

# The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

**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. 73 No. 37 10-8-19

## ELDERS

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## SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

## 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  
since 1969

## 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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## WEB PAGE

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

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

# Youth Seminar

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

1807 S. Florida Ave. ~ Lakeland ~ 863-682-4702



# "To My Younger Self"

Hiram Kemp 2 Kings 2:23  
"Go Up you Baldhead"

Kevin Patterson Eccl. 12:1  
"Remember Your Creator"

Terrance Brownlow-Dindy Heb. 11:24-25  
"Passing Pleasures of Sin"

Forest Antemesaris 1 Tim. 4:12  
"Let No One Despise Your Youth"

## Saturday, October 19, 2019

## Let's Invite Our Friends and Neighbors!

# Lessons from Ten Faithless Spies

Hiram Kemp

God had promised Abraham that he would bless his descendants with the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:1-3). When God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, Moses was leading them toward their promised inheritance. God spoke to Moses and had him send one leader from each tribe to spy-out the land and bring a report back to the people (Num. 13:1-3, 17-20). Of the twelve spies who went into the land, only two came back with a good report: Caleb and Joshua. The other ten spies acknowledged the good of land but did not think they could conquer the land (Num. 13:26-33). As a result of their faithlessness, God would not allow those without faith to enter the land he promised them. The faithless generation died in the wilderness, and their children would enter the land and enjoy its blessings (Num. 14:26-35). The failings of Old Testament Israel were written for our learning. We should often study their behavior and be sure to avoid the mistakes they made and reproduce the virtuous deeds they performed (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6,11). Notice these lessons from the ten faithless spies.

**1. We are no better than our thoughts (Num. 13:33)** The Israelite leaders viewed themselves as puny grasshoppers, and that is how the Canaanites would view them. Solomon said what we think in our hearts is what we are (Prov. 23:7). We should be careful about having negative thoughts about ourselves and meditating on our failings continually. Instead of seeing ourselves as defeated losers incapable of pleasing God, we should appreciate the mercy and forgiveness of God and meditate on good and noble things (Phil. 4:8).

**2. We should not rely on our own strength (Num. 13:31)** It might have been true that the Canaanites were stronger than the Israelites, but that was not most important. God had promised to deliver the land into the hands of his people, and they should have trusted him (2 Chr 20:15). Much like David would claim to battle Goliath in the name of the Lord, Israel should have seen their battle as God's and not their own (1 Sam. 17:47; cf. Exod. 14:14). We should fight our enemies with the armor of God and remember that God is with us, and he will not abandon us (Eph. 6:10-17). What we cannot do in our own strength is possible as we trust in the power of God.

**3. Leaders should instill courage and not insight fear (Num. 13:3)** These men were all leaders in Israel. They should have spoken words of life to the people. It was their duty to encourage and lift up the spirits of their kinsmen. Instead, they spoke in terms of fear, defeat, and cowardice, and it rubbed off on the rest of the nation. God's leaders need to be wise, knowledgeable and courageous. Then, God's leaders need to pass on words of life and not words of defeat and dismay (2 Tim. 2:2).

**4. Do not follow a multitude to do evil (Num. 13:30)** Only Caleb and Joshua believed the Lord and thought they could conquer the land. They spoke up and tried to persuade their contemporaries to walk in faith and trust the Lord. Though they were unsuccessful, they were able to enter the land themselves and enjoy the fulfillment of God's promises (Josh. 21:43-45). Caleb and Joshua were surrounded by unbelief but chose to believe anyway. They were not going to allow the negative thinking of a few to corrupt their thinking (Exod. 23:2). We must not follow the crowd into sin and unrighteousness. We must stand for what is right, even if that means standing alone.

**5. We often overlook blessings and focus on burdens (Num. 13:27-28)** The people came back with fruit from the land in their hands. They confessed to Moses and Aaron that what they were told about the land was true. Still, they managed to overlook the fruit of the land and the true report given by Moses and Aaron and focus on the burden the children of Anak were for them. We are to cast our cares on the Lord and not to bear them ourselves (1 Pet. 5:7). Many times we overlook the blessings we are enjoying in the moment as we fret about possible hardships coming in the future (Prov. 27:1). It is unwise to pay interest on tomorrow's troubles (Mt. 6:34).

**6. Faithlessness leads to Senselessness (14:1-4)** Once the people gave up on entering Canaan, they desired to return to Egypt. They would rather be in bondage than to enjoy the freedom provided by God (cf. Gal. 4:9). They forgot how they cried out to God, and they also forgot that they had no way across the Red Sea without the God they were now rejecting. We need to be careful that our lack of faith does not lead us to lose our sense as well (cf. 1 Jn. 5:4).

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Scott Smith is home after a hospital stay for blood clots. Bruce Longfellow (heart surgery 10/31), Ginny Hamby (upcoming test results), Sarah Bauman (prayers for safety and health as she travels in a couple weeks), Ray Naschick, Kathy Sweeney (cataract surgery), Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, Denise Gulizia, Cierra Edwards (up-coming tests), Margaret Coone, Janie Wise (health problems), Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt (health problems), Debbie Bush, and Melody Baxter (leg problems).

**Shut In Members:** Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Bob McAnally (hospice care), Mike & Marie Massey (Wayne's uncle & aunt), Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Brinlee Alford, Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law), Wanda Clem (co-worker of Ginny Hamby), Ricky Garcia (Sophia Smith's friend) and Paul Nixson (brother in law of an FSOP graduate) in critical condition.

## Upcoming Events

**October 10-12th:** Ladies Retreat to St. Augustine, FL.

**October 13th-16th:** Sebring Lectures at the Sebring church of Christ

**Tuesday October 15th:** Senior Saints meeting, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m., filling blessing bags at 10:00 a.m. Following that they will be going on a tour of the Mulberry Phosphate Museum.

**Saturday, October 19th:** Youth Seminar here at South Florida Ave.

**Saturday, October 19th:** Annual Singing and picnic at Mary Holland Park.

**Monday October 21st:** Galatians Bible class at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday October 22nd:** FSOP Ladies Bible class at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday October 26th:** Trunk or Treat at the Anderson's.

**Sunday October 27th:** Men's Training class 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday October 27th:** Lads to Leaders work day at 4:30 p.m.

**November 1st-3rd:** Family Seminar at the Orange St. church of Christ.

**November 3rd-6th:** Our Gospel Meeting with Steve Atnip. Please make plans to attend, and remember to bring food for Sunday's fellowship meal.

**November 8-9th:** Men's Retreat sponsored by Eagle Lake church of Christ will be held at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City.

## Thank You Notes

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, you have shown me an unconditional love I have never experienced before. Thank you for your kind words and loving prayers during the passing of my mother, Jean Foust, early last week.

In Christian love, Sandra Foust.

Dear S.F.A. family, Thank you for your kindness. Good people like you and the kind things you do make the world a much brighter place. We can't say thank you enough for the prayers, cards, food and phone calls. May God bless each one of you.

In Christian love, Wayne & Anita Shearer.

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Johnny Davidson, Virginia Rupert, Janella Ash Melton, Molly Mizell, Luke and Zach Stearsman, Eimy Trujillo and Jennifer Waldon.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### October

**Designated Elder During Services - Bobby Sheumaker**  
**Open/Close Building - Phil Fife**

John McShane ..... **Table** ..... Josh Estridge  
Edward Atkins ..... **Assist** ..... Dustin Walling

**Sunday, October 13, 2019**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer**..... David Williams  
**Sound Booth**..... Alex Parramore  
**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Kyle Faneuf  
**Sermon**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**..... Wadi Khoury  
**Greeters**..... Nona W./Jeanelle  
**Cards**..... Klark/Willcut

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Opening Prayer**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sermon**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**..... David Deal

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Alex Parramore

### October Clean-up David Williams team (R-Z)

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Song at Bible Class**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Prayer**..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Sound Booth**..... Phil Fife  
**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Gavin Williams  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Jim Edmonson  
**Greeters**..... bettye B./Melissa C.  
**Cards**..... Caelen/Cam'ron

**6:00 P.M.**

**Song Leader**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... John McShane

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**Song Leader**..... Ken Walker  
**Opening Prayer**..... Jeff Bingle  
**Closing Prayer**..... David Deal

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

**Sept. 15**..... **\$6,526.05**  
**Sept. 22** ..... **\$5,976.38**  
**Sept. 29** ..... **\$6,386.00**  
**Oct. 6** ..... **\$6,229.00**  
**Contribution Average** ..... **\$6,559.87**

*New Member Spotlight* **Rachel Grimes**



Rachel was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and grew up in that area. As a child, she wanted to be a teacher. Her first job was as a secretary for a security company. She is currently a travel agent and a massage therapist.

Her favorite book is the Bible. She likes summer. In her free time, she likes reading, crocheting, painting, baking, and sewing. She is good at helping people. Her most satisfying accomplishment is moving to a new state with her husband, Allen. The best advice she's been given is "Enjoy every minute because it only lasts a minute." Welcome Rachel!

*New Member Spotlight* **Allen Grimes**



Allen was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and also lived in Clermont, Florida. As a child, he wanted to be an artist. His first job was painting pumpkins in the fall. He is currently a professional artist.

His favorite book is the Bible. His favorite season is fall. He likes sweet tea. He enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Rachel, and friends. He also likes fishing, basketball, snowboarding, gaming, and drawing. His most satisfying accomplishment is becoming a Christian. The best advice he's been given is "Keep on keeping on." Welcome Allen!



*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 . . .

**Make  
Plans  
Now To  
Attend**



Yes II crew with special guests Eimy, translator extraordinaire (2nd row middle), and Molly (2nd row left). Glad they visited!



Ladies Day speakers, Stephanie, Dee, Kelcey

**Great Weekend  
Of Church Activity!**

While these two pictures seem unrelated, they illustrate the strength of the "I must be about my Father's business" attitude of this congregation! Our ladies worked very hard, putting in long, late night/early morning hours preparing for and carrying out this ladies day, and yet that same afternoon joined the rest of us for the First Annual Brotherhood-Wide Door Knocking Campaign! What a great encouragement!



Door knocking crew (minus Jagie, who took the picture).