

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.33 08-16-16

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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

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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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE

Nat Evans

Revelation 3:15-16 reads, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." This was written to the church at Laodicea. This also means, of course, that Jesus knows each of us individually inside out (Hebrews 4:13). The whole of our lives lie openly before him; nothing remains hidden. The Lord gave an evaluation of the congregation at Laodicea. The church was neither hot nor cold. Trench says that the Lord is expressing deep regret at this condition. Jesus is not saying that He wished that they had never come under the influence of the Gospel, but rather He is giving emphasis to His disappointment to their lukewarmness, over their lack of zeal and concern about spiritual matters.

Notice verse 16. "So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth." Lukewarm (chliaros, one of the various forms of chlio) means, "to become warm, liquefy, melt" (Thayer). Here the word is used metaphorically to express a condition that produced nausea. A beverage that is hot or cold could be refreshing; but a drink that is tepid and lukewarm produces only nausea and vomiting (Leviticus 18:28; 20:22). The Lord was saying, "Your half-hearted, hypocritical lives make me sick." He charges that they are neither cold (Psuchros) nor hot (zostos – boiling). They were attempting to make a deadly compromise. There can be no real commitment to Jesus if a person decides to remain cold at the same time. A.T. Robertson said, "There is no real Christianity without enthusiasm." Christ must mean more to us than the world. He must be our everything. Being lukewarm and being a Christian is a contradiction in terms.

Revelation 3:16-17 is a picture of what Jesus thought of a self-sufficient congregation. The Lord uses biting sarcasm in this verse. In John 2:17, Jesus quoted Psalm 69:9: "Zeal for thy house hath eaten me up." Zeal, Jesus said is consuming me. Is zeal for His cause consuming you and me? What is your spiritual temperature? Are you hot, cold or lukewarm? God demands that His people be zealous, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Titus 2:14). "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" or "careful to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8); "learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). It is good for Christians to be characterized by zeal. However, our zeal must be properly directed. This principle is clearly demonstrated in Romans 10:1-4. Paul wrote of the Jews, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God for them; that they might be saved; For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God." Zeal must be properly channeled and guided by Scripture.

BE NICE

Jeff A. Jenkins

A good friend of mine in Oklahoma City concludes nearly every conversation we have by telling me to “Be Nice.” He is a nice guy himself, and he encourages me not just by saying the words, but by the way he lives.

Something happened to me today that reminded me of the importance of being nice. I learned again why it is important for us to be kind to others. I was up early this morning preparing for a lunch meeting in Houston. I drove down to LUV field, got on the plane and flew down to Houston.

I had rented a car through Priceline (which I always try to do because it saves mucho bucks!). On the way from Houston Hobby to the rental car facility, the driver informed those of us on the bus that there might be a wait getting our cars. It seems like they weren’t prepared for as many renters as they were getting today. I was beginning to think, “That’s what I get for using Priceline!”

When he pulled up to the facility to let us out, my heart sank. There were people standing all over the lot – in the premium, full-size, mid-size and compact sections. There must have been about thirty people or groups of people waiting. As I got out of the bus, I could hear people complaining with serious anger. I began to think that I would miss my meeting. They were bringing out only one car at a time. It was obvious that it was not going well, and it was going slowly!

I had rented a mid-size car for nineteen dollars, and I felt sure that most of the twenty-plus people in front of me were also waiting on mid-size cars. There were only two girls in the lot. They were feverishly working, trying to help all of these people. I waited a minute, walked over to one of the girls and said, “So what’s the problem today?” She responded with great exasperation, “The problem is they’ve stuck me out here to listen to all of these people who are complaining and cussing me out.” I said, “I’m not going to curse you, or be upset with you at all.” Then I asked her if people were really cursing her. She said, “Most of these people standing here have either yelled at me or cussed at me.” I said, “Surely they know it’s not your fault?” Then I said, “Don’t worry, it will get better and everything will be okay.” I patted her on the shoulder and walked away.

As I was walking away she said, “Sir.” I said, “Yes ma’am?” She said, “You see that convertible coming out of the carwash there?” I said, “Yes ma’am.” She said, “You are going to get that car, right now!” I said, “I’m supposed to get a mid-size.” She said, “I know, but I have the authority to give you whatever car I choose, because we don’t currently have any mid-size vehicles, and since you are the first person who has been nice to me, I’m going to give it to you!” I said, “Thank you very much.” She said, “No, thank you for being nice.”

Now, please understand that I don’t believe that we should be nice just because it pays to be nice, because the truth is it might not always pay. Why then should we be nice, or kind to others? We should be kind because God is kind (Psalm 145:17; Romans 2:4; 11:22). If we want to be like God, we will be kind. We should be kind because love is kind (1 Corinthians 13:4). Kindness is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). We should be kind because the Bible commands kindness in Christians (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 2 Peter 1:7). We should be kind because there are so many hurting people in our world who need to see acts of kindness. When we are kind, the Word of God is honored (Titus 2:5). Therefore, Christian friend, go out there and “be nice” to someone today!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Jim Turner is recuperating at home. Jacquelin Dopwell's cancer has returned. Ginny Hamby has been having more tests and sees the doctor on Tuesday. Elizabeth Tubbs is home from LRMC. Janet Crosby is home now and needs our prayers. Carla Moore is home and requests no calls or visits. Also keep Evelyn Wyatt, Patricia Chisholm, Carlene Long, JoAnn Hoback, Debbie Horsley, Michelle Paulin and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Joe Shanes, Wayne Hendrix, Bonnie Patterson, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding and Harold Rister.

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

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

Upcoming Events

August 20th: Youth get-together & devotion at the Sweeney's at 5:30 p.m.

August 21st: Baby Shower and Potluck for Kyle and Alexa Williams after the evening services. For more info please see Becky Sheumaker or Rene' Bingle.

September 5th: 23rd Annual Labor Day Lectureship at the Sixth Street Church of Christ. The theme is "The Mind Of Christ."

September 10th: Youth Day at the OceanSide Church of Christ in Atlantic Beach, FL.

Nov. 4th-5th: Men's Retreat at the Eagle Lake Church of Christ.

Thank You

Dear Church family, Thank you so much for the many cards and especially the prayers during this time of loss. We so appreciate all of you.

Love, Darnell and Jane Kirkland.

New Address

Dick & Joyce Burbage have moved to: Azaela Park 1325 Grasslands Blvd. Lakeland, FL 33803 Room # 132.

Visitors

Wanda Powell & daughter, Amy. Howard & Robin Johnson, Matthew & Shannon Willcut and boys. Shelby, Kim and Megan Cox. Victor Travis & daughter, Alexis.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Frank Hamby **Table** Jimmy Sweeney
Fred Rapley **Assist** Josh Estridge

Sunday, August 21, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Charles Paulin
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Williams
Att. Cards Paul & Ian
Closing Prayer David Deal
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. August 24, 2016

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

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

Sunday, August 28, 2016

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements David Williams
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Bingle's
Att. Cards Antonio & Quadarius
Closing Prayer C. J. Grimes
Open & Close Building Bob Pratt

Wed. Aug.31, 2016

Song Leader Bill Long
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Closing Prayer Jason Hendrix

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 24.....	\$4,606.43
July 31	\$5,074.60
Aug..07.....	\$6,252.21
Aug 14.....	\$4,293.10
Contribution Average.....	\$4,991.51
2016 Weekly Budget.....	\$4,422.60

Let Jesus Bear Your Care

Part 2

Peter wrote, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). As noted in Part 1, one way to humble ourselves before God is to cast our "cares" upon Jesus.. "Casting ... cares" means to throw or to surrender so as to no longer be bothered by those anxieties. The reason why we can cast our burdens upon Jesus is because "He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7b). According to Arichea and Nida, the verb "cares" implies the idea "of being concerned for, of guiding, sustaining, and in the present context, of not being indifferent to the plight of Christians." First Peter 5:7 is an allusion to Psalm 55:22, "Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved." Here, the psalmist implored God to help him because not only were the wicked seeking to destroy



him, but even his close friend turned against him (Psalms 55:12-14). Sometimes, we can feel the same way. Although we can get discouraged by the way others treat us, God has promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," and then the God-inspired writer of Hebrews added: "so we may boldly say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6). God truly cares for us, and He is able to provide us with comfort and confidence! Let's not allow the anxieties of this life get us down. Jesus loves us and wants to bear our care! Give it to Him! ❤️ Brian



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CHURCH OF CHRIST
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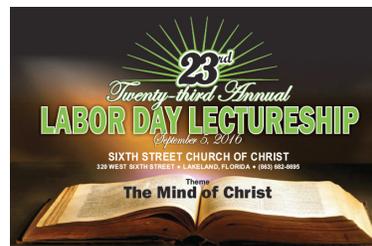
The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

YOUTH DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY @ THE SWEENEY'S, AUG. 20TH @ 5:30 pm

Saturday, August 27



There will be a meeting for parents, mentors, and chaperones (not students) for the 2016-2017 Lads to Leaders year. The "strategy session" meeting will begin with a meal in the fellowship room at 5:00 p.m.



Lectureships Aren't Just for Grown-ups! Make plans now to attend the Labor Day Lectureship hosted by the 6th Street church of Christ in Lakeland! Our preacher, Hiram Kemp, will be one of

the speakers. Lunch will also be provided. Let's support our sister congregation and, more importantly, support the Lord and His work! Help make this a great day of fellowship!



How to Have A Happy Home

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4)