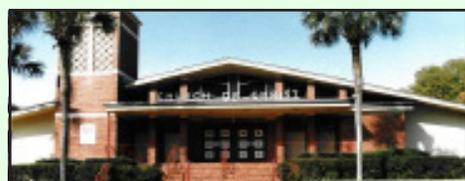


# Keeping Fit in the Lord

During the summer break from school, many of us get out of our normal routine, which is usually a good thing! Since there's no school, we may stay up late, and sleep in the next morning. In fact, the only time we may set the alarm clock is Sunday morning to make sure we get up in time for Sunday morning Bible study and worship. We may be away from home for weeks at a time and travel all over the place. However, in all this fun and excitement away from the everyday activities of the school year, we must make sure not to get "out of shape" with the Lord!



Like with our physical condition when we don't exercise as much and/or eat more junk food, our spiritual condition can also suffer over the summer break, if we're not careful, The Christian life can be compared to an endurance race (Hebrews 12:1-2). Concerning this race, the apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty" (1 Cor. 9:24-26). In an athletic race, there can only be one first place winner, but with this Christian race, everyone who finishes comes in first place (2 Timothy 4:7-8). However, to finish (*continued below*)



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lakeland, FL  
Permit No. 254

Return Service Requested



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

## THINGS TO KNOW

**Saturday, July 19** Will be our next youth devotional and activity, hosted by the Kenyons at the Kenyons.' Weather permitting, some of the "activity" part may be outside involving water, so please bring MODEST clothing that can get wet (along with, of course, dry clothes to change). Stay tuned for further details.

**VBS's and Gospel Meetings** There are a number of these in our area throughout the summer. Please see the bulletin board frequently for details. This is a great way to learn the Bible and make new Christian friends!

**We Will soon start our "pew packers" program to help us learn the Bible, especially the Books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, and Colossians!**

(*continued from above*) this race, we must, like the champion athlete, be in shape and stay in shape all the way to the end to win the race. In order to do this, we must exercise self-control, practice self-discipline, and keep our eyes fixed on the prize. Even during the summer—especially during the summer—let us still pray to the heavenly Father regularly, do our best to attend Bible classes and worship services consistently, and study our Bibles, maybe even working on extra memory verses to keep our minds in shape while at the same time putting God's word deep in our hearts. Summer is a great time! Enjoy it . . . and make sure you're still in good spiritual shape when the new school year begins. ❤️ Brian

# 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. 67 No. 29 7-22-14

## 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

## SECRETARY

Virginia Walker

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## 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.

## EMAIL

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

## WEB PAGES

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

## I Will Never Help Anyone Again

*Jerry Bates*

**H**ave you ever been disappointed in someone? Have you ever realized too late that you have been taken advantage of? Have you ever helped someone and never received even a “thank you” in return? I’m sure most, if not all of us, can answer yes to at least one of those questions. The tendency is for us to become coldhearted and declare, “I will never be in that situation again!” Most of us would also feel that we are perfectly right to have such an attitude after the way we have been treated.

While the above attitude is certainly understandable, it is not necessarily what God would have us to do. Remember that Jesus could also answer yes to all the above questions, many times over, yet His reaction was quite different from ours. In Luke 17:11-17, Jesus came upon ten lepers. They lived a miserable existence, and they earnestly pled for mercy from Jesus. He extended mercy, healed them and told them to show themselves to the priest. Somewhere along the way, they were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus for such a wonderful blessing. Luke emphasized that this one was a Samaritan, one that most Jews would look upon with great disfavor. In verse 17, Jesus asked a pointed question, which may indicate the sadness in his heart, “*Where are the nine?*” Yes, Jesus was disappointed many times over, especially by the Jewish leaders, but he never quit showing kindness.

What about ourselves? Have we ever disappointed God? Have we ever overlooked thanking Him for some great blessing? Again, I’m sure all of us could answer those questions in the affirmative. However, God has not and will not turn His back on us. He loves us in spite of our weaknesses. He will continually forgive, even though we continue to make mistakes. If God will do that for us, maybe we need to rethink our declaration, “I will never help anyone again!” “*For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you*” (Matthew 7:2).

# The Measure of Devotion

*David A. Sargent*

Following the July 1-3, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War, a section of the battlefield was designated as a cemetery for the soldiers slain in the battle. A ceremony was planned for November 19, 1863 for the “Consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.” Edward Everett was selected to give the chief oration. President Abraham Lincoln was invited to formally dedicate the site. The organizational committee expressed to President Lincoln: “It is the desire that, after the Oration, you, as Chief Executive of the nation, formally set apart these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks.”

These “few appropriate remarks” – the Gettysburg Address – that Lincoln would share on that historic occasion have come to be regarded as one of the greatest speeches in American history. In just over two minutes, Lincoln “examined the founding principles of the United States in the context of the Civil War, and he memorialized the sacrifices of those who gave their lives at Gettysburg and extolled virtues for the listeners (and the nation) to ensure the survival of America’s representative democracy (Wikipedia).

Although the President was asked to dedicate the ground for the cemetery, he concluded his address with a challenge to the living:

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

There is an even greater cause for which Jesus Christ, God’s Son, was willing to give “the last full measure of devotion.” The “cause” was the plan of God for the salvation of man that would be accomplished through the death (and resurrection!) of His Son as payment for the sins of mankind.

Man’s greatest problem has always been sin! Sin leads to eternal destruction (see Matthew 7:13-14). Yet, God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross that we might be redeemed (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus expressed “the last full measure of devotion” to His heavenly Father and to accomplishing His Father’s will by giving His life for us.

In order to accept the Father’s offer of salvation and life, one must place his faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31) confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27).

Then (adapting Lincoln’s words to reflect spiritual truths), out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us, we should “take increased devotion to that cause for which [Jesus] gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that [Jesus] shall not have died in vain — that [all those who accept Christ’s offer], shall have a new birth of freedom” – freedom from the bondage of sin and death. “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). Won’t you accept His offer of freedom, salvation and life?

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Louise Starks, Sam Bolding, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Duane Nelson, Bill Burton, JoAnn Hoback, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

**Relatives:** Wayne Hendrix, & JoAnn Smith.

**Shut In Members:** Ann Howard, Virginia Plumlee & Louise Starks.

**Others:** William Smith (father-in-law of Richard Meadows, minister at North side). Vera Jackson, Marilyn Eick, Jo Schnell, Frank Wood, Christina Fuessner, Bonnie Hendricks & Kathy Peel.

## Upcoming Events

**July 19th:** - The men's breakfast will be held at the Medulla church of Christ at 8:00 am.

**Aug. 2nd:** - Ladies Brunch at the Sebring Parkway church of Christ, at 9:00 am. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board with more information.

## Visitors

Mason & Kinley Barfield, Tiffany Jackson, Penny & Eric Minchey, Linda Pennington, Benjamin & Ashley Radford, Alicia Smith & Latraile, David Stout, Dan Thompson.

## Placed Membership

We are very happy that Sam and Judy Crow placed membership with our congregation last Sunday. They have moved here from Ohio, and Sam will be attending the School of Preaching next semester. Their new address is: 1240 Berkley Ct. Lakeland, FL 33801 Please get to know this fine couple and welcome them into our church family.

## Congratulations

To Sam and bettye Bolding, who will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary on Friday, July 19th.

Also to Don and Louise Starks who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Friday. We wish the very best for these two couples.

A man is rich according to what he is, not what he has. Remember, choice, not chance, determines your destiny.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### July

Frank Hamby ..... **Table** ..... Paul Romine  
Casey Paulin ..... **Assist** ..... Chuck Wyatt

**Sunday, July 20, 2014**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix

10:30 A.M.

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

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Charles Paulin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Greeters** ..... Robert & June Cooper  
**Att. Cards** ..... Quadarius Askew & Paul Sweeney  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Kenny French

**Wed. July 23, 2014**

**Song Leader** ..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Brian Kenyon  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jason Hendrix

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

**July 27, 2014**  
9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Prayer** ..... Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Kenny French  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Antonio Martin  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jim Turner  
**Greeters** ..... C. J. & Kelcey Grimes  
**Att. Cards** ..... Sebastian Rapley & Quadarius Askew  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Kenny French

**Wed. July 30, 2014**

**Song Leader** ..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Bob McAnally  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Brian Kenyon

## ~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Jun 22 .....	\$4,310.00
Jun 29 .....	\$4,726.40
Jul 06 .....	\$3,488.15
Jul 13 .....	\$4,682.50
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$4,469.15</b>
<b>2014 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,256.38</b>

## HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week's Message

**"Hearing The Master's Voice"**

1230 or 1430 on radio dial or web page

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

