

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. 73 No. 38 10-15-19

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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

YOUTUBE.com

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 Antemasaris 1 Tim. 4:12
“Let No One Despise Your Youth”

Saturday, October 19, 2019

Registration Begins @ 8:30 am Program 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Let's Invite Our Friends and Neighbors!

Don't Let Culture "Auto-Correct" You!

Brian R. Kenyon

I did not realize how much I missed the auto-correct feature on my texting app until all of a sudden, for no perceivable reason, it quit working. Texts that used to take a fraction of the time now take much longer because my app no longer anticipates what I will say next. The most disturbing thing is that "Jesus" or "Christ" is no longer a default option. When I used to text the letters "Jes," auto-correct would supply "Jesus," or when I used to text "Chr," auto-correct would supply "Christ." Now, "Jesus" is not even one of the three options. Instead, auto-correct supplies "Jesuit," "Jesu," or "Jesup." Likewise, the choices for "Chr" are "Christmas," "Chris," or "Christian." Hopefully, my auto-correct feature will "re-train" itself. An even more serious observation is our present culture's attempt to "auto-correct" Biblical morality, even to the point that some Christians are accepting it!

God's Correct Standard

If God exists (and He does), and if the Bible is the inspired word of God (and it is), then whatever moral standard the Bible teaches as applicable today is true and binding on all people. Due to the limited length of this article, space will not be taken to prove that God exists and that the Bible is the inspired word of God, but be assured that such can be proven. Since the Bible is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and since we will be judged by the words of Jesus (Jn. 12:48), which includes the whole Bible (cf. 1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Pet. 1:11; 2 Pet. 1:21), our "default morality" must be what the Bible authorizes, not what culture asserts (Rom. 12:2)!

Culture's Incorrect "Options"

To some extent, it seems some in the "older generation" have always thought the "younger generation" was ruining society and that some in the "younger generation" have always rebelled against "older generational ways" simply because they were "older generational." Some of that, obviously, is still present. However, the stakes are much higher today than Elvis' swivelling hips of years ago. While that certainly rocked the culture, there is nothing inherently sinful about that style of theatrics. Today, actions that are inherently sinful are being pushed forward as legitimately correct options. We need to stand up for truth in our spheres of influence. Our salvation and the preservation of this country's existence is at stake (Pr. 14:34)! Below are a few examples of culture's "auto correct" options.

INCORRECT: God Is Non-Existent For decades now, there has been a concerted effort to eliminate "God talk" from American culture. Some have even blamed the "Judeo-Christian God" for all societal ills! This is nothing new. Satan's first recorded deception was to reflect God as not being benevolent (Gen. 3:4-5). Furthermore, many of these same voices uphold atheistic systems of government (i.e., communism) as exemplary! Government notwithstanding, anything based on arrogant declarations there is no God is ultimately doomed to fail (cf. Ps. 10:4; Rom. 1:30, "haters of God"). Do not be "auto-corrected" by culture—God does exist and faith in Him is necessary (Heb. 11:6).

INCORRECT: Infanticide Is "Pro-Choice" According to some statisticians, since 1973 over 50 million abortions have occurred in the United States. Few things are more representative of purity, innocence, and defenseless than a baby, yet people, in good conscience, deliberately kill them in-utero! God is not happy with that (Pr. 6:16-18; 1 Jn. 3:15)! Before even opening the Bible, we can know the claim that "fetuses" are not human is false and irrational! *All* human "fetuses" able to mature and be born will *always* be human beings! If not human, what else could they be? The Bible, of course, confirms this (Ps. 51:5; Jer. 1:5; Lk. 1:41, 44; 2:12). Do not be "auto-corrected" by culture—intentionally taking innocent human life is murder, and deliberate abortion is intentionally taking innocent human life!

INCORRECT: Homosexuality Is Moral As confirmed by its highly visible promotion all over American culture, the push to "normalize" homosexual behavior is relentless. People who even think about opposing it run the risk of serious consequences, even losing their careers! Despite the claim that people who teach against it are "full of hate," God's word still teaches that homosexual behavior is sinful (Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:10; Jude 7). If someone says, "Murder is sinful," does that make him hate murderers? Of course not! Neither does standing against homosexuality make the person "hateful"! Do not be "auto-corrected" by culture — homosexual behavior is sinful, but it can be forgiven, if those guilty will repent (cf. 1 Cor. 6:11). May we always uphold God's correct moral standard!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Scott Smith will be undergoing more tests for blood clots. Ginny Hamby will be starting a new drug soon, due to the lesion in her lung, which has grown. David Dix (kidney stone), Ellen Shearer (heart catheter 10-17), Cierra Edwards (up-coming tests on 10-30), Bruce Longfellow (heart surgery 10/31), Ray Naschick, Kathy Sweeney (cataract surgery), Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Denise Gulizia, Margaret Coone, Janie Wise, Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt, Debbie Bush, Ginny Johnson and Melody Baxter.

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) and Wanda Clem (co-worker of Ginny Hamby).

Upcoming Events

- 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 Tyler & Jessica Anderson's at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish, drinks, chairs and bug spray. If you are interested in participating you can decorate your trunk and give candy out to the kids.
Sunday, October 27th: Men's Training class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, October 27th: Class on how to use a heart defibrillator at 5:00 p.m. (We now have a heart defibrillator in the back utility hallway).
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.

Response

Marissa Estridge asked for the prayers of the congregation on Wednesday October 9th to have a better Christian attitude. Please keep her in prayer.

Baby Sprinkle Gift Table

Josh & Marissa Estridge will be adding another little one to their family in November. Maddox will be a proud big sister. If you would like to sprinkle them with a gift card or diapers that would be greatly appreciated, since they are waiting to be surprised on whether it is a girl or boy!

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Tiffany Hash, Margaret Khoury and Jeff Childers.

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 20, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Jim Turner
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

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 27, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Paul Romine
Prayer.....Alex Parramore
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements..... Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Rick Kenyon
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker
Greeters..... Fife/McCarter
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... Allan Grimes
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

Wednesday, October 29, 2019

Song Leader Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Gavin Williams

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sept. 22..... \$5,976.38
Sept. 29 \$6,386.00
Oct. 6 \$6,229.00
Oct. 13 \$5,734.07
Contribution Average \$6,539.73

Communion to Shut-Ins

Oct. 20 Van Allen
 Oct. 27 Volunteer needed
 Nov. 3 Deal/Turner
 Nov. 10 Youth Group



Member Spotlight

Ray Nashick



Ray was born in Port Jefferson, New York, and grew up in that area. He also lived in Texas. As a child, he wanted to be a scientist. His first job was in a pizzeria. He is currently disabled. He has visited Mexico and knows a small amount of Spanish. He likes winter. In his free time, he likes studying the Bible and being a "book worm." He is good at deductive reasoning. He also enjoys cooking. His most satisfying accomplishment is managing a distribution center. The best advice he's been given is "Shut up and listen." He had one child who passed away.



Member Spotlight

Fred Strickland



Fred was born in Winter Haven, Florida, and grew up in this area. As a child, he wanted to be a cowboy. His first job was mowing yards. He served in the US Army and was in Korea (1968-1969). He is currently a retired electrician. In his free time, he likes to raise cattle, farm, and grow a garden. His most satisfying accomplishment is making it to retirement. The best advice he's been given was as a construction worker: "You work for the auto manufacturers, gas company, and tire company." He and his wife, Kathy, have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.



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
 To Attend!
 This Often
 Neglected
 Area Of
 Study Is
 Important!**

**Modern Relevance
 of Ancient Evidence**

Fall Gospel Meeting
 November 3 - 6, 2019

Sunday, Bible Class 9:30 a.m. - The Value of Archaeology
Sunday, worship 10:30 a.m. - Jericho: Answering the Critics' Denial of Historical Accuracy
Fellowship meal to follow

Sunday, worship 6:00 p.m. - Ai: Finding the Second City of Conquest
Monday, 7:00 p.m. - Jerusalem: The City of God on Earth
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Megiddo: Guardian to the Way of the Sea
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Caesarea Maritima: Israel's Mediterranean Seaport

South Florida Avenue
 church of Christ

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Stephen Attip
 Black Creek church of Christ




"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God" (Lk. 8:11)



Thanks Graham for updating us on the Lord's great work in Scotland!