

# 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.12 03-22-16

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Robert McAnally  
(863) 682-3600

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## PREACHING INTERN

Hiram Kemp

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## 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.

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



IN  
SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## God Uses Trouble

*Gary C. Hampton*

Paul, knowing the importance of continued teaching and encouragement, approached Barnabas about visiting the brethren in all the cities in which they had previously preached. Barnabas strongly desired to take his cousin (Colossians 4:10 NKJV, ASV, NIV, ESV), John Mark, on the journey. Paul did not want to go with the man who had left them at Perga (Acts 15:36-38; 13:13). Paul and Barnabas were so firm in their opinions, even to the point of being provoked to anger, that they had to separate.

God used the disagreement between these two great men of faith to produce two teams to go preach the Gospel. Barnabas went with John Mark to Cyprus, his homeland (Acts 15:39; 4:36). Paul took Silas, one of the leading men among the brethren at Jerusalem (Acts 15:22). They went through Syria and Cilicia to southern Galatia, strengthening the churches along the way (Acts 15:40-41).

“The one redeeming note in this otherwise unhappy and regrettable episode is that neither party to the dispute permitted it to hinder the work of God” (James Burton Coffman, Commentary on Acts 305). Paul later referred to Barnabas as a good example of one who worked to support himself while preaching. He also described John Mark as one who was useful in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:6; 2 Timothy 4:11).

Disagreements between brethren can be the devil’s tool to bring good works to a standstill. The Christian who allows some painful incident to become his/her excuse for sitting on the stool of do-nothing gives Satan the victory. The one who presses on in service to the King can see bad situations work out to the furtherance of the Gospel (Philippians 1:12).

There are two motivations for preaching the Gospel—selfish ambition and love. Our job is not to be heart inspectors seeking to correct every improper motive. Instead, like Paul, we should say, “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached: and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice” (Philippians 1:15-18).

# Let's Look at the Lord's Supper!

*Mark N. Posey*

The Lord's Supper is an integral part of Christian worship; it causes us to remember our Lord's death and look for His glorious return.

**We look backward to the cross (1 Corinthians 11:24**, "Do this in remembrance of me"). The Lord's Supper is a memorial supper, a ceremony of remembrance. When we partake of the unleavened bread, we remember that Christ's body was cruelly treated and nailed to the cross. When we partake of the fruit of the vine, we remember that the blood of Christ was poured out of his body. His body and blood were a sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 10:19-20).

**We look outward to the lost (1 Corinthians 11:26**, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death..."). When we assemble to partake of the Lord's Supper, we are making a statement that Christ died for the world, and we set an example to all those who observe us keeping our weekly appointment with the Lord at His table. This includes the lost. Going to the Supper is preaching by example. Anyone can preach Christ in this manner (Colossians 4:5).

**We look forward to eternity (1 Corinthians 11:26**, "...eat this bread and drink this cup... till he come"). For each of us individually, "till he comes" means "the coming of Christ." Thus, the hymn writer called it "the little while between." We know that eternity could be upon any one of us at any moment either by death or by the Lord's return. The Lord's Supper week by week helps us stay focused on the real purpose of this short life (James 4:14; Revelation 3:3).

**We look inward to ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28**, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup"). We are to partake of the Lord's Supper in a spirit of self-examination. When we examine ourselves honestly, we find ourselves unrighteous without Christ, and greatly in need of the sacrifice He made. We see His death as our life. The Lord's Supper encourages us to rededicate ourselves to being crucified with Christ and letting Him live in us (Romans 12:3; Galatians 2:20).

**We look upward to the glorious Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23**, "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you." 1 Corinthians 11:29, "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body"). Paul communicated the message of God. Therefore, we must judge Christ's body rightly when we recognize that Christ in the flesh was killed as a sacrifice for sin, He was then raised up from the dead, and He later ascended into heaven and was glorified (Acts 2:23-24). He lives and reigns as Lord in glory today (Acts 3:13). At the Lord's Table, we eat unleavened bread and drink fruit of the vine in recognition and discernment of these truths.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner is home from the hospital after having a stroke. He sees the doctor on the 24th. Jacquelin Dopwell is home after being in the hospital with infection after her surgery. Ann Howard was admitted into L.R.M.C. on the 19th. Also keep Janet Crosby, Debbie Horsley, Dolly Martin and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, Alyssa Buckner, Gale Doak (Bob Copper's mother) and Harold Rister.

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

**Others:** Chrissi Fuesner. Please keep all these in prayer.

## Upcoming Events

**April 2nd:** Ladies Day here at South Florida Ave. at 9:00 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. to the office. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

**April 16th:** A Meet-N-Greet Brunch for the ladies that is in honor of Brittani Kemp as Hiram begins full time ministry. It will be at Kelcey Grimes house at 10:30 a.m. Please bring a side dish. The flyer and sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

## Sympathy

Bea Pratt's elderly sister passed away last Friday the 18th. The funeral services were Sunday the 20th in West Virginia. Please keep Bea and her family in our prayers.

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Becky Sheumaker is in Tennessee with Cara. Welcome back to Jagie, Zsazeli, Staci, Olivia and Sophia who were in NYC on a GJHS band field trip. Our youth will be in Orlando for L2L convention this weekend. Please keep all these in prayer.

## Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters, Thank you for your prayers on behalf of my brother, Billy Moore, during his months of illness. Also thank you for the calls and cards you sent to me after his death. It's comforting to be a part of the South Florida Ave. church family. In Christian love, bettye bolding

## Visitors

Ted & Debra Okolichany, Barbara Vine, Tania Portelles-Driggs. Jim Egolf, LaTanya Dibble, Bob & Darlene Doak, Chad & Sabrina Tagtow and family, Katrina Stearsman and boys, Melvin & Jania Otey and family and Fred & Patty Whitermore.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### April

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** ..... Josh Estridge  
Fred Rapley..... **Assist** ..... David Anderson

**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

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

**Sunday, April 3, 2016**

**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Prayer**..... Ken Walker

**10:30 A.M.**

**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Antonio Martin

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters**..... The Longfellows  
**Att. Cards**..... Ian & Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle  
**Open & Close Building**..... David Anderson

**Wed. April 6, 2016**

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

<b>Feb. 28</b> .....	<b>\$6,392.70</b>
<b>Mar. 06</b> .....	<b>\$5,087.21</b>
<b>Mar. 13</b> .....	<b>\$4,475.82</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b> .....	<b>\$4,252.00</b>
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$5,015.51</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# When “Strictly Enforced” Becomes “Strongly Encouraged”

An entrepreneur photographer was riding in a car when it passed the main entrance to Walt Disney World. She said, “Let’s pull over and get a photograph.” The other passengers immediately responded in unison, “Didn’t you see the sign that read, ‘No Pulling Over. Strictly Enforced?’” The photographer answered, “Oh, I thought it said, ‘Strongly Encouraged.’” While this is a somewhat humorous story, it illustrates an important point: sometimes we see what we *want* to see rather than what is plainly written. The actual sign read “Strictly Enforced.” Everyone in the car saw it plainly, except the one who looked upon the scene as a great photo opportunity. In her mind it would have been okay to stop, just so long as caution was taken. Unfortunately, many in the religious world do this same thing. Since some people do not see anything wrong with mechanical instruments of music, for example, they read into the New Testament verses that only mention “singing” (Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) the idea that mechanical instrumental music is fine. However, the use of mechanical instruments in worship simply is not mentioned in any New Testament passage and is thus not authorized! A wise man wrote, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12). We must not read what we think is right into the Bible, but let it speak



## or Not?

for itself and follow what it teaches. God means what He says and will ultimately enforce His way. May our ways be His ways! ❤️ *Brian*



*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** Is the Lads Leaders Convention in Orlando. Please pray for our young people and their chaperones as they participate. Our youth have put in some work!

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.



“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Luke 8:8). All of us has a responsibility to put into practice what we hear from God’s word. We heard some great lessons from Melvin on Jesus’ parables. Let us make sure we put them to practice!

**Thank You**  
 to all those, including our young people, who made our Gospel meeting a success! We are spiritually stronger now!



And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”<sup>29</sup> So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.<sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”<sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-31) **Let’s not be afraid to follow Jesus’ instruction!**