardson.

Congratulations

To Darlene Thompson on the birth of a grandson, Alexander Matthew Palermo born August 28th, weighing 8 lbs, 3 oz. Parents are Carol and Marc Palermo.

Sympathy

To Darlene Thompson at the passing of her son-in-law, Jimmy Mathis, after a battle with cancer on September 6th. Burial took place September 9th in Moultrie, Georgia.

Thank You Card

I appreciate all the cards and well wishes I received before, and after my surgery. I hope to be back in church soon. God bless you all.

JoAnn Hoback

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

"The Last Minute"

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** Jim Turner
Fred Rapley **Assist** Kyle Williams

Sunday, September 15, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Brian Kenyon

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C. J. Grimes
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters The Anderson Family
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Sebastian Rapley
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. Sept. 18, 2013

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer Jim Turner
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Jason Hendrix, so he can get a replacement - 537-0857

September 22, 2013

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer C. J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Frank Hamby
Greeters Frank & Ginny Hamby
Att. Cards Sebastian Rapley & Antonio Martin
Open & Close Building Phil Fife

Wed. September 25, 2013

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Aug 18 \$4,978.91
Aug 25 \$3,687.24
Sep 04 \$4,586.14
Sep 08 \$3,120.77
Contribution Average \$4,143.83
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13