

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

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

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

Looking In The Mirror

Alan Smith

Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking, "Surely I can't look that old?" I love this story below that has been widely circulated:

I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 37 years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then?

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. Hmmm, or could he?

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park High School.

"Yes. Yes, I did. I'm a Mustang," he gleamed with pride.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1967. Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, wrinkled old man asked, "What did you teach?"

It's so easy, isn't it, to see the faults in someone else? We see their wrinkles. We see their gray hair. Even more than that, we see all the "specks" in their eyes (Matthew 7:3). However, we are not so quick to notice those flaws in ourselves.

When I was young, I was determined to change the world and make it a better place. As I grew older, I realized that was an unrealistic goal and re-committed myself to changing the people around me. I've gotten a little bit older (and grayer). I still want to try to influence people around me, but I have learned that, ultimately, the only person I can change is me, and there is plenty that still needs to be changed.

James compares reading the Word of God with looking in a mirror:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22-25)

May we truly view the Word of God, not as a microscope to examine the lives of others, but as a mirror to search into our own hearts and lives.

LOSING THE SAVED

Raymond Elliott

The responsibility of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and pleading with sinners to obey this call belongs to the church of our Lord (Mark 16:15; 1 Timothy 3:15). We are to be persistent in our efforts in leading others to Christ. The body of the Lord is to continue this great work that our Savior began while he lived on this earth (Luke 19:10). We should never grow weary in this tremendous challenge.

However, there is also a need to recapture the saved that have become lost. That is indeed strange, but it is a perpetual problem that plagues and perplexes the spiritually strong members of any congregation. Interested Christians spend a great deal of time and effort in bringing a lost soul to Christ, and at the same time become disturbed when they witness the losing of the saved. In other words, we win a few and lose a few.

If we could retain all those who have been baptized into Christ, our church buildings would be filled to capacity. Elders, deacons, preachers, teachers and all faithful Christians become frustrated with the loss of members and often ask, "Who is to blame?" While there may be the case in which many are to blame if the proper care has not been shown to the erring, the Lord Himself dealt with this serious problem in the parable He gave regarding the sower who went forth to sow the seed (Luke 8:4-15). The seed (word) was not different as it fell into the various soils (hearts). The difference was in the soils (hearts). Many members, having no real depth in Christ, fall to the various temptations of Satan. Others permit the various cares and pleasures of this world to lure them away from maturing in spiritual matters. They find no time to meditate on God's infinite grace and love, to pray, study the Bible, attend the periods of worship and visit the sick or to teach the sinner of the love of God.

How many Christians have wept silently as they have seen souls won by Satan in spite of the manifested interest, love and concern on the part of the spiritual members of the church? How discouraging it is to know that the devil has captured the heart of an unfaithful member of the church. Our wayward brothers and sisters should observe the warning in Hebrews 6:4-6, knowing that they are crucifying to themselves the Son of God afresh and putting Him to an open shame. Those who have wandered away from God as did the prodigal son in Luke 15 should come to their senses, realize their lost condition, repent of their sins and pray to God for the forgiveness of their trespasses (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8-10).

Now, having said all of that, we are not released from our responsibility of making every effort to bring the wayward brother or sister back to Jesus Christ. In Galatians 6:1, the apostle Paul instructed in this manner: "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you, who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." This is not an option, but Paul made it obligatory on the part of faithful brethren to reach out to the weak and erring brothers and sisters to encourage them to repent of their unfaithfulness. If this is done and the wayward child of God is rescued, a soul will be saved "from death and a multitude of sins will be covered" (James 5:19-20). The sentiment expressed in the preceding paragraph is captured in the old hymn that was written by Edward S. Ufford in 1886.

Throw out the Lifeline across the dark wave;
There is a brother whom
Someone should save; Somebody's brother!
O who then will dare to
Throw out the Lifeline, his peril to share
Throw out the Lifeline! Throw out the Lifeline!
Someone is drifting away:
Throw out the Lifeline! Throw out the Lifeline!
Someone is sinking today.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Kathy Strickland was admitted into the hospital for testing. The test results were negative and she is home and doing better. Fred Strickland was home sick. Also keep in our prayers: Jacqueline Dopwell, Faith West, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone, Rosalind Coleman & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Jimmy Puckett, & Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage.

Others: Jeanne Frye, Janie & Sandy Given, Bill Carroll Robie DeWitt, Chrissy Fuessner and Annie Beth Coone.

Upcoming Events

March 7th: -Ladies Brunch here at South Florida Ave. at 9:00 a.m. The sign up sheet for food is on the bulletin board.

March 6-7th: -Men's Retreat at Central Florida Bible Camp. See the bulletin board for more info.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for the prayers and phone calls during my recent hospital stay.

Love, Kathy Strickland

Thank you for all the calls, cards, and visits during my illness. I appreciate all the Christian friends. I am still having problems with my medications.

In Christian love, Evelyn Wyatt

Congratulations

Brian & Jagie Kenyon are proud grandparents again. Avery Grace was born to Will and Autumn Vann on Feb 11th weighing 8lbs and 21 inches long.

Visitors

Amy Powell, Darnell & Jane Kirkland, Dorothy Webb, Kimberlea, Shelby, Meagan Cox, John Osborn, Ron & Mary Weisenstine, Alicia Smith, Arsenio and Letraile Woodward.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

C.J. Grimes..... **Table** John McShane
Antonio Martin..... **Assist** Phil Fife

Sunday February 22, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Sam Crow

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle
Greeters The Longfellows
Att. Cards..... Antonio & Quadarius
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

February 25, 2015

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Jason Hendrix
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

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

Sunday, March 1, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... Sam Crow

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Sam Crow
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley
Greeters The Andersons
Att. Cards..... Ian & Paul
Open & Close Building Fred Strickland

Wed. March 4, 2015

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer Steve Hunley

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan 25	\$4,200.50
Feb 1	\$5,400.50
Feb 8	\$5,307.85
Feb 15	\$4,593.50
Contribution Average	\$4,623.03
2015 Weekly Budget	\$4,302.98

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

Message this Week

“Trying to Destroy the Bible”

WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



Is the Ink *Invisible* or **Indelible**?

I once knew a “preacher’s kid” who, from his youngest memories, dreamed of being in the Special Forces of a particular branch of the United States military. When he was 16 or 17, his parents signed-off on getting him a tattoo. It was a brightly colored heart with “Mom” in the middle. Innocent enough, right? However, a short time later when he went to the recruiter’s office to sign up, he learned the military would not let him join because of the tattoo. His dreams were shattered. What the young man thought would be unnoticeable turned out to be so noticeable that it kept him from fulfilling his dream. People get tattoos for a number of different reasons. One source gave the following reasons for body piercings that also apply to tattoos: (1) a fashion statement; (2) to memorialize an important event in life; (3) a “symbolic reclamation of ‘self’” after a traumatic or painful event; (4) “as a method to break away from family expectations” (i.e., rebellion); (5) to draw attention away from self-perceived physical flaws; and (6) to “seek social cohesiveness” (i.e., fit in with the crowd) (Kym A. Halliday, “Body Piercing: Issues and Challenges for Nurses.” <<http://www.medscape.com/view-article/508549>>). While there is much that could be discussed about tattoos, one thing is clear, it does affect a person’s influence. It is not just “strict” parents that “say” it affects influence, but the world in which we live also bears witness! Jesus said, “You are the salt of the (continued below)



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1 Bible Bowl team members will meet in the fellowship room at 4:00 p.m. No matter how well we did on the test, there is always room for improvement!

Sunday, March 8 Will be our L2L Sunday. Our young people and those who work with them will meet at 2:00 to continue working on their projects and events. We love you!



YES Weekend 2015

February 20-22, 2015

The focus this year is centered on the **Emotional SCARS** we carry and how God, through Faith, provides us Hope!

If you would like to attend, see Brian. Let's have a big group go!

(continued from above) earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ... You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden” (Mt. 5:13-14). Let us realize our outward appearance effects the way people view us. Do they see Christ in us or do they see no difference between us and the world? The ink we may think is invisible can be an indelible impression of worldliness to the impression of those we are trying to reach with the Gospel. Let us inwardly and outwardly dress our bodies for God’s service! ❤️ Brian



Pray for our young people who are planning a mission trip to Costa Rica. If you would like to help financially by giving beyond your “first day of the week” contribution, please see the elders.