

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.11 03-15-16

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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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WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Spring Gospel Meeting with Melvin Otey on "The Parables of Jesus" March 20—23, 2016



Sunday at 9:30 am: *The Persistent Widow*

Sunday at 10:30 am: *The Prodigal Son*

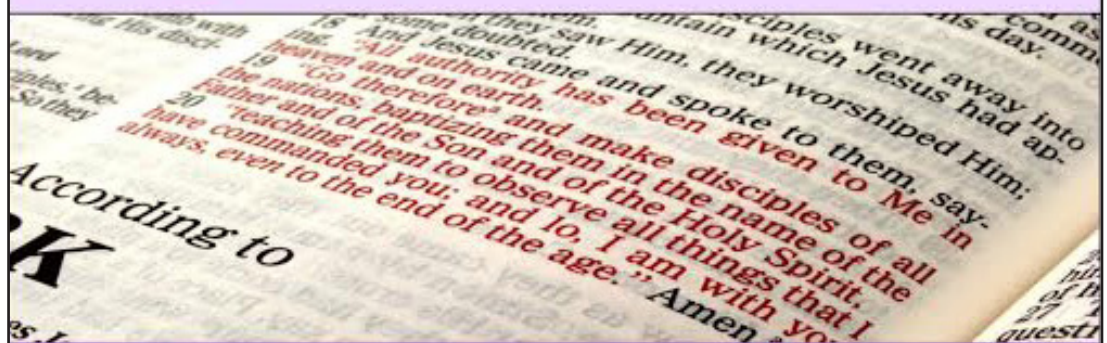
** Pot Luck Lunch Afterwards*

Sunday at 6:00 pm: *The Creditor and His Debtors*

Monday at 7:00pm: *The Seed and The Soils*

Tuesday at 7:00 pm: *The Master and His Talents*

Wednesday at 7:00 pm: *The Shrewd Steward*



Melvin Otey serves as an Associate Professor of Law at Faulkner University, Jones School of Law; writes for Christian publications; and conducts Gospel meetings, lectures and seminars. He formerly worked for the US Department of Justice in Washington, DC, as a trial lawyer (2000-2003, 2007-2014) and preached for the Georgia Avenue congregation in DC (2006-2014). He received formal education from St. Louis University (BS in Business Administration, 1997), Howard University School of Law (JD, 2000), and Amridge University (BS in Ministry/Bible, 2008; MDiv in Ministerial Leadership, 2014). He and his wife, Jania (Jah-nay-ah), have two sons (Caleb and Christian).

South Florida Avenue church of Christ

1807 South Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803

Phone: (863) 682-4702

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Plan to come hear each lesson and bring a friend!

Lessons from a School Teacher

by Kathy Thornhill Sweeney

From an era of two first names, she was known as Betty Jean
After years of teaching some might have thought her mean,
She was strict and firm but easy to know.
She knew what she liked and wanted it just so
After 3 short months she married her beau.
Two children would come and the years they flew,
Daughter-n-law, son-n-law and a grandson too.
School years, graduations, time did fly,
Retirement, travel, happy as pie!

Then hard things happened and some would ask why.
Heart attacks, cancer, arthritis and pain,
and then a disease with a very long name.
We thought these might take her but bounce back she came.
God does give and take though and lessons remain...
Not reading, writing and math you see,
But real life lessons for you and me.
God took away her husband but gave us his namesake,
The lesson was all in the family we'd remake,
And Mom carried on...

He took away her feet but gave us the chance
To walk for her, care for her, make her world dance.
This lesson was nothing at all happenstance.
And Mom carried on...

He took her mind slowly, her contentment too,
A call, a visit nor even a milkshake would do.
This lesson would prove the hardest one yet,
From her calls some could even their alarm clocks set,
Patience wasn't her virtue, she'd quickly admit
And whatever she wanted she just wouldn't quit.
The lesson of patience was past her you see,
the lesson was here for you and for me.
But Mom carried on...

Then went her strength and her health at last
She couldn't bounce back like times in the past,
We waited and hoped for a positive sign
Barely able to talk she said she felt fine!
And maybe she did as we waited to see,
When God would take her and set her free,
The lesson was trust in our maker you see.
Now we'll carry on...



Betty Jean Thornhill

June 18, 1932 - March 3, 2016

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. (Ecclesiastes 7:1)

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Revelation 14:13)

And the question is easy, we know where she'll be,
Walking with God through eternity.
Her faith was strong, her faith was true,
One last lesson she left for me and for you. ♥

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Colby Dix was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. He will be under-going further testing. Jacquelin Dopwell is getting a second opinion and awaiting further treatment. Also keep Janet Crosby, Debbie Horsley, Dolly Martin and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix, Alyssa Buckner, Henry Enamorado, Bonnie Patterson, Nina Hart and Harold Rister (Debbie Horsley's father).

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Claud Romine, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Sharon Edler.

Upcoming Events

March 19th: Picnic and Sing at Mary Holland Park in Bartow hosted by Jackson Ave. Church of Christ. Lunch at noon. Activities starting at 11:00 a.m.

March 20th-23rd: Gospel Meeting here at South Florida Ave. with Melvin Otey. There will NOT be a fellowship meal following the morning worship service on Sunday the 20th.

March 25th-27th: 8th Annual Spring Gospel Meeting at the Osprey Church of Christ in Sarasota.

Hither Thither and Yon

Bob & Bea Pratt are in West Virginia to be with Bea's elderly sister who fell and broke a hip. Charles & Glenda Sanford have moved to their property in north Florida. We will miss them and they would love to have us visit them at the Burlington Santa Fe congregation.

Thank You's

Dear church family, Thank you for all your prayers, cards and calls during my treatment with cancer these past few months. The chemo has been discontinued for now. We appreciate all the love expressed for us from our brothers and sisters. In Christian love, Frank & Ginny Hamby

To our family at South Florida Ave, Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, meals, prayers and help during the past few weeks before and after mom's passing. Your love and support has encouraged us and kept us going for years. Mom loved you all and we do too! In Christian love, Kathy Sweeney & family.

Visitors

Roger & Jean Cooper, Debra Okolichany, Barbara Vine, T'J Tomlinson, Tania Portelles-Driggs and Mr. & Mrs. Chad Fife.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

C.J. Grimes..... **Table** David Williams
Antonio Martin..... **Assist** Tucker Sweeney

Sunday, March 20, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Bingles
Att. Cards..... Quadarius & Paul
Closing Prayer Bobby Simpson
Open & Close Building Fred Strickland

Wed. March 23, 2016

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

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

Sunday, March 27, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Ken Walker
Prayer..... Jim Turner

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon..... Bob McAnally
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Brian Kenyon
Greeters Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards..... Sebastian & Ian
Closing Prayer Fred Rapley
Open & Close Building Fred Strickland

Wed. March 30, 2016

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 21.....\$5,631.00
Feb. 28.....\$6,392.70
Mar. 06.....\$5,087.21
Mar. 13.....\$4,475.82
Contribution Average.....\$5,084.92
2016 Weekly Budget.....\$4,422.60

Drastic Measures Required!

As most of South Florida Avenue church members receive this bulletin, the church building has a huge tent over it. The reason for this is to eliminate the termites that have been eating away at the wood in the attic, stage area, and other parts of the building. Just driving by and seeing the sight makes one realize that drastic measures were taken to stop the damage. If the termites were left unchecked, the church building would be destroyed. Sin to the soul is like termites to wood. It destroys gradually and without notice until the damage is done. Like with termites, drastic measures must be taken to avoid sin. First, drastic measures must be taken to avoid worldliness. Jude said that some had to be saved by "pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh" (Jude 23). The snatching out of fire imagery comes from Zechariah 3:2, where the Lord rebuked Satan, saying that He saved Jerusalem like a "brand plucked from the fire." Peter warned against false teachers who would try



to bring down "the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error" (2 Peter 2:18). Drastic measures are required to keep worldliness from consuming our soul! Second, drastic measures are required to avoid sexual lust. After saying that it is sinful to lustfully look on a woman, Jesus said, "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you ... And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell" (continued below)



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

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



March 25-27 Will be the Lads Leaders Convention in Orlando. Please pray for our young people and their chaperones as they participate. It will be a soul building event!

Our young people and their chaperones are gearing up for a mission trip to Nicaragua June 25 thru July 3. If you want to make a special contribution to this work, please see the elders.



Special Thanks to those who helped prepare the building for both the pre- and post-termite tenting. A lot of work was involved in both phases.

An anonymous contribution was made to cover the extra expense of the colored page 2 tribute to Betty Jean Thornhill.

(continued from above) (Matthew 5:29-30). Jesus was not requiring literal dismembering of one's body but figuratively saying that we must do whatever it takes to avoid sexual lust! Third, drastic measures must be taken to avoid fornication. Paul said, "Flee sexual immorality [fornication, KJV]. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). Joseph is a great illustration of avoiding fornication with Potiphar's wife. He ran outside to avoid sin, leaving even his coat in her hands (Genesis 39:7-12)! Finally, drastic measures are required to avoid idolatry. Paul said to "flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14). John closed his letter by saying, "keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). Idolatry is anything that comes between us and God. Paul said that "covetousness" is "idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). May we be willing to take drastic measures to keep ourselves pure in God's sight! ❤️ Brian