

# 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. 72 No. 16 4-23-19

## ELDERS

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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

## *Lessons Learned from Grace*

Hiram Kemp

Grace is a popular term in Christendom today. Many people believe they can be saved by grace alone apart from any human action. The Bible does teach that we are saved by grace, but we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Biblically speaking, grace is the goodness of God extended toward man. Grace is when we receive from God that which we do not deserve. The fact that Jesus went to the cross for humanity is evidence of God's grace (2 Cor. 9:15). Furthermore, that there is a plan of salvation to be obeyed evidences God's grace toward mankind (Rom. 6:17). Yet, grace does not remove human responsibility. We must cooperate with God's grace in order to enjoy the blessings God would have us receive. Grace is God extending salvation to us, and faith is when we receive and accept God's offer. Even after one obeys the gospel and is saved, there are things we learn from God's grace. Paul wrote to Titus and informed him of lessons we should all learn from grace (Tit. 2:11-15).

## *Grace is Universal*

The grace of God which brings salvation has appeared to all men (Tit. 2:11). The Bible speaks of salvation being available to whoever will biblically call on the name of the Lord and be saved (Acts 2:21, 38). While it is true that everyone will not be saved, it is not because God has purposely shut some individuals out from his saving grace. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many (Mk. 10:44-45). Paul describes Jesus as the savior of all men, especially of those who believe (1 Tim. 4:10; cf. 1 Jn. 2:2).

The more we study the grace of God, the more we should be impressed with the universal scope of it. The grace of God is for the rich and the wealthy. The grace of God is for the poor and the marginalized in our society. The grace of God is for the religiously mistaken and the arrogant atheist. The grace of God appears to all men because Jesus died to save all men (Rom. 10:13; 1 Tim. 2:6). God has not predetermined who will be lost and who will be saved. We can be saved if we desire, but we can also "judge ourselves unworthy of eternal life" (Acts 13:46). God wants everyone to be saved and this is based on the fact that He is gracious (2 Pet. 3:9).

## *Grace Encourages Godly Living*

In God's plan to save man, His grace abounded far more than our sin ever could (Rom. 5:20). This does not mean that we should continue in sin in order to secure a greater measure of grace (Rom. 6:1). When we consider that our sins put Jesus on

the cross, we should be deterred from wallowing in unrighteousness altogether. Paul told Titus that grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and instead to live a godly life (Tit. 2:12). Grace encourages Christians to say no to the world and yes to God. Our love for God causes us to reject the offers of Satan and the world with their temporary pleasures.

Whenever God's people are living like the world and failing to show the distinctiveness they should, it is a failure to learn from grace. Though we are in this world, we must not fall in love with it (1 Jn. 2:15-17). We should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. While heaven will be a place free from sin, Christians on earth must constantly run in the opposite direction of sin in the present world. Though we are surrounded by wickedness and evil, it is possible to live the life that God would have us to live (1 Jn. 5:19). We can meditate on the right things and entertain godly thoughts (Phil. 1:10, 4:8). The more we conceptualize Jesus hanging on the cross and the pain he bore for us, the stronger our resolve will be against sin. Grace does not mean that God will give "sin pass." Grace means that because Jesus bore our sins and continues to cleanse us that we seek a higher and nobler life on earth (Col. 3:1-16).

## *Grace Creates Anticipation*

Though grace looks back at what was done for us, grace also teaches us to look ahead. We are to look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and savior (Tit. 2:13). Christians long for the return of Christ and eagerly await his coming (Rev. 22:20). As we contemplate the lavish grace that was bestowed on us in Jesus' first coming, our souls are happily awaiting what will happen when he returns (Rom. 8:18; 1 Jn. 3:1-3). Paul also does not shy away from the fact that Jesus is divine. We are not merely awaiting the return of a great prophet from Nazareth. We are awaiting the appearing of "the great God and our Savior."

Grace makes life worth living on this earth. However, grace also creates a healthy spiritual thirst for the life to come. Those who never look heavenward in expectation of the return of Christ have not learned enough from grace. Paul tells Titus that when grace is properly appreciated, it creates an anticipation that is literally out of this world.

## *We Are God's Possession*

Christians are redeemed from past sins and are purchased by God to be his special treasure (Tit. 2:14). We are called a holy nation and a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). While Old Testament Israel was called this at one point, this is now true for everyone who is in Christ (Exod. 19:5-6). Jesus purchased the church with his blood, and as a result, we belong to him (Acts 20:28). Grace helps us to enjoy this blessing. We were at one time without Christ and separated from God because of our sins, but now in Christ, our status has forever changed (Eph. 2:12).

Since we belong to a good God, we should be those who are zealous for good works (Tit. 2:14). We want to do good to reflect the one who purchased us. Every time we allow our light to shine, the light reflects back on the God who saved us by his grace (Mt. 5:16). We want to do good, not for our own glory, but so that the world will glorify its maker. Belonging to God is a blessing and a responsibility. Paul helps us to appreciate both. Knowing that we are not saved by our human performance, but by God's grace, does not mean we should lounge around and become spiritually apathetic. Instead, we want to be God's hands and feet in a world that needs to see his goodness at work in the lives of those he has redeemed.

## *Conclusion*

So many people misunderstand what the Bible teaches us about grace. In the Book of Titus, Paul describes grace as a teacher at the front of life's classroom. When we reflect on the God of all grace, may we remember these lessons (1 Pet. 5:10). Our hearts must be stirred to introduce more people to God's amazing grace. Likewise, we should refrain from wickedness and delight in Jesus' return. Knowing we are possessed by God spurs us on to good works. God's grace is truly amazing. Ω

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Concerning the Selection of Directors** To comply with state regulations, an annual meeting and selection of directors must be conducted each year. This will be done immediately following morning worship service May 5, 2019. The following nominees have been made: David Anderson (chairman); George French (vice-chairman); Charles Paulin (treasurer); Bobby Sheumaker (secretary). Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. However, the nominee's willingness to accept must be presented to the chairman prior to the meeting.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington and Margaret Coone.

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

**Others:** Naomi Zamot (Jagie Kenyon's niece), Larry Lester, Gina, (daughter of Kathy Nester), Paulisky Irizarry, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Christina Jones, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Gloria Nelson's son, Neil Entwistle's father, Gail Patterson, family member of Darlene and Brenda, and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday April 23rd:** FSOP Ladies class at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday April 27th:** Youth Group devotional and service project at the Bingle's at 4:00 p.m.

**April 28th-May 2nd:** Gospel Meeting at the Laura St. church of Christ in Plant City. The speaker will be Allen Cross.

**May 3rd-5th:** Orange Street Youth Retreat at Weeki Wachee Christian Camp. Register online by April 26th at [wwcc.camp/orangest-retreat](http://wwcc.camp/orangest-retreat)

**Sunday, May 5th:** After evening services, we will celebrate our high school graduates in the fellowship room. Stay tuned for more details in future announcements.

**May 26th-29th:** The first annual Family Enrichment Seminar at the Griffin Rd. church of Christ in Bartow. The speaker will be Kevin Patterson.

## Sympathy

Willard Norman, Margaret Norman's husband, passed away Monday April 15th. Also Rosy Niday, former winter member, passed away on 4/19 in Huntsville, AL. Please keep these families in your prayers.

## Thank You

Dear church family, The bouquet of flowers in memory of my husband, Willard, were a beautiful expression of sympathy. Thank you for your prayers, cards and calls during my recent hospital stay and recovery.

In Christian love, Margaret Norman

## Graduation

If your child, or grandchild is graduating, please e-mail or lend a color copy photo and info about the graduate to the office.

## Response

Sandra Foust asked for the prayers of the congregation for encouragement and strength and to not feel so all alone.

## Visitors

Jerry Green, Jeff Childers, Victoria Stetson, Brandon Wood, Robert Jones, Cassandra Williams, Denise Wilson, Johnny Davidson, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

**May**

Open/Close building-David Williams

Josh Estridge ..... **Table** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
John McShane ..... **Assist** ..... Dustin Walling

**Sunday, April 28, 2019**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Phil Fife

10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**..... Casey Paulin  
**Announcements**..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Kyle Williams  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Greeters**..... McShane/Shearer  
**Cards**..... Willcutt boy's

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... David Anderson

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

**Song Leader**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer**..... Charles Paulin

**April - Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney's team (E-K)**

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

**Sunday, May 5, 2019**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Ken Walker  
**Prayer**..... Wayne Shearer

10:30 A.M.

**Sound Booth**..... Alex Parramore  
**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Fred Strickland  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jim Turner  
**Greeters**..... McCarter/Anderson  
**Cards**..... Caelen/Camron

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Alex Parramore  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jason Hendrix

**Wednesday, May 8 2019**

**Song Leader**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer**..... Charles Paulin

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mar. 31.....                      | \$6,843.90        |
| Apr. 07.....                      | \$6,894.00        |
| Apr. 14.....                      | \$6,668.25        |
| Apr. 21.....                      | \$6,414.65        |
| <b>Contribution Average</b> ..... | <b>\$6,665.25</b> |

## ~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

April 28th..... Van Allen  
May 5th..... David Deal & Jim Turner



Member Spotlight

# Olivia Smith



Olivia was born in Lakeland and has lived here all her life. As a child she wanted to be a veterinarian. Her first job was dog sitting. She is currently a college student. She knows some ASL (sign language) and continues to learn more. She has been to Panama on a mission trip. In her free time, she likes scrolling for memes, growing orchids and other plants, writing, and creating art. Her most satisfying accomplishments are teaching 4th & 5th grade Bible class and joining Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The best advice he's been given is anything mom says.

Member Spotlight

# Frank Hamby



Frank was born in Camden, Arkansas, and has lived in six other states. As a child, he wanted to be a soldier. His first job was working in his dad's gas station. He is retired from General Motors. He has visited Germany. He is an early bird whose favorite season is Spring. In his free time, he likes golfing, fishing, boating, and camping. He is good at problem solving. His most satisfying accomplishment is rearing three daughters. The best advice he's been given is "Hang on the cross." He and his wife, Ginny, have 6 grandchildren in addition to the 3 daughters.



*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 . . .

## Save the Date: June 2-6, 2019 Vacation Bible School



**Weeki Wachee Youth Retreat**  
**May 3-5, 2019**

Register ASAP!

See the bulletin board for speakers, times & details!



Please **DO NOT PARK** between the trees on the right and the bushes on the left shown in the foreground of this picture. It blocks access to the grass lot.



### 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.

**Questions!**  
**Questions!**  
**Questions!**

**This Sunday is Our Q & A Night. Make Sure to Submit Your Questions ASAP**

