

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. 70 No. 010 03-07-17

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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.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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



South Florida Avenue Members

We have a tremendous opportunity to better prepare ourselves to be the influential congregation God wants us to be! Let us make every effort to attend:

Sunday, March 12 from 1:00-4:00 pm

Have we ever thought about teaching a Bible class but were afraid we were not equipped? This seminar will properly equip us! The Lord wants us all to help!

Teaching Rocket is a teachers' training seminar for the local church designed to educate, equip, and empower Bible class teachers of all ages. It has been said, "As the Bible Class goes, so goes the church." Whether it's doctrinal instruction, everyday life skills, or interpersonal connection and fellowship, a vibrant education program is vital to a vibrant church. Yet most churches provide little or no training for their teachers. This seminar provides the following training:

Session 1 The Goals of an Education Program. What exactly are we seeking to accomplish when we come together to study the Bible? This session explores the goals of a successful Bible class program—they might not be what you think!

Session 2 Preparing & Delivering a Lesson. This session explores a step-by-step process of developing a lesson and tips for delivering the lesson in a classroom setting.

Session 3 Keys to Better Bible Study. Knowing how to study the Bible properly is essential to being a dynamic Bible teacher. This section discusses six Bible study habits that are guaranteed to generate material for your lesson.

Session 4 Classroom Dynamics. How does a teacher connect with students on an emotional and spiritual level? How can I come up with great discussion questions that reinforce the lesson? How do I handle the person who seems to always dominate the conversation? This session answers those questions and more.

Session 5 The Teacher's Spiritual Life. It's important that teachers keep themselves spiritually fit in order to maximize their effectiveness over the long haul. Focusing on James 3:1, this session discusses the steps necessary for a teacher to maintain his or her spiritual integrity instead of falling victim to Satan's schemes.



Michael Whitworth

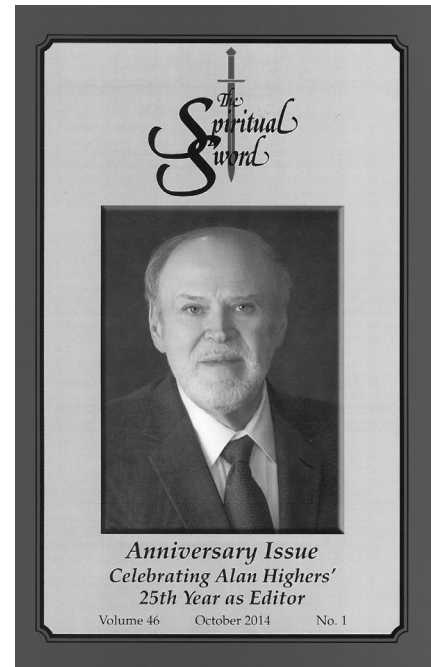
Save the
Date **March 26-29**

Gospel Meeting

with **Alan Highers**

Preacher, Debater, Writer, Lawyer, Judge, and Editor

We are privileged and blessed to have brother Alan Highers scheduled for our Spring Gospel Meeting! Alan has preached for over 60 years. During that time, he has also conducted numerous debates with denominational preachers on crucial subjects. While serving as a preacher, Alan decided to attend law school at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis), from which he graduated in 1968. He practiced law for a few years before being appointed as a special judge in the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee. In 1977, he was appointed to the Circuit Court, and in 1982, he was appointed to serve in the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He retired in 2014 from the court system. Throughout all his years in the judicial system, he continued to preach, promote, and defend the Gospel of Christ. Since 1989, he has edited the *Spiritual Sword*, a quarterly publication. Let us make every effort to attend and invite others!



Is Your Religion a Hassle?

A few years ago about this time of year, as I was in my yard taking a break from spending hours in front of the computer, my neighbor, who was a denominational “pastor,” said to me, “I’ll bet you can’t wait for this time of year to be over.” I thought to myself, “He must have read my mind.” The end of the FSOP school year is always busy with final exams to write, term papers to grade, final grade averages due, letters to write to lectureship speakers, manuscripts to write for other lectureships, along with the usual day to day teaching, writing bulletin articles, preparing Wednesday night class notes, and trying to get some time in with the family. Then I began to wonder why my neighbor would ask such a question, so I asked him. He responded in a complaining tone of voice, “I can’t wait till Easter is over. I have Maundy Thursday services, then Good Friday services, then Easter sunrise services, and then regular Sunday services.” After my neighbor left, the thought occurred to me of how different man-made religion is from New Testament Christianity. First, there is a difference in authority. As Jesus’ question to the chief priests and elders indicated, there are only two possible sources of authority: God or man (Mt. 21:25). It is impossible to glorify God when our religious authority is man-made (cf. Mt. 15:8-9; Col. 2:20-22). Second, there is a difference in duty. The Bible nowhere instructs us to observe “Maundy Thursday,” “Good Friday,” or “Easter Sunday.” From where do these “holy days” come? Man-made religion! The only religious memorial God authorizes, in fact commands, is partaking of the Lord’s Supper every first day of the week to remember the death of Christ (Mt. 26:26-29 cf. Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Third, because it has no authority from God and because its activities are not of divine origin, man-made religion often becomes a hassle to its adherents. God’s “commandments are not grievous” (1 Jn. 5:3). Even though people have lost their lives for keeping God’s commandments (Rev. 6:9), love is the reason why they are not a hassle (1 Jn. 5:1-2). When we truly love God and know that we are doing His will, living for Him is not a burden. Is our religion a hassle? Do we truly love God and know His will? Let us follow God’s will, not man’s. ♥ Brian

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Melissa Craft and Bob McAnally have been home sick. Janie Wise has been admitted to the hospital this last week. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Bill Long, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis, Bobby Cole, Evie McCormack and Deborah Leonard's husband.

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

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Elizabeth Tubbs and Jack Pinkert.

Upcoming Events

Sunday March 12th: Teaching Seminar here at South Florida Ave. after the morning service. The teacher will be Michael Whitworth. The sign up sheet is in the foyer.

Tuesday March 14th: The Ladie's class at F.S.O.P. at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday March 18th: Semi- Annual Picnic/Sing at the Mary Holland Park in Bartow. Hosted by Jackson Ave. Church of Christ.

Sunday March 19th: The youth will be going bowling after evening services. This is the beginning of Spring break, so there is no school on Monday. If you plan to attend please see Hiram or C.J. Grimes.

March 26th-29th: Please Save this date! This will be our gospel meeting here at South Florida Ave. Alan Highers will be the speaker. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Response

Debra Pavolic-Okolichany responded to the invitation Sunday evening. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Visitors

Jane Jessee, Mary Moore, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam, and Helen Dodson.



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 influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

C.J. Grimes..... **Table** John McShane
Bobby Sheumaker **Assist** Tucker Sweeney

Sunday, March 12, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... The Williams
Att. Cards..... Paul & Sebastian
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 15, 2017

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

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, March 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

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

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... Fifes
Att. Cards..... Antonio & Paul
Closing Prayer David Deal
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 22, 2017

Song Leader Bill Long
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 12.....	\$4,853.00
Feb. 19	\$5,761.25
Feb. 26.....	\$5,642.00
Mar. 05.....	\$5,216.90
Contribution Average	\$5,464.44
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

Seek and Follow Good Examples

There are plenty of bad examples in our society. These “bad boys and girls” seem to get all the publicity, even for their bad behavior, to the point where they are idolized by many people. Just think what a mess we would be in if every one acted like them! Thankfully, society is not at a total loss for guidance from exemplary human beings. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern” (Philippians 3:17). First, Paul is a good example by which to pattern our lives. “Join in following [followers together, KJV; join in imitating, ESV; imitators together, ASV]” is from a word in the original language that refers to one who joins in following the example of another. The word here is used in the sense, “join with others in imitating me,” not “join with me in imitating Christ” (Kent, “Philippians” 148). Paul was not being egotistical, for elsewhere he qualified Christ as the true standard (1 Corinthians 11:1 cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:6). Second, others who pattern their lives after those who live like Paul are good examples. “Note [mark, KJV; observe, NAS; keep your eyes on, ESV]” means to pay attention to, keep one’s attention on; watch out for, be careful (Romans 16:17). Those who conduct themselves according to God’s word are worthy of emulation. These, in fact, are those after whom we are to pattern ourselves. May we never pattern ourselves after the immoral “Hollywood-types,” but always seek and find those who walk after Christ! ❤️ Brian



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

Return Service Requested



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



TEEN BOWLING
SUNDAY,
MARCH 19

Kick off Spring Break with a strike (after services)! See Hiram or C. J. if interested!

Take Advantage of the Many Area Gospel Meetings

It is that time of year again where many congregations within easy driving distance are holding their Spring Gospel Meetings (see our bulletin board). Since the Lord expects His people to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18), we should avail ourselves of every opportunity to do just that!

Please pray for the YES II mission trip to Penonome, Panama, July 1-9, 2017. We appreciate the South Florida Avenue eldership for seeing the value in sending our young people and their chaperons on these evangelistic campaigns. Many young people go on “mission trips” to build houses, clear land, etc., and may do some Bible studies along the way, and that is good. The YES II campaigns, though, are specifically designed to teach our young people to do personal evangelism. There are many fine “personal work” programs in the brotherhood, but is there anything better than just going out with experienced Christian personal workers and following their example? If you would like to help financially, see the elders.

