

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. 41 11-05-19

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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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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Jesus' Role at God's Right Hand

Hiram Kemp

When Jesus was on earth, he always did the things that pleased his father (John 8:29). Jesus never committed a sin, and he never did anything that was not consistent with the will of God in heaven. As Jesus was preparing to die on the cross, he said, "I have glorified you on earth, having finished the work that you gave me to do" (John 17:4). Jesus' earthly mission was complete with his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. However, Jesus did not cease working completely when he returned to heaven. The Bible depicts Jesus as being at the right hand of God in heaven and being very active at God's right hand. Being at God's right hand denotes authority, power, prestige, and royalty equal to God. Jesus at God's right hand is further evidence of his reigning and ruling as Christ (Acts 2:36; 5:33). Notice the work that Jesus does at the right hand of God.

Interceding for Christians

In Romans 8, Paul speaks of the victory Christians enjoy since we are free from condemnation in Christ (Rom. 8:1). Christians are indwelt by God's Spirit and can call God our Father in a special way that is foreign to the rest of the world (Rom. 8:14-15). Paul goes on to say that God justifies us through Christ and that Christ is at God's right hand making intercession for us (Rom. 8:33-34). The writer of the Book of Hebrews says that He "always lives to makes intercession for us" (Heb. 7:25, ESV). Jesus entreats God in our favor.

As our elder brother who has lived on earth and experienced the hardships that we face, Jesus can plead our case before God. While ruling at God's right hand, Jesus remembers those in his kingdom and speaks to God on our behalf. Jesus prayed for us before the cross, and he is still speaking to God for us long after the events of the cross (cf. John 17:20-21). What a blessing to know that along with the Holy Spirit of God, God the Son is also interceding for us (Rom. 8:26).

Sitting Down

Rulers in the world who have some measure of power often find themselves defending it. World leaders must constantly be vigilant and on guard as their adversaries are vying for their spot. However, the Bible describes Jesus as not only being exalted to God's right hand, but sitting down at the right of God (Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3). To be sitting down at the right of God shows that Jesus' position of power and authority is unthreatened and unrivaled. He is not up defending it

nor concerned that some unwanted intruder will enter into the corridors of heaven and encroach upon his rule. Jesus is comfortably seated on his exalted throne as he enjoys his status sitting on the right hand of God (Luke 22:6).

While Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God, he is waiting for all of his enemies to become his footstool (Acts 2:34-35). In his death and resurrection, Jesus dealt the death blow to the powers of darkness. He is described as having triumphed over all principalities and powers (Col. 2:15). Still, the last enemy that will be defeated is death. When the resurrection takes place and all of humanity is raised, then Jesus' kingdom will be delivered up to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Jesus sits at the right hand of God ruling, reigning, and anticipating the culmination of this world as he leads his people into the eternal age.

Observing Human Affairs

Luke records that as Stephen was stoned for the unwelcomed truth he preached, he saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God (Acts 7:55). Stephen then speaks to the crowd and tells them, "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." (Acts 7:56). As Stephen was being martyred for the Christian faith, Jesus was watching and looking, no doubt looking on Stephen's faith with approval (cf. Matt. 10:32-33). While at the right hand of God, Jesus sees what his people are going through, and he supplies strength for us through his word and through his church. In Revelation, John describes Jesus as walking among the churches and observing the good and bad within them (Rev. 2:1). We should be both comforted and challenged by the nearness of our Lord (Phil. 4:5). Even though he is in heaven at God's right hand, he is viewing what we do while in this land (cf. Prov. 15:3).

Conclusion

Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins and sat down at God's right hand (Heb. 10:12). Jesus' earthly work was done at that point, but his heavenly ministry on behalf of his disciples continues. We are thankful that Jesus intercedes, sits, and observes at the right hand of God (1 Pet. 3:22)!

House Matters . . . Thank You Very Much!

We are pleased to announce, as most have already noticed, the preacher's house next to the church building is complete and the residents have moved in. We thank God for His providence in bringing this together. As most of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ members know, our initial plans were to demolish the house, but as John McShane, one of our deacons who worked closely with the historical society, discovered, there were stages through which the church had to proceed in order to finally have the house torn down. One of those steps was to display a sign offering the house to anyone who wanted to relocate it at that party's expense, which would cost around \$300,000! Although several called (John is still probably getting calls), no one was able to take possession. However, the publicity brought our dilemma to the attention of a philanthropist, Gregory Fancelli, who has had a long standing interest in preserving Lakeland history. Our preacher's house, known historically as the Doctor John Lester House, was established in 1920. As a gift to the church and in the interest of preserving historical Lakeland, Mr. Fancelli agreed, at his own expense, to bring the electrical, plumbing, and air conditioning up to code and to restore the inside of the house, keeping it as close to the original as possible. Albert Moore Construction supplied the craftsmen, including Tee, who was here early every day for months working on the house, and who also visited our worship services a few times. We thank all these and others involved in this project!

Rick and Stephanie and their children will live in the downstairs to keep a constant presence, which hopefully will remind "guests" upstairs (FSOP students) not to get out of hand. Everyone living there will share the cost of utilities, WiFi, etc. so that the church only pays the property insurance on the house, as it always has. Appreciation is extended to our eldership for allowing the house to be used as it is currently assigned, to the congregation for your patience and cooperation while the house was being restored, and to all who helped move furniture and/or participated in work days that involved the house and surrounding property. Let us use all with which we are blessed, whether spiritual or physical, "to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thes. 1:9-10). *Æ Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Sharon Mathis-Washington is in Lakeland Regional Hospital. Bruce Longfellow's surgery went well. It was good to have Bob Pratt (pacemaker) and bettye bolding (shingles) back with us. Cierra Edwards is having further testing done. Margaret Coone is doing better while recovering and thanks everyone for their prayers. Ginny Hamby, Staci Smith, Ellen Shearer, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Denise Gulizia, Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt, Debbie Bush and Ginny Johnson.

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

Others: Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Tanya Irizarry, and Debra Okolichany's cousin after losing her son suddenly.

Upcoming Events

Thursday November 7th: Senior Saints outing to the Festival of Wreaths. Details and sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

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.

Friday November 8th: Parents night out from 6-9 p.m.

Sunday November 10th: Teachers meeting after morning worship. (for those interested in teaching or being a teacher next quarter).

Sunday November 10th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Nov. 10th: Youth group devotional and communion to shut-ins.

Friday November 15th: Youth Group Thankful Meal at Rick & Stephanie Kenyon's at 5:00 p.m.

Baptism

We are excited to announce that Adrian Griffin was baptized into Christ on Sunday November 3rd. Let us welcome him into our congregation.

Placed Membership

Janis Waldon and Dawn Ellison have requested to place membership with us here. Let us welcome them into our family.

New Address

Grace McAnally's new address is 4310 Maya Lane Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473. Her phone number is 810-232-9820 and e-mail graceagnesstevens@outlook.com. She misses us and would love to hear from everyone.

Christmas Stockings

We will be making Christmas stockings for the Women's Abuse Shelter again this year. Please see Rene' Bingle if you would like to help with this project. A list of suggested items will be on the bulletin board.

Congratulations

Brian & Jagie Kenyon are proud grandparents to Emery Rose, born to Elly and Andrew Enamorado on Saturday Nov. 2nd at 10:41 a.m., weighing 7.5 lbs. The new parents and baby are doing well. Jagie is in Arizona with them, enjoying the time together.

Thank You

A heart felt thank-you to the South Florida Ave. family for hosting our wedding ceremony on Saturday November 2nd. Please pray that we always love each other the way the Lord has commanded us!
With love, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Smith.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Johnny Davidson, Terrance and Shenia Brownlow-Dindy, Terrance Brownlow-Dindy Jr, Ruby Lewis, DaQuan Salmon, Dottie Gutzler, Pat Haynes, Brennan Lefler, Trenton & Laura McMillan, Stan Moore, Michelle Gerri, John & Janie Glass, Mary Moore and Bradford & Robynne Ashby.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Charles Paulin

David Williams..... **Table** Fred Strickland
Gavin Williams **Assist** Matt Willcut

Sunday, November 10, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Faneuf
Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Edward Atkins
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Dustin Walling
Greeters..... Pratt/Smith
Cards..... Klark/Willcut

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Phil Fife
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Song Leader Kyle Bingle
Opening Prayer..... Gavin Williams
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

November Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

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

Sunday, November 17, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine
Prayer..... John McShane
Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Ken Walker
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Greeters..... Walker/Kenyon
Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Rick Kenyon
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Closing Prayer..... John McShane

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 13 \$5,734.07
Oct. 20 \$5,838.50
Oct. 27 \$6,254.46
Nov. 03 \$8,476.66
Contribution Average \$6,561.33

Peace in the Local Church

Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to “recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. **Be at peace among yourselves**” (1 Thes. 5:12-13). Paul gave the Thessalonians two initial imperatives. First, they were to appreciate their elders. The word “recognize [know, KJV; appreciate, NAS; respect, ESV]” carries the meaning of acknowledging the true value of. That these were elders is seen by the description of their work as being “over you in the Lord” (cf. 1 Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17). Second, they were to respect their elders. The word “esteem” carries the idea of having regard for (cf. Phil. 2:3; 3:7-8). Note that elders are not to be respected because of their personalities (though they should have respectable personalities cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7) nor for their outside interests. Rather, they should be respected for their “work’s sake.” The work elders do is very serious and sacrificial on their part (cf. Heb. 13:17). When elders are appreciated and respected in love for their work’s sake, the church will be “at peace among yourselves” (1 Thes. 5:13b). Disharmony in a local church is often the result of either elders not doing their work (and receiving no appreciation or respect from the members) or elders doing their work without the appreciation or respect of the members (because the members do not appreciate or respect God’s will). Let us continue recognizing the good work of our elders and keep respecting and appreciating them for it. May we never take for granted the peace that exists within the South Florida Avenue congregation. Let us thank God and our elders’ sacrifice for it! *AE Brian*



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 . . .



We are thankful and thrilled that Adrian Griffin was baptized into Christ on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, after morning services (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). We are so appreciative of God’s grace in allowing us to be saved from sin! Let us welcome our new brother in Christ!



We appreciate **Stephen Atnip** (on right) for preaching about “Modern Relevance of Ancient Evidence!” Our faith has been strengthened! Also, pictured from left: Vince, Hiram, Brian, and Ted Wheeler. God is great!

We are thinking of providing an attended nursery for children under 2 years.

If you are a mom of such a child or a spiritually mature sister in Christ who would be interested in being in the rotation of attendants, please let the office know. Based upon the response, we will look further into the possibility.



THINK SOULS! Let’s invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS!