

# 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.26 06-28-16

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Jeff Bingle  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

Robert McAnally  
(863) 606-5664

## 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

## This One Thing

By Hiram Kemp

In our lives we are usually concerned with so many things. We have to go to work, clean the house, pick up the kids, and attend worship services. It seems as if there are so many things pulling for our time and attention. To focus on one thing seems almost impossible. We live in a world where mediocre multi-tasking is prized and doing one job well is rarely seen. I never realized how big the number one is until I started looking at it in the Bible. In the Bible there are many times when one thing or one person made all the difference. There is a sign in the hallway of the church building that says "one person can do so much" and this is true. One person or one thing can make an eternal difference for us all.

The one talent man in Matthew 25 had his hands full with just one thing. His hands were so full that he did not do anything with the talent. Instead, he squandered it and was cast out as a wicked and unprofitable servant (Mt. 25: 25-27). Most people think about losing their soul over some big thing or a long list of sins. Yet, for the one talent man in Jesus' parable it wasn't a list of things but one thing that caused him to be lost. Many of us are one talent individuals, and while we can't do everything, we can do something. Let us use the one thing God has given us to his glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

Lot's wife had her troubles as well. She made it out of Sodom and was on her way to safety, but one look caused her to be turned into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26; Lk. 17:32). It was not all of the sexual immorality that engulfed Sodom that would cause her to stumble (cf. Jude 1:7). She would not be caught in the fire and brimstone that God rained down from heaven. Mrs. Lot was destroyed because she just took one look back. In the kingdom of God, we need to be sure we keep our eyes forward and realize that our best days are ahead of us (Lk. 9:62).

Think of the apostle Paul. Paul wore many hats in the first century. Paul encouraged churches, wrote letters, planted congregations, and performed miraculous signs. However, for all that Paul was busy doing, he kept his main focus on one thing (Phil. 3:12-14). Paul was not concerned with being popular, sought after for preaching appointments, or remembered by men. Paul wanted to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We can do a lot of things fairly well, or we can do one thing really well. We can squander our one talent, take one costly look back, or seek the one thing that really matters (Mt. 6:33). What one thing will you do?

# Be Bad!

*Royce Pendergrass*

I recently saw an article that encouraged people to “Be Bad, Be Happy, Break A Few Rules.” I did not read the article; the heading was enough for me! However, I wondered how many people actually read it and were encouraged to put into practice what it said.

Be bad! The whole of God’s Holy Word teaches quite the contrary. The definition for “bad” is evil or vicious. It is so hard to understand that there are many in this world who actually are vicious and choose to be evil. Another word for evil is iniquity, and God plainly says, “Woe to those who devise iniquity” (Micah 2:1), and then in Matthew 7:22-23 one reads, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and in you name we have cast out devils and in your name have done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me you who work iniquity.” You see there is a “bad” consequence for choosing to be bad.

Although there are exceptions to the rule, in the audience of this editorial, most of us have told our children from birth to “be good.” That means to be kind and gentle and choose to do the right thing. We have taught them that one should “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Matthew 7:12), just as God has taught us. We even tell our animals to be good, and they understand what that means, and if they cross the line, there will be some unwanted consequence to follow. If animals can understand what it means to be good, then humans should surely understand the concept.

Too often, people seem to be more like animals with no moral convictions. The problem is that people choose to be bad. They crave the forbidden and seek self-satisfaction wherever it can be found. They think to be truly happy, one must be bad, and “if it feels good, do it,” whatever “it” is. They think that just because someone else has said that something is bad does not mean it is bad for you, and you can determine that for yourself. Their philosophies really become self-serving.

There are many who believe that “rules are made to be broken.” If it was not because someone was overstepping proper boundaries, there would be no need for rules; so, they are not made to be broken, but to be kept. They are often to be kept for the safety of people. For instance, a stop sign on the road means for oncoming traffic to do exactly that – stop! If the driver of that vehicle does not obey that rule or law, bad things can (and many times do) happen. Sometimes it is the driver who does not obey the rule who has to pay a price with injuries and sometimes even death to himself or loved ones. Besides the rules of the road, there are many examples of such things that we could name, but one is sufficient. The same rule applies.

God’s laws are the ones that must always be kept. Paul exhorted the Thessalonian brethren to “See that none render evil for evil to any man but always follow that which is good, both among yourselves and all men” (1 Thessalonians 5:15). Be good – not bad!

The article cited above suggests that if you want to be happy, indulge yourself. Do whatever it takes to make you happy. Jesus said, “I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them” (John 13:15, 17). Happiness is found in pleasing God: “Happy is he who trusts in the Lord” (Proverbs 16:20).

We read in John 21:17, “Lord, you know all things.” As for breaking the rules, you may break men’s and God’s rules and think you have succeeded in getting away with it, but there is One Who always knows, and that One Who knows all things will be our judge on the Day of Judgment: “There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me at that day and not to me only, but to all who love His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

To receive that crown, do not be bad, do not break the rules (laws of the land or God’s laws), and in the meantime, be happy in knowing that, if you serve God the way He has mandated, the best thing ever is waiting for you! Heaven will be worth it all!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jason Hendrix is doing well after eye surgery. Tucker Sweeney & Sebastian Rapley have been sick. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, Jacquelin Dopwell, JoAnn Hoback, Elizabeth Tubbs, Debbie Horsley, Jim Turner and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Joe Shanes, brother of Jeanelle Thrower has cranial hemorrhaging, and is under Hospice care. Wayne Hendrix, Bonnie Patterson, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Bobby Cooper, Janet Romberger, and Harold Rister.

**Shut In Members:** Virginia Plumlee, Ann Howard, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson and Sharon Edler.

**Others:** Jackie Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner and Alyssa Buckner. Keep all of these in your prayers.

## Upcoming Events

**June 25th-July 3rd:** A group of our members will be traveling to Nicaragua on a Missions trip. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels and a successful trip in spreading the gospel.

**July 10th:** Fellowship in Service. Please bring finger foods.

## Thank You Cards

Dear Church,

I, and the Burton family are blessed that your friendly and thoughtful church family remembered Bill Burton with a beautiful floral arrangement for his memorial service. A special thank you to Jim Turner for his faithful Sunday visits & serving communion to Bill & myself, and reading Scriptures & Prayer.

Thank you so much,  
Fran Hinson

I want to thank you for the prayers on behalf of my brother, Earl Shanes, during his illness and recovery from surgery.

In Christian love,  
Jeanelle Thrower

## Hither, Thither and Yon

The Estridge's, Kelcey & Avery Grimes, The Paulin's, Darlene Thompson & the Sweeney's are all out of town.

## Visitors

Jim & Carol Edmonson, Victor Travis & daughter Alexis, Christy Wright, Wayne and Barbara Hall,

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Bobby Sheumaker ..... **Table** ..... C.J. Grimes  
Kyle Williams ..... **Assist** ..... Tucker Sweeney

### Sunday, June 26, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Williams  
**Att. Cards** ..... Paul & Ian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jim Turner  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Tim Croson

Wed. June 29, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

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

### Sunday, July 3, 2016

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer** ..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... C.J. Grimes  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Fife's  
**Att. Cards** ..... Quadarius & Paul  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bob Pratt  
**Open & Close Building** ..... John McShane

Wed. July 6, 2016

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 29.....	\$4,818.50
June 05.....	\$4,567.00
June 12.....	\$4,523.00
June 19.....	\$4,843.55
<b>Contribution Average.....</b>	<b>\$4,650.71</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget.....</b>	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# Scenes from Our VBS on Biblical Love



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

Thank  You

for Showing Biblical Love

Special thanks to all those who helped with our VBS! We appreciate your allowing the Lord to work through you! Our children were blessed by of your sacrifice! Many left their "comfort zone," knowing that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13)!

By the time many receive this bulletin, some of our youth group will have already departed for the Nicaraguan evangelistic mission trip. Please pray for safety and success in spreading the Gospel. Thanks to those who gave extra to make this possible!



## VBS (continued)



*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)*