

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. 011 03-14-17

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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

March 26-29

Gospel Meeting

with Alan Highers

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

Sunday Services, March 26, 2017

Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

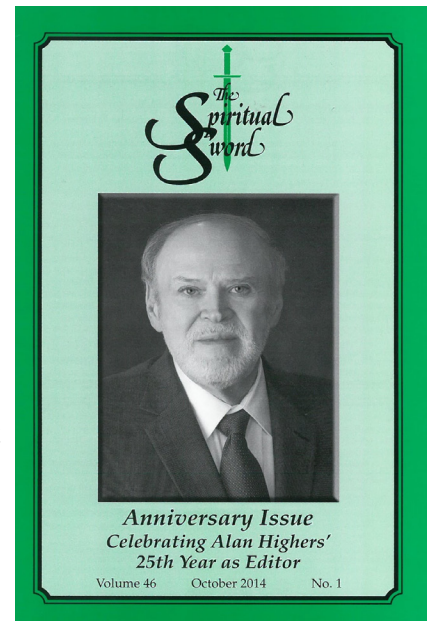
**Lunch Provided @ 11:45
(Visitors Welcome!)**

Worship @ 6:00 p.m.

**Monday thru Wednesday
@ 7:00 p.m.**

Alan has preached for over 60 years. During that time, he has also conducted numerous debates on crucial subjects. While serving as a preacher, Alan attended and graduated law school at Memphis State University (now University of Memphis).

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. Since 1989, he has edited the *Spiritual Sword*.



Let's Invite Our Friends & Neighbors!

Biblical Baptism Still Saves!

While a eunuch from Ethiopia was returning home from attempting to worship God at Jerusalem, a preacher named Philip met his chariot (Acts 8:26-30). When Philip approached, he “heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30-31). The eunuch was reading what we know as Isaiah 53:7-8, a tremendous prophecy about the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. The text then states, “So the eunuch answered Philip and said, ‘I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?’ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him” (Acts 8:34-35). No further details are given as to exactly what Philip preached other than “Jesus.” However, whatever else that sermon contained, we know that in preaching Jesus, Philip included the subject of baptism. The very next verse reads, “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’” (Acts 8:36). How else would the eunuch know about water baptism unless Philip included it in preaching “Jesus”? Philip answered the eunuch, “‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God’” (Acts 8:37). With that response, the chariot was commanded to stop, “And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him” (Acts 8:38). Afterwards, Philip departed, preaching “in all the cities till he came to Caesarea,” and the eunuch continued “on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39-40). The eunuch knew he was now saved from his sins!

The Candidate for Biblical Baptism

Scriptural baptism does not always take place merely because someone is immersed in water. Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mk. 16:16). Thus, the candidate for baptism must first believe that Jesus is the Christ (Jn. 8:24). Peter told those on the Day of Pentecost who were guilty of having part in crucifying the Lord, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Thus, the candidate for baptism must repent of sins before being baptized. These prerequisites rule out infant baptism as being Biblical. How can a baby believe that Jesus is the Christ or repent of sins? Do we think that just because we were “baptized” as infants that we are saved? We better study our Bibles! Furthermore, since baptism is “for the remission of sin” (Acts 2:38), those who are baptized after they were told they were saved, have not been baptized Biblically. Many denominations teach that one is saved first, then whenever the church has a “baptismal service,” he or she can be baptized. This simply is not true. One cannot obey false teaching and expect to be baptized Scripturally, even if he or she is immersed in water. Baptism is for those who have heard the truth of God’s word, believe, repent, and willing to live their confession of faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10; 2 Tim. 2:19). May we, like the Ethiopian eunuch, see the truth and quickly obey it (Acts 8:36-38).

The Result of Biblical Baptism

There is absolutely no power at all in the water itself. All the power is God’s! Baptism, however, figuratively puts the person being baptized into contact with the blood of Christ, wherein lies the power of salvation (Eph. 1:7). Paul said to the Romans, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered” (Rom. 6:17-18). What was the “form of doctrine” they obeyed? The answer lies a few verses before. “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:3-4). Biblical baptism is a form of the death (“baptized into His death”), burial (“buried with Him through baptism”), and resurrection (“as Christ was raised ... in newness of life”) of Christ. It is no wonder that Ananias could say to Saul of Tarsus, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Peter explicitly declares that baptism “now saves us” (1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion

Let us welcome and encourage all of our new brothers and sisters in Christ! Let us also be encouraged to teach others who have not been Scripturally baptized. The Bible contains God’s plan of salvation. Obedience to it is the only way people can be saved from sin! Let’s not keep it on the shelf, but put it in our hearts and spread it through the land. ♥ Brian

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bob McAnally and Becky Sheumaker are still not feeling well. Jacqueline Dopwell has been placed under hospice care in her home. Dick Burbage fell and was admitted to the hospital due to a stroke. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, 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 Pinckert.

Upcoming Events

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. If you plan to attend please see Hiram or C. J. Grimes.

March 19th-23rd: Gospel Meeting at 6th St. Church of Christ. The speaker will be Allen Cross. See the flyer and slide for more details.

March 26th-29th: Please Save this date! This will be our gospel meeting here at South Florida Ave.

Saturday April 1st: Ladies Brunch here at South Florida Ave. at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday April 2nd: 85th Annual Homecoming at the Orange St. Church of Christ. The speaker will be Daniel Stearsman.

Saturday April 15th: Easter Egg Hunt at the Bingles at 10:00 a.m.

Visitors

Jane Jessee, Katrina Greene, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam, and Jim Larsen.



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. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

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

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

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 26, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer..... C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters..... Darlene/Brenda
Att. Cards..... Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Open & Close Building..... Fred Strickland

Wed. March 29, 2017

Song Leader..... Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 19.....	\$5,761.25
Feb. 26	\$5,642.00
Mar. 05.....	\$5,216.90
Mar. 12.....	\$5,050.96
Contribution Average	\$5,426.85
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

The Way of the Transgressor Is Hard

When a teenager is disciplined, especially by taking away electronics, he or she may think the suffering is cataclysmic, unbearable, or this-world-ending! However, beyond the loving discipline of any parent (Hebrews 12:5-11) is a lesson that must be learned. If we think “suffering” is harsh now, it is nothing compared to what lies ahead if we choose a life of rebellion to God! In Proverbs 13:15, the inspired wise man wrote, “Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful [transgressor, KJV] is hard.” The term “good understanding” denotes perception of what is right and proper. In contrast, the “unfaithful [transgressor, ASV; treacherous, ESV]” refers to those who live by no righteous law, but by their own desires, completely unconcerned about the damage they might do to themselves and/or others. Wisdom has spoken: the wicked person’s life will generally be difficult in this world and always in the next, if they do not repent. All people, and especially young people, must realize the eternal consequences of not following God. We are often deceived into thinking that we can escape the law of “sowing and reaping” (Galatians 6:7-8). That is, we think we can live however we want and not have to face consequences. Let us choose “good understanding” instead of “the way of the transgressor”! ❤️ 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 . . .



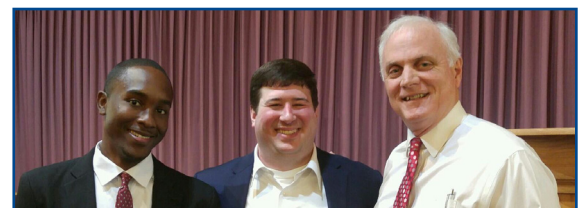
We rejoice with the angels that Saudra was baptized into Christ Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Let's welcome our new sister in the Lord!



TEEN BOWLING
SUNDAY,
MARCH 19

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

Pray for the YES II mission trip to Penonome, Panama, July 1-9, 2017. We appreciate the South Florida Avenue eldership for allowing our young people to take part in these evangelistic campaigns. Only eternity can measure the full impact of good. If you would like to help financially, see the elders.



We appreciate Michael Whitworth and all the SFA members who took advantage of this great seminar to better prepare ourselves to teach church Bible classes!