

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. 68 No.20 06-09-15

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....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

The Value of Vacation Bible School

Learning God's word is always valuable. We have another tremendous opportunity to do just that beginning June 21. Contrary to popular thought, Vacation Bible School hosted by the South Florida Avenue church of Christ is not just for children! Yes, we have classes for all ages of children, from cradle roll all the way through high school. The value our eldership has placed on our youth is evident in their arranging a very special teacher, Hiram Kemp, to teach our teenagers. Adults also will be edified by the lessons that are taught. As noted in the advertisement below, Kevin Patterson of the Sebring Parkway church of Christ will be our adult class teacher. The five lessons in our "backyard adventure" VBS are (1) EXPLORE: The Bible, God's Book; (2) DISCOVER: God's Love for Us; (3) FOLLOW: Jesus, God's Son; (4) KNOW: Jesus, Our Friend; and (5) LEARN: God's Plan of Salvation. The Bible contains the only God-inspired words available to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16-17). These words are not just meant to be admired; they are meant to be put into practice for our betterment. The psalmist declared, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). Let us make plans to attend and invite as many as we can to this wonderful event of learning God's word!



JOIN US IN OUR BACKYARD ADVENTURE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 21-25

Sunday 6:00-7:30

Monday—Thursday 7:00-8:30

South Florida Avenue church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, Florida 33803
(863) 682-4702
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

Classes For All Ages (Cradle Roll—Adult)

* Guest Speaker for the Adult class will be
Kevin Patterson from the Sebring Parkway
church of Christ, in Sebring, Florida

WHAT CAN I DO?

Van Sprague

Andrew might have been a man one would consider average. He came from a city of little reputation. In fact, if one heard of it in the first century, he would know the industry of the place by the meaning of its name, “house of fish,” which may have been all for which it was known. We know it today as Bethsaida, a city that would probably be lost if it were not for its preservation in the Scriptures (John 1:44). This city was probably located around the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, where average Andrew practiced an average trade, fishing. The only reason we probably know of Andrew is because he is mentioned about a dozen times in the Bible. Even so, at a glance, Andrew’s life seems rather unexciting as compared to others of whom we read. He was a disciple of John the Immerser (John 1:35-40). He even followed Christ and became an apostle (Matthew 10:2). However, in light of the accomplishments of the other apostles, Andrew’s seem to fall into the shadows. We do not have any of his preaching recorded like his brother Peter’s. He never wrote Scripture. Actually, none of his actions, which are recorded in the Bible, would be considered significant by the world’s standards. Nonetheless, because of the One he followed, we would contend that his life has an eternal effect on many souls.

Today, Andrew provides a great example of action. Often, when we feel there is nothing we can do, we are content to do nothing. Andrew, on the other hand, did something. For instance, John 6:5-9 records Jesus testing Philip, concerning feeding 5,000 men, not to mention women and children. Christ asked Philip, *“Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”* “Philip answered Him, *‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.’*” In contrast, notice how Andrew responded to this seemingly impossible problem. “Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him [Jesus], *‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’*” Andrew did not think he had the means to solve the problem, but he tried. With Jesus’ help, the fact that Andrew tried was enough. The next time you come to a situation that seems hopeless, do not settle to do nothing. Offer a kind word, try to help or offer a prayer. What you do may be just enough.

If it were not for Andrew’s first response to finding the Christ, the face of the Scriptures and the history of the early church could have been drastically different. John 1:41-42 tells of what Andrew did in response to finding Jesus. *“He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘you are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).”* From here the apostle of Christ we most often call Peter began to follow the Savior. What would have happened if Andrew did not share his discovery of Jesus with Peter? We cannot know. However, imagine the dramatic effects Peter’s absence would cause. Someone else would have given the sermon we have recorded in Acts Chapter 2. There would be no First or Second Peter, and worse, if Peter had not heard of the Savior, he would be lost.

Many may be able to relate to Andrew. Perhaps the place one lives is not world renown. It may only be known for its coal, steel, fishing or farming. The case could be that even you may be a worker in one of these average jobs, an average student in school or living an average retired life. You may say, “There is nothing special about me. What can I do?” It may seem bold to say, but there was nothing special about Andrew, except that he served the Savior. That is what made his life extraordinary. If you can learn a little from this under appreciated man of the Bible, you too can stop living a life of mediocrity and start living a life of service to your Master. Share the precious record of Christ’s sacrifice with someone, encourage, thank and pray. You do not have to do what man considers “big things” to have an everlasting affect on souls. Start today. Share Andrew’s message: *“We have found the Messiah”* (John 1:41)!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bill & Carlene Long and Carla Moore have been home not feeling well. Keep Ann Howard, Margaret Coone, Jacquelin Dopwell, Gerri Lawrence and Sharon Washington in prayer.

Relatives: Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage.

Others: Also keep in prayer Sybil Carr, Chrissi Fuesner, Laura Bibby (friend of the Long's), and Laura's daughter Laura Carillo, Phil & Patsy Sweeney (friends of the Kirklands), Lydia Tubbs and Cherie Campbell.

Upcoming Events

June 20th: Men's breakfast is at the Central Church of Christ in Haines City at 8:00 a.m.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Ron & Judy Ford are in North Carolina. The Chisholms, will be vacationing. Please pray for safe travels.

Thank You's

Dear brother's & sisters, Thank you for your calls, cards and prayers. We have had a long illness and are thankful to be feeling better. We appreciate all your prayers.

In Christian love, Ron & Judy Ford.

Thank you, your kindness was appreciated more than you know. Your prayers and thoughts were very comforting.

Geri Lawrence

Updating Our Mailing List

If you are not a member here and would like to continue to receive our bulletin in the mail, please contact our office by phone or email by June 16th. Thank you

Visitors

Deborah Pavolvic-Okolichany, Elizabeth Sisk, Rodney Gadsden & children, Ms. Edna Kelly, Mrs. Sharon Edler, Donishia Curtis, Carl Edler Jr. and Christopher Edler.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

John McShane..... Table Charles Paulin
Robert Cooper Assist..... C.J. Grimes

Sunday, Jun 14, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... Fred Strickland

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Josh Estridge
Closing Prayer David Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix
Greeters The Fifes
Att. Cards..... Ian & Sebastian
Open & Close Building Tim Croson

Wed. June 17, 2015

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
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, June 21, 2015

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jim Turner
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle
Greeters The Pratts
Att. Cards..... Quadarius & Antonio
Open & Close Building Tim Croson

Wed. June 24, 2015

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 17	\$4,222.72
May 24	\$4,264.50
May 31	\$4,942.03
June 7	\$6,037.05
Contribution Average	\$4,728.13
2015 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,302.98

HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

Message this Week

"Too Many Clocks"

WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



Summer Break . . . from School but Not the Lord!

All area public schools are finally out for summer break! Summer time is often laid back and slow, except for those kids who want (or need) to attend summer school or work and earn extra money! While we must be careful not to get lazy, the time off from school can be a good thing. Let us make sure we do not take a break from the Lord. Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14, NKJ). Here, Jesus gave two ways to travel. Each one leads to a drastically different destination. The way that leads to eternal life is entered through the "narrow gate" and traveled along the "difficult way." The word "narrow [strait, KJV]" means "narrow, thin" and is used here to refer to a "narrow pass."



This indicates that this gate is very restricted and not as easily traveled as the alternative. The word "difficult [narrow, KJV]" means "restricted, narrow" and is used here to refer to "a narrow, confined road." This tells us that true discipleship takes self-control and it involves God's will, not our own. It is sometimes easy to "let down our guard" when we are busy with friends enjoying the break. However, we must stay in touch with God and His word during this time. Let us always be active in Christ! ❤️ *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 . . .

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, June 14 "Second Language" study with Lads to Leaders will meet at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to participate, especially those going to Costa Rica!

Saturday, June 20 will be our regular monthly youth devotional and activity. The activity will involve a service project to help with our VBS,



June 26-July 4 is Bible Camp week! Be sure to make plans now to join us!



Bible Bowl Questions on the Book of Matthew
 Are Now Available



Special Thanks to **Kelcey** and all those who helped with the all girls lock-in last weekend. Great faith building, fellowship, and fun was had by all who attended!

Pray for Costa Rica

On July 10, our youth group and adult mentors will depart Orlando for a Costa Rica missionary campaign. The group will join other church



of Christ members and seek to bring lost souls to Jesus. We will do personal Bible studies with a Gospel meeting each evening. **THANKS**