

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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. 72 No. 12 3-19-19

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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
since 1969

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



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

South Florida Avenue church of Christ

Spring Gospel Meeting

March 31 – April 3, 2019

"Raised in Christ"



Lee Jamieson

Timberlane church of Christ

Sunday Bible class, 9:30 am. – *"Obedience From the Heart"*

Romans 6

Sunday worship, 10:30 am – *"If You Have Been Raised"*

Colossians 3:1-4

Fellowship meal to follow

Sunday worship, 6:00 pm – *"Called Saints"*

1 Corinthians 1:3-10

Monday, 7:00 pm – *"Making Pancakes"*

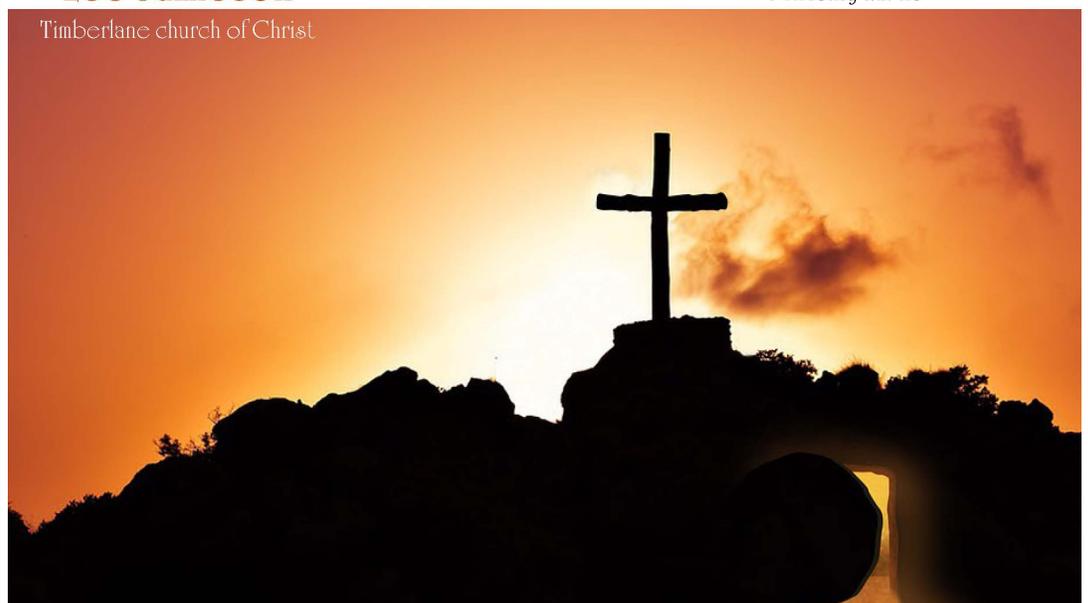
Matthew 28:18 - 20

Tuesday, 7:00 pm – *"Some days..."*

John 1:21-37

Wednesday, 7:00 pm. – *"King of the Ages"*

1 Timothy 1:12-20



Lame Excuses

Brian R. Kenyon

Recently, I heard on two separate occasions, by two separate people, from two separate relationships to Christ, two of lamest excuses I have heard in recent memory for not following God's will. First, I heard a denominational lady, when asked about "attending church" this Sunday, say, "No. It is better for me to go fishing and think about God than to go to church and think about fishing." Second, a preacher friend from another state in the USA who worshiped with a local church of Christ, in a different state than his, where they had given microphones to select people in the audience to lead the singing (which is basically a chorus, but instead of standing on the stage in robes, they perform within the assembly). When the visiting preacher asked the elders why they did that, the answer he received was, "Our roof was built in such a way that the acoustics are poor." The sad part about these (and other) lame excuses is that people actually think they are legitimate and that God is okay with them!

Why Violate God's Pattern?

Why are there so many denominations? Why are there so many different doctrines within those denominations, even among those who wear the same name? Even more serious, why are so many local churches of Christ in some places located within sight of one another? Why do so many churches who have "Church of Christ" on their buildings, but teach and/or practice so many different doctrines? The basic answer to each of these questions is simply because people want to do their own thing. They do not want to be limited by what God authorizes. To be sure, God has clearly revealed truths that we need to believe and practice: (1) how people can be saved from their sins (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-41); (2) there is only one church that belongs to Christ (Mt. 16:18-19 cf. Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4); (3) all the saved (and only the saved) are added by the Lord to that church (Acts 2:47 cf. Eph. 5:23); (4) how the local church is to be organized with "bishops [elders] and deacons" (Phil. 1:1 cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-12; Titus 1:6-9); and (5) how God expects His people to worship "in Spirit and truth" (Jn. 4:24 cf. 1 Cor. 11:23-29; 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19, etc.). So why do not all people practice these truths? Yes, there may be some who are ignorant, but by and large, especially among those who have been members of the church for many years, they just simply want Christianity their way! Let us heed words of the prophet, "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23), and the psalmist, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Ps. 14:12; 16:25).

Why Keep God's Pattern?

By virtue of the fact that "the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" (Ex. 20:11), including mankind, whom "God created ... in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Gen. 1:26-27), God knows what is best for us in *every* aspect of life! Eve was deceived by Satan (1 Tim. 2:14). She wanted to be more than what she thought God made her. Thus, when she "saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:6). That first sin effected all mankind from that day forward (Gen. 3:22-24)! We will *always* suffer when we go against God's will (Rom. 6:23). That suffering may not be immediately apparent, but sooner or later we will know it (Ezk. 18:4; Mt. 25:41-46). We must keep God's pattern if we are to be spiritually blessed by the Lord! That pattern is found ultimately in God's word (2 Tim. 1:13; Heb. 8:5) and can be noticed in other faithful brethren (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 1:16). We will *never* do wrong by following God's pattern! Those who do so will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant ... Enter into the joy of your lord" (Mt. 25:21, 23) when the Jesus returns!

Conclusion

Jesus did not come to die, the Holy Spirit did not inspire the writing of the Bible, the Father did not providentially preserve His word for those living today for us to live any way we want! Rather, it was because the way humanity chooses to live that Jesus came to die, that the Bible was written, and that our lives have been providentially preserved! Let us make no excuses, but obey "from the heart that form of doctrine" (Rom. 6:17)! *AE Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Kyle Faneuf was in a motorcycle accident. He is home now but still in a lot of pain. Dick Burbage is now in Lakeland Hills Center in room 203A. Ginny Hamby, Brenda Murray, Wayne Shearer, Sharon Washington, Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother) who was diagnosed with liver cancer, Shepherd Knight a newborn in critical condition in TN., Beth Szabo, (wife of Alex who is a FSOP student) was bitten by a dog, Paulisky Irizarry, Arlene Carr, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Martha, (Debra Pavlovic Okolichany's cousin) who's husband passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Tonya Mathis (Darlene Thompson's daughter) is under hospice care, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 30th: Door knocking for gospel meeting. Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.

March 31-April 3rd: SFA's Spring Gospel Meeting with Lee Jamieson Pick up some flyers to give to family and friends.

Sunday March 31st: Fellowship meal to kick off our Spring Gospel meeting after the morning worship service. Please bring enough food for visitors. John McShane's team will be in charge of set-up and clean-up.

Sunday March 31st: Men's Leadership Training class at 4:30 p.m. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Saturday April 6th: SFA Ladies Brunch, 11:00 a.m. Speaker is Nikki Williams. Menu sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Sunday April 7th: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

April 8th-11th: Gospel Meeting at the Midway church of Christ in Sarasota.

Saturday April 13th: Ladies Day at the Northside church of Christ in St. Pete. 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.

Congratulations

We rejoice that Kevin Penick was baptized into Christ on Friday March 15th. Let us all welcome him into our family.

Sympathy

Alan Lefler passed away suddenly from a heart attack, he was a member at North Lakeland, but he and his son had been visiting a lot with us here at SFA. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Thank You

Dear church family, thank you for your cards, prayers and thoughts of condolence given in the loss of my sister. It is actions like this that make life easier in times of trial.

In Christian love, John McShane

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Eric Bunch, Jerry Green, Alex Szabo, Peter Saunders, Leigh Anne Garland, Latisha Harrell, Anne and Sarah Liddle, and Jack & Donna Martin.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

David Anderson **Table** Kyle Faneuf
Jeff Bingle **Assist** Frank Hamby

Sunday, March 24 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Bingle
Prayer.....Alex Parramore

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Wayne Shearer
Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer.....Jimmy Sweeney
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer..... Jim Turner
Sound Booth.....Tucker Sweeney
Greeters Melissa & Debra/Estridge
Att. Cards.....Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close BuildingWayne Shearer

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Song Leader.....Jim Turner
Opening Prayer.....Jimmy Sweeney
Closing Prayer.....Phil Fife

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, March 31, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Ken Walker
Prayer Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Matt Willcut
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Tyler Anderson
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....Tucker Sweeney
Sound Booth.....Phil Fife

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....Paul Romine
Opening Prayer.....Dustin Walling
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing PrayerBobby Simpson
Sound Booth.....Phil Fife
GreetersWalker/Smith
Att. Cards.....Willcut boy's
Open & Close BuildingWayne Shearer

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... David Williams
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb. 24.....\$7,291.13
Mar. 03..... \$7,128.06
Mar. 10.....\$7,119.73
Mar. 17 \$6,121.00
Contribution Average..... \$6,854.57



Member Spotlight

Melissa Craft



Melissa was born in Mobile, Alabama and has also lived in Pensacola, Waynesville (NC), and Dayton (OH). As a child she wanted to be a race car driver (which explains why her first car was a 280Z). Her first job was as a baby sitter. She is currently a hearing aid specialist with her family business. In her free time, she likes gardening, yard work, traveling, going to the beach, and trying new projects. She's still working on her most satisfying accomplishment, heaven. The best advice she's been given is from her mom: "You better behave yourself!"



Member Spotlight

Josh Estridge



Josh was born in Lakeland and also lived in Georgia for a while. As a child, he wanted to be a baseball player. His first job was retail sales at Old Navy. He is currently a tractor mechanic for Publix. He has visited the Dominican Republic and Canada. In his free time, he likes to be with his family and go hunting and fishing. His most satisfying accomplishment is his daughter, Maddox. He enjoys being a dad. The best advice he's been given is "Character is doing what's right when no one else is around." He and his wife, Marissa, have one daughter.



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 at the baptism of Kevin (middle, front row) last Friday, March 15, 2019! Thank God for His way of saving mankind (Acts 2:38-41). Let's welcome our new brother!

THINK SOULS! Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.



Please save your **Empty Paper Towel Rolls** for Amanda Faneuf. She and her husband, Kyle, are directing the June 30 -- July 6 week at Central Florida Bible Camp and want them for an arts and craft project.



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)

Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)

Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)