

# The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**  
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 69 No.01 01-03-17

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

Robert McAnally  
(863) 606-5664

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

## MISSION FIELDS

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

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Making Things New In The New Year

Hiram Kemp

The new year has already begun. Resolutions are in full swing, and Christmas decorations are being pulled down. Let's face it, we all like new things. A new car gives off a smell that we enjoy. Children love their new shoes and new toys and will not put them down when they receive them for the first time. A fresh start means that the past can be forever forgotten, and we can plunge ahead. The possibilities for success and promise that a new year brings are part of the reason so many people are excited around this time of the year. However, as Christians we must be careful that we do not fall into the trap of the world concerning this (Rom. 12:1-2). The world believes that the new year means they can start over and start fresh, but this is not the case. While the calendar has turned a new day, people without Jesus are still in their sins. Regardless of how many resolutions are met and goals attained, those who have not rendered obedience to the gospel are still awaiting eternal destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

The truth is, God is the one who makes things new. His mercies are described as new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). God promised to make a new covenant which would be written on the hearts of men (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12). God destroyed the hostility between Jew and Gentile so that he could make one new man (Eph. 2:14-15). Those who become Christians are called new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). The newness and freshness craved by so many soon fades as life becomes mundane and routine's return. God is the one who never changes and yet he can make lasting change in our lives if we cooperate with his will (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8). No matter what the day reads on the calendar, people who trust in Jesus are redeemed and have a fresh start with God (Jn. 3:3-5).

The Christian has something to look forward to in the new year. For the Christian, there will be three hundred sixty-five days to grow closer to God (Jas. 4:8). The Christian looks on the days to come with optimism, not because we know what the future holds, but because we know when the future does arrive, God our Father will be there (Rom. 8:28-32). Christians realize that God is the one with the power to make things new, and one day he will do this in grand fashion. The world as we know it will be destroyed, and Christians will dwell in heaven with God for eternity in what Peter calls the new heavens and new earth (2 Pet. 3:9-13). I pray that this be a year of growth and fruitfulness for South Florida Avenue. May we continue to be the light in Lakeland and point people to the God who can save them. We are called to put on the new man which is renewed in righteousness. In this new year, let us be those who show the distinction of who we are based on the lives we live (Eph. 4:24).

**Special Monday Forum on Youth Topics! Take Advantage of MLK, Jr. Day!**



F. Antemesaris



Stephen Atnip



Bob Bauer



George F. Beals



Brownlow-Dindy



Charles Broyles



Daniel F. Cates



Jimmy Clark



Thomas Wise



Trent Wheeler



David Stearsman



Daniel Stearsman



Bryon R. Schulz



Ty Rhymes



Walt Person



Melvin Otey



Hiram Kemp



Sam Jones



Sam Hester



David Hester



Nathan Franson

# Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 ♦ (800) 320-9780

## Do You Understand The Biblical View of End Times?

42nd Annual Lectureship **Jan. 16-19, 2017** Brian R. Kenyon, Director

### MONDAY

9:00 "First Century Times" or "End Times"? Brian R. Kenyon  
 9:40 "End Times" Preaching in Acts Daniel Stearsman  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 Intertestamental Expectations David Dixon  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Living for the "Then," Not the "Now"

1:30 Your Life Matters Now and Forever Ty Rhymes  
 2:00 Esau: Living for "Now" (Heb. 12:16) Forest Antemesaris  
 2:30 Moses: Living for "Then" (Heb. 11:26) Hiram Kemp  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Parable of the Virgins Thomas Wise  
 7:45 Jesus' Authority to Judge Sam Jones

### TUESDAY

9:00 "End Times" Teaching in Mt. 24 T. Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.  
 9:40 Daniel's "Seventy Weeks" Emmanuel B. Daugherty  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 "End Times" in the Book of Hebrews Stephen Atnip  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: Which "End" Is What?

1:30 Is the "Shortened Time" (1 Cor. 7:29) the End? E. Edwards  
 2:00 When Does the OT End and the NT Begin? George Beals  
 2:30 Knowing the "AD 70 Doctrine" David Hester  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Parable of the Talents Bryon R. Schulz  
 7:45 Judgment Scene in Revelation 20:11-15 Jimmy Clark

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 "End Times" Teaching in Luke 21:5-36 Bruce Daugherty  
 9:40 Daniel's Final Revelations Emmanuel B. Daugherty  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 "End Times" in Second Thessalonians Jimmy Clark  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: "End Times" Fables of False Religion

1:30 Islam Trent Wheeler  
 2:00 Mormonism Nathan Franson  
 2:30 Jehovah's Witness Charles Broyles  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Parable of the Dragnet David Stearsman  
 7:45 In View of What Is to Come Bill Davis

### THURSDAY

9:00 "End Times" Teaching in First Corinthians Earl Edwards  
 9:40 Premillennialism and Its Variations Walt Person  
 10:20 BREAK  
 10:50 The Living and the Dead at His Coming Melvin Otey  
 11:30 LUNCH

#### Forum: End Times and the Book of Revelation

1:30 Political Leaders, "Mark of the Beast," Etc. Bob Bauer  
 2:00 The 1,000 Year Reign and Premillennialism Daniel Cates  
 2:30 The Holy City John Saw Coming Down Sam Hester  
 3:00 BREAK  
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
 4:30 DINNER  
 6:30 Congregational Singing  
 7:00 Parable of the Tares Hiram Kemp  
 7:45 Being Children of the Day Melvin L. Otey

**Do You Understand  
The Biblical View of End Times? ..... \$16**

A CD containing all our lectureship books plus other FSOP works will be ready in January for \$35

**Watch the Lectureship Live on [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net)**



### Previous Lectureship Books Still Available:

Do You Understand Sin ('16)  
 Do You Understand Jesus' Sermon on the Mount ('15)  
 Do You Understand Truth ('14)  
 Do You Understand Biblical Morality ('13)  
 Do You Understand the Local Church? ('12)  
 Do You Understand the Biblical Value of Women? ('11)  
 Do You Understand Expediency? ('10)

**Each Is Just \$16.00 + postage**

**Early Lectureship Specials: entire set of 17 available books \$100 or buy any 3 books and get a 4th free!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Elizabeth Tubbs is home from the hospital. She is now on medication for pressure on her brain and spinal cord. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Joe Dopwell, JoAnne Mitchell, Kenny French, Genifer Johnson, JoAnn Hoback, Carol Eason, Melody Baxter, Dorothy Trice and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Blanche Dopwell, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis, (Tim Crososon's brother in law) and Dayne Romine.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

**Others:** Joyce Stearsman and Chrissi Fuesner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday January 14th:** Ladie's Day at the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. Let the office know if you will be attending.

**Friday January 20th:** Memorial for Jackie Stearsman at the Orange Street Church of Christ in Auburndale at 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday Jan 24th:** Spring Ladies Class at F.S.O.P. starts again at 7:00 p.m. Further dates for each month will be on the slides.

## Thank You

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I am so blessed to belong to a family of Christians at the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ. I miss you all alot when my health issues keep me away. Please keep remembering me and my son Keijuan Callway in prayer. I can't thank you enough for the blessings and love you have shown to us.

Love you all, Sharon Mathis Washington

## Response

Cheryl Barker was baptized into Christ following the morning service on 1/1/17. Let us please welcome her into our family and keep on encouraging her.



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's evangelize

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### January

Kenny French ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland  
Jim Turner ..... **Assist** ..... Bobby Simpson

### Sunday, January 8, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Prayer** ..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Williams  
**Att. Cards** ..... Paul & Sebastian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Jason Hendrix

### Wed. January 11, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Williams  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005*

### Sunday, January 15, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer** ..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Shuemaker  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... John McShane

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Fifes  
**Att. Cards** ..... Antonio & Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Jason Hendrix

### Wed. January 18, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Phil Fife  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec. 11	.....	\$4,380.00
Dec. 18	.....	\$4,170.00
Dec. 25	.....	\$5,822.73
Jan. 01	.....	\$5,697.85
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....		<b>\$5,697.85</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....		<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# How Much Are We Willing to Sacrifice?

The thought recently occurred to me while driving late at night, "Are so-called 'Christians' so shallow that they cannot sacrifice their normal Christmas or New Year's Day traditions once every six or so years when those days happen to fall on a Sunday?" That is, are people so set on holding "family traditions" that they are willing to deregulate God to "the back burner" in order to ritualistically open their presents, fix the same special breakfast, wear their pajamas until a certain time of day, etc. as they always have? Yes, we have certain, heart-warming ways of spending Christmas and New Year's Day, but what's wrong with sacrificing those traditions every six or so years for God instead of sacrificing God for those traditions? Why not start special "Christmas-or-New-Years-Day-on-Sunday" traditions that clearly put God first? Jesus once answered some scribes and Pharisees who asked Him about breaking their traditions, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?" (Matthew 15:1-3). A "tradition" is simply something that is "passed down." It can be good if it is from God (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6) or if it helps us carry out God's



will (such as song books or PowerPoint slides). However, when traditions cause us to transgress God's law or lead us and others away from Christ, they become sinful. Jesus later said about those same people, "And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). Worship is rendered vain when our traditions push God out! May all who claim to be Christians be willing to sacrifice family traditions when they conflict with God's will! ❤️ Brian



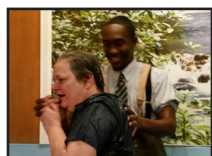
*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 1807 South Florida Avenue  
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Lakeland, FL  
 Permit No. 254

Return Service Requested



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



## Reason to Rejoice!

Cheryl Barker was baptized into Christ following services on Sunday morning, January 1, 2017. We thank God for providing salvation through the blood of Christ and giving us the Gospel!

We are planning again for a YES II mission trip to Penonome, Panama, July 1-9, 2017. If you want to go, please see Brian ASAP. If you would like to contribute funds, please see one of our elders. Please pray for us!



## "Because the Other Church Was Closed"

On Sunday, January 1, 2017, we had a visitor who said she felt compelled to "go to church" since New Year's Day fell on a Sunday, and the denomination she intended to visit was closed due to the holiday. We were the first church she saw "opened for business." We do not know what the future holds for this dear lady. Pray for her. One thing we do know is that if we would have followed the world's (and some brethren's) lead in deregulating God, she probably would never have visited us. We also know she heard the truth. As per every Sunday, Hiram's lesson was Biblical, easy to follow, and encouraging. Our visitor said she would come back. Again, pray for her. We thank our elders for not canceling church services!