

# 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.34 08-23-16

## ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

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Chuck Wyatt

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## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## OFFICE PHONE

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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

## THE CHRISTIAN'S FIRE

*Russ Vickers*

In Acts 17, Paul went to Mars Hill to declare the truth of the resurrection. There were many listeners who gathered who were not spiritually minded. Luke, who wrote the Book of Acts by inspiration, recorded that they spent their days simply wanting to discuss the latest new ideas with little interest in action on what they learned (v. 21). Too much information can be dangerous. All the ideas can blur together and become incoherent, leaving us unchanged by what we know.

Centuries ago, the historian Plutarch (ca. 46 – 120 A.D.) warned of the danger of living on a purely informational level. He wisely said, “The mind is not a jar to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.” The two disciples on the road to Emmaus would have agreed (Luke 24:13-32). They grieved the death of Jesus, but the risen Christ Himself joined them, yet He hid His identity. He began instructing them on the ancient prophecies of those events found throughout the Old Testament. Later that day, Christ revealed Himself to them and then departed.

After His departure, they marveled at what they had heard. The things taught were not sterile facts, but a fire that burned within them with devotion for the Lord. We are told in Luke 24:32 They said, “*Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?*” Until we have a fire burning within our hearts, we cannot start a fire in someone else’s heart. We must trust the Shepherd of our souls to kindle our fire as we grow in His Word.

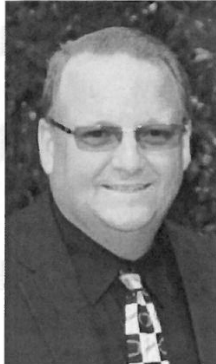
Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more of God's word and fellowship His people!

# SPEAKERS

# 6th Street Labor Day Lectureship

Devotional (song service & prayer) will begin at 9:00 a.m.  
Lunch will be provided at 12:00 p.m. following our last speaker.

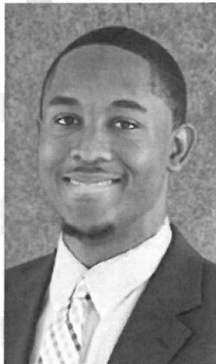
## Introducing our 2016 Speakers...



### *Thomas L. Bowling*

Tom Bowling is a 2012 graduate of the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies in Knoxville, Tennessee. Since graduating from school, he has served as the associate and youth minister of the Dayton church of Christ in Dayton, Tennessee, and the pulpit minister of the Charlotte Avenue congregation in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Tom is currently the pulpit minister of the Cavern Road church of Christ in Marianna, Florida. He and Summer, his wife of nineteen years, are both natives of Cleveland, Tennessee and have two sons (Bradley and Tyler). Tom has been a member of the Lord's church since 1981.

The Mind of Christ concerning WORSHIP.....9:20-10:00 a.m.



### *Hiram Kemp*

Hiram Kemp is a native of Hollywood/Miami, Florida. Hiram obeyed the Gospel of our Lord on June 30, 2009, and was also married to his wife Brittani in that same year. They have two children, Nadia (age 3) and Andre (age 1). Hiram is a 2016 graduate of the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland, Florida. Since graduating, he has served as the pulpit minister of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ in Lakeland. Hiram has conducted a number of Gospel Meetings across the United States, and has spoken on seminars and lectureships in various cities. He is also involve in evangelistic work in Nicaragua, Central America.

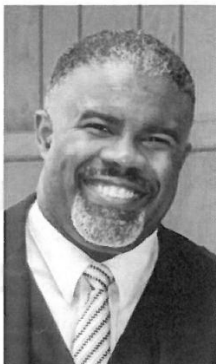
The Mind of Christ concerning CHRISTIAN DEDICATION.....10:00-10:40 a.m.



### *Tyler Jenkins*

Tyler Jenkins was born in Anniston, Alabama. He spent most of his formative years in Oak Grove, Missouri where his father served as the pulpit minister of the Oak Grove church of Christ. Tyler is a 2014 graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching in Memphis, Tennessee. Since graduating, Tyler has served as the associate minister of the Center Star church of Christ in Killen, Alabama, and is presently the Gospel preacher of the Redland church of Christ in Valdosta, Georgia. Additionally, Tyler serves as one of the assistant team leaders of the Jamaica Campaigns for Christ. He and his wife of four years, Tabitha, have a son, Boaz, and a daughter due to be born in December of 2016.

The Mind of Christ concerning FORGIVENESS.....10:40-11:20 a.m.



### *Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.*

Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr. is a native of Ada, Oklahoma. Terrance has been preaching the Gospel for seventeen years. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Oklahoma where he met his wife of twenty-three years, Shenia. They have four children: Destyni, Terrance Jr., Gabriel, and KeVontre. Terrance graduated from the Brown Trail School of Preaching in Bedford, Texas in 2000, and from the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver with a Master of Biblical Studies in 2016. He is the Gospel preacher of the Sixth Street church of Christ in Lakeland, Florida. He has also preached for congregations in Dallas, Texas; Belton, Missouri; and Kinder, Louisiana. Terrance has conducted Gospel Meetings, evangelistic campaigns, seminars, and has spoken on lectureships in various states. He is also an assistant team leader with the Jamaica Campaigns for Christ.

The Mind of Christ concerning THE CHURCH.....11:20-12:00 p.m.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Jim Turner is still recuperating at home and waiting on test results. JoAnn Hoback had a double mastectomy and is doing as well as can be expected. Also keep Ginny Hamby, Patricia Chisholm, Jaquelin Dopwell, Carlene Long, Elizabeth Tubbs, Janet Crosby, Carla Moore, Debbie Horsley, Michelle Paulin and Margaret Coone in prayer.

**Relatives:** Joe Shanes, Wayne Hendrix, Bonnie Patterson, Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Preston Craft (Melissa Craft's brother), Kyle Brunet (Jim Turner's grandson) 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

**September 4th:** Fellowship In Service following evening services. Please bring finger foods.

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

**September 7th:** Ladies Bible class will resume at 10:00 a.m.

**September 17th:** Men's breakfast at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven at 8:00 a.m.

**September 20th:** F.S.O.P. Ladies class. See the flyer on the bulletin board for the upcoming dates for the fall.

## Thank You

Linda Pennington wants to thank everyone for the prayers on her behalf during and after surgery.

## Response

Faith West responded Sunday night and asked for the prayers of the congregation. Please let's encourage and keep her in prayer.

## Placed Membership

JoAnne Mitchell placed membership last Sunday. Let us please welcome her into our family.

## Visitors

Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam, Howard & Robin Johnson, Matthew & Shannon Willcut and boys, and Kim Flannery

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### September

Charles Paulin ..... **Table** ..... C.J. Grimes  
Tucker Sweeney ..... **Assist** ..... Bobby Sheumaker

**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

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

**Sunday, September 4, 2016**

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer** ..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Stacey Paulin  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Frank Hamby  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... Paul Romine  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Sermon** ..... Hiram Kemp  
**Greeters** ..... The Hendrix's  
**Att. Cards** ..... Paul & Ian  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Open & Close Building** ..... Phil Fife

**Wed. September 7, 2016**

**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 31.....	\$5,074.60
Aug. 07 .....	\$6,252.21
Aug. 14.....	\$4,293.10
Aug 21.....	\$4,394.02
<b>Contribution Average.....</b>	<b>\$4,953.40</b>
<b>2016 Weekly Budget.....</b>	<b>\$4,422.60</b>

# Why "Our Definition of 'Love' Is Not God"

The message on the church marquee below raised a bit of interest. I will say here that the messages on the marquee are meant to be Biblical, informative, and thought provoking. I think most people see the point in the message pictured below. However, for the sake of reinforcement, let us realize an expanded version of this truth. Too many people re-define "love," and then worship the concept of their re-definition. For example, people re-define "love" into "tolerance," by which they mean "approval for sinful behavior." Then, "approval for sinful behavior" becomes the god they worship, the principle for which they live, and the standard by which they judge others. This is best illustrated by those in "Christendom" who promote the homosexual agenda. To many of them, "God is love" means "God approves of all 'loving' relationships," and since homosexual relationships involve "loving partners," then "God is love" becomes "God approves of homosexual relationships." They worship this idea. It becomes the principle by which they live (casting votes for politicians who agree, supporting laws that promote the idea, etc.). It also becomes the standard by which they judge others.



That is, those who disagree that God approves homosexual practice, and actually teach what God reveals in the Bible, are the ones who are condemned. Interestingly, those "victims" who claim to be "judged" by "Christian fundamentalists" are actually among the most severe condemners of people who do not agree with them! The truth of "God is love" (1 John 4:8) is that God always seeks the highest good for those whom He loves, which is everybody (John 3:16). The highest good does not always *(continued below)*



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

## 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 provided in the fellowship room at 5:00 p.m.

Ladies (no matter your age), take advantage of the opportunities to study God's word with other women. Beginning September 7, there will be a weekly class on Wednesday mornings at 10:00, and a monthly class Tuesday evenings at FSOP beginning September 20 @ 7:00 pm. Make plans to attend!

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."**

**Psalm 119:105**



*(continued from above)* involve approving everything people do. Compare this with parents. Does the fact that parents love their children mean that they approve everything their children do? Of course not! Why would it be different with God? Yes, He loves "the world" (John 3:16), but that does not mean He is okay with sinful behavior (Habakkuk 1:13). Even in the context of "God is love," God expressed His disapproval for his people's not loving each other, for the person "who does not love does not know God" (1 John 4:8a). Again, "love" (from *agape*) means to seek the other person's highest good, not the acceptance and/or approval of sinful behavior! In fact, the mere approval of sinful behavior subjects us to the "wrath of God" (Romans 1:18, 32). There are certain things God hates (Proverbs 6:16-19; Revelation 2:6, 16). If we are to follow the Lord, our attitude must reflect the psalmist's, "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104). ❤️ *Brian*