

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. 70 No. 24 07-03-17

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Jeff Bingle
Jimmy Sweeney
Chuck Wyatt

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon
(863) 944-8565

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

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

The Qualifications and Work of Deacons (part 2)

By Brian R. Kenyon

Since the congregation here is in the process of appointing a new deacon, it is appropriate to study the work and qualifications. Although denominationalism varies in its view of a deacon's qualifications and work, the Bible is our only true guide. In last week's bulletin we noted that the basic meaning of the word deacon is servant, or minister (Mt. 22:13; Jn. 2:5; Rom. 16:1). While it is true that all Christians are to be servants, as per the general meaning of the term, it is also true that there are special servants in the New Testament church called "deacons" (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-13). Those special servants are the focus of this article.

Qualifications of a Deacon (continued)

The qualifications for a deacon are as follows:

Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless ¹²Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. (1 Tim. 3:8-12)

We have already examined the qualifications: reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience, and being the husband of one wife. This leaves one more qualification.

Ruling Their Children and Their Own Houses Well The word translated "ruling" is from a Greek word that literally means "set before." In this context, it means to "be a leader, have authority over, manage; care for, give help" (Newman 151). This is also a qualification that men who would serve as elders must meet (1 Tim. 3:4-5). Outside of the references in First Timothy 3:4-5, 12, the word is found in five other places, where it is translated "leads [ruleth, KJV]" (Rom. 12:8), "are over" (1 Thes. 5:12), "rule" (1 Tim. 5:17), and "maintain [devote themselves to, ESV; engage in, NAS]" (Titus 3:8, 14). A man who cannot effectively serve his home by setting the proper example and by executing the proper, loving authority cannot be expected to effectively serve the church in his special capacity. A major difference between the "domestic" qualifications of an elder and a deacon is the fact that a deacon's children are not explicitly required to be "faithful" (i.e., Christians), as are the children of men who would serve as elders (Titus 1:6). While we should never bind what God has not bound, we should realize that

this qualification requires that a potential deacon's children be old enough to adequately determine whether he rules his children and house well. This writer has known of young married men who were appointed deacons within months of their first child's birth, as if the qualification involved his biological ability to sire offspring. Because a man rules his lap baby well does not necessarily prove he rules his children and his own house well. In some instances the man who ruled his lap baby well when first appointed has little or no control over his teenagers later, yet he still serves as a deacon, to the detriment of the church.

We have examined the qualifications given in First Timothy 3:8-12 that a man must meet in order to serve as deacon in the New Testament church: reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience, being the husband of one wife, and ruling his family well. Any Christian man who meets these qualifications and desires the work may be appointed by the eldership to serve.

The Work of Deacons

Deacons are special servants, and, like any other member of the local church, they must submit to the will of God and to the judgment of the elders of the local church. A deacon has no authority except what is delegated to him by his overseers. Deacons are not elders, "junior elders," or mere "figureheads," whose names appear on the church stationery. To "serve as deacons [use the office of a deacon, KJV]" is a work (1 Tim. 3:10, 13).

The nearest thing to a statement of their work is found in First Timothy 3:13, "For those who have served well as deacons ..." It is the work of deacons to serve well in whatever responsibility they are given. Any Scriptural work that is within a deacon's ability should be willingly and diligently performed. The fact that "they are servants disposed to be in readiness for whatever they may be asked to do may give a reason for no more specific mention being made of this task" (Cox 23).

Although the men of Acts 6:1-6 were not deacons as per First Timothy 3:8-13, the kind of work they did by assisting the apostles, in principle, is the kind of work done by deacons. The "seven men" chosen in Acts 6:1-6 were to be appointed over the business of serving tables (Acts 6:2-3). The word translated "serve" (Acts 6:2) is from the same Greek word that is translated "serve as deacons [office of a deacon, KJV]" (1 Tim. 3:10, 13). This is not teaching that deacons are merely to take care of the physical work of the church, while elders take care of the spiritual work of the church. The key to understanding the nature of a deacon's work is found in the fact that they, like the seven chosen in Acts 6, may do whatever will assist in the "ministry of the word." With the seven in Acts 6, it was taking care of the Grecian widows so that the apostles did not have to be slowed in spreading the Gospel. With deacons today, they may do whatever work the elders assign them that will assist the "ministry of the word." This may include taking care of the church building, serving as treasurer, leading personal evangelism, being the contact with the missionaries supported by the local church, maintaining the food pantry, etc.

Conclusion

Appointing deacons must be taken seriously. When qualified men do the work, the church will be more effective in doing God's will. Faithful deacons will also be rewarded. "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 3:13).

Works Cited (parts 1 and 2)

- Bauer, Walter. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd rev. ed. by William F. Arndt, F. Wilbur Gingrich, and Frederick W. Danker. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- Cox, James D. *With the Bishops and Deacons*. Delight, AR: Gospel Light Publishing, 1976.
- Ferguson, Everett. *The New Testament Church*. The Way of Life Series. Abilene, TX: Biblical Research Press, 1968.
- Newman, Barclay M., Jr., "A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament." *The Greek New Testament*. 4th rev. ed. Stuttgart, Germany: United Bible Society, 1993.
- Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. 1889. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977.
- Zerwick, Max. *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament*. 4th rev. ed. Trans. Mary Grosvenor. Rome, Italy: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.



SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Continue prayers for Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Margaret Coone, Sharon Mathis Washington, Josephine Bowman and Nadia Kemp.

Relatives: Benny Martin, Allan Cooper, son of Bob & June Cooper and Dorothy Trice.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Connie Hyer, Jack Pinckert, Maurice Davis, Jr., and Sam & Judy Crow.

Upcoming Events

Saturday July 15th: Men's breakfast at Medulla Church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday July 15th: Youth Devotional and get together at the Kenyons at 4:00 p.m.

July 24th-28th: VBS will be hosted by the Orange Street church of Christ. The theme is "Fix Your Eyes on Jesus!"

Saturday, July 29th: Don't forget our VBS here at SFA. Classes for all ages. Terrance Brownlow-Dindy from 6th Street church of Christ will be teaching the adult class.

Hither, Thither and Yon

Those who traveled to Panama on a Mission Trip made it safely and everything is going well so far. Please continue to pray for souls to be saved, and for safe travels home, they will return on July 9th. Stacey & Michelle Paulin and Josh & Marissa and Maddie Estridge will be traveling to Georgia this week. Please pray for safe travels.

Picture Directory

The picture directory is ready and members will be able to pick up their copy at the back door. Let us please thank Phil & Dottie Fife for all their time and hard work put into this project.

Visitors

Teresa Murrell, Cathy Garland & Barbara Farmer and Zachary and Brian, Jane Jessee and Peter Saunders.



Keep the Lord in Your Summer Travel Plans



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

David Anderson **Table** Ken Walker
John McShane..... **Assist** Kenny French

Sunday, July 9, 2017
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Josh Estridge

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

Greeters Debra / Melissa
Att. Cards..... Paul and Sebastian
Open & Close Building..... Phil Fife

Wed. July 12, 2017

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, July 16, 2017
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Casey Paulin

Greeters The Williams
Att. Cards..... Antonio and Paul
Open & Close Building..... Phil Fife

Wed. July 19, 2017

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 11	\$4,986.00
June 18.....	\$5,474.00
June 25.....	\$4,994.45
July 02.....	\$5,127.00
Contribution Average	\$5,380.53
2017 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

MISSION WORK IN HONDURAS

During the week of June 17-24, 2017, there was a group of Christians from Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia who went on a medical missions trip to Gracias (Lempira), Honduras. Jason Hendrix was one of the team members during that week. Gracias Lempira has approximately 50,000 people in the city. It is also the hometown of the current President of Honduras. The local congregation, prior to the mission trip, had five members that worshiped in the home of the minister, Oscar Erazo Espinoza. There is also another congregation made up of four women that Oscar and his wife travel to every Sunday evening for worship. Throughout the week, the medical mission team provided medical care, pharmaceutical needs, eye glasses, physical therapy, and Bible studies for the group. At the end of the week, twenty-six souls were added to the body of Christ. Let us pray for this group of new Christians, the local congregation in Gracias, and Oscar as they continue to grow and serve the Lord.



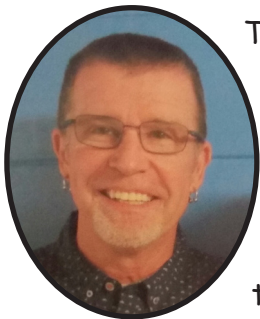
MEDICAL CLINICS



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 . . .



The elders are pleased to announce that **Stacey Paulin** is our newest deacon. We appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity. He will join **Jeff Bingle**, **Jimmy Sweeney**, & **Chuck Wyatt** in assisting the eldership in helping to strengthen this congregation!



Another soul snatched from Satan! One of the twenty-six souls baptized into Christ while Jason was in Honduras. When this bulletin was distributed, the team in Penonome, Panama, was in full door-to-door evangelism mode. Continue praying for the Gospel seed wherever it is sown!

Youth Devotional
and Get-together
July 15 @ 4:00 pm
at the Kenyons



“Super Saturday”
VBS July 29

