

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. 70 No. 42 11-07-17

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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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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Help Spread the Word! Invite Your Friends & Neighbors!



South Florida Avenue
Church of Christ
Invites You To Our

Gospel Meeting
November 12-15, 2017

with **Steve Higginbotham**

Fundamentals for Faith and Accountability

Sunday Services, November 12

9:30 am – *How to Be a Better Student of the Bible*

10:30 am – *Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus*

11:45 – **Lunch provided (visitors welcome!)**

6:00 pm – *He Is My Everything*

Monday—Wednesday Services Begin at 7:00 pm

Mon. – *Morals in an Immoral Age*

Tue. – *Non-Denominational Christianity*

Wed. – *Reasons to Keep the Faith*

The Refuge for the Righteous

Hiram Kemp

The Book of Psalms is filled with encouragement for the people of God. The human life is filled with many concerns and needs, but the Psalms addresses them all. The remedy that is given throughout the Psalms for human problems is to focus more on God than on the enemies and problems that surround us. It is easy to focus our eyes on the immediate, but we should seek and meditate on the things that are above (Col. 3:2). Psalm 46 should be consulted frequently by God's people, and especially in times of despair. With another church shooting taking place this week, there is a lot of discussion over how Christians should respond. What should the church do in order to prepare for a possible attack? How can Christians worship in spirit, in truth, and also in peace while they are thinking of possible physical threats to the assembly? There are many things that we cannot control, but we can trust the one who is always in control (Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3). Christians should be wise and take necessary precautions at all times, but in the end, we must remember that God is our ultimate defense. Notice what the Psalmist says to the people of God about the refuge God provides for the righteous.

God Is Present in Trouble (Psa. 46:1)

God is a very present help in time of trouble. We should focus on the fact that God is always with us. Jesus promised his disciples that he would be with them at all times until the end of the age (Mt. 28:20). Sometimes earthly friends forsake us in times of difficulty, but God will never abandon us (Heb. 13:5-6). Christians can stand boldly in times of hardship and difficulty because God will fight with us and for us (Ex. 14:14). When the Jews were heading into Babylonian captivity, God promised to be with them when they passed through the waters and through the fires (Isa. 43:2). We should expect no less today. The fact that God will be with us does not mean there will be a miraculous deliverance, but that there will always be divine presence and that is enough to soothe our hearts during the turbulent times of our lives. We sing the song, "Anywhere with Jesus." The truth is if we are in Christ, everywhere we go he is with us and that should produce confidence (Psa. 46:11). So many focus on the danger that is present, but we should be pointing our attention to the Lord who is ever present with us.

There Is Nothing to Fear (Psa. 46:2-3)

God has not given us the spirit of fear; this is from the enemy (2 Tim. 1:7). Since God is with us and nothing can overpower him or catch him off guard, we have nothing to fear. The world around us may be running in fear and unsure of what the future holds, but Christians know better. A. W. Tozer said, "While it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes there is a God who has not surrendered his authority." Tragedies should concern us, but they must never shipwreck our faith. If we lose our faith in times of trouble, we lose our God when we need him most (Heb. 11:6). The devil may change costumes and vary his assaults, but we are not ignorant of his schemes (2 Cor. 2:11). The worst thing that man can do to us is take our lives, but man cannot touch our soul (Mt. 10:28). If we are in a right relationship with God, we can face the worst this world has to offer and realize to die in Christ is gain (Phil. 1:21). If we live to be a hundred, but die outside of Christ, what good would that be (Mt. 10:26)? We should pray with our full confidence in God, make wise and safe choices, and leave the rest to the Lord. It is God's job to watch over and protect us, and we believe he will. It is our job to be faithful to him no matter what (Rev. 2:10). Fear never helps us accomplish the will of God. It simply cripples the mind and handicaps our progress. Let us be bold and remember that our help is in the Lord who made heaven and earth (Psa. 121:2).

Conclusion

Psalm 46 ends by telling God's people to be still and know that he is God (Psa. 46:10). We are often too busy and forget to be still. When we stop for a minute and meditate on God's power, wisdom, and knowledge, it helps us keep things in perspective. Remember that God is present; do not be afraid; and be still and know who is in control.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Evelyn Wyatt has been moved to Valencia Hills Re-hab, room #321. She has infection and still in a lot of pain. Joyce Burbage is still in the hospital after a stroke and is not doing well at all. Also remember Ginny Hamby, Brenda Mask, Genifer Johnson, Jim Turner, Margaret Coone, Sharon Washington, Carol Eason and Josephine Bowman in prayer.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler.

Others: Joy Baker, (Michelle Paulin's cousin), Duane Nelson, Joyce Stearsman, Jack Pinckert, Joe Kozlesky, (Michelle Paulin's nephew) and Carla Chin (Zsazeli Enamorado's teacher).

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10th-11th: Eagle Lake church of Christ Fifth Annual Central Florida Men's Retreat at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center.

Saturday Nov 11th: Door knocking for our up-coming Gospel Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday November 11th: If you are interested in using the Bible to teach English on the internet, please join us for an informational brunch about the World English Institute in the fellowship hall from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more info see Kelcey Grimes.

Nov. 12th-15th: Our Fall Gospel Meeting with Steve Higginbotham. There will be a fellowship meal after the morning worship service. Please bring extra food for visitors.

Saturday Nov. 18th: Men's breakfast at the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Nov. 19th: Elders and Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday Nov. 28th: F.S.O.P. Ladie's class at 7:00 p.m.

Placed Membership


Megan Carter placed membership with our congregation on Sunday Nov. 5th. Please let us encourage and welcome her into our family.

Responses

There were 3 responses to the invitation last Sunday evening. Bettye Bolding, Faith West and Jeanelle Thrower. Let us please encourage and keep these ladies in our prayers.

Visitors

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Welch, Mildred Estrella, Kathy Bitting Peel and Delana and Jake, Bruce & Jane Bitting, Dennis & Jean McCarter.

 Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

November

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** John McShane
Bobby Sheumaker **Assist** Tucker Sweeney

Sunday, November 12, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon..... Steve Higginbotham
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Greeters Williams
Att. Cards..... Paul/Sebastian
Open & Close Building..... Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Song Leader Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer Phil Fife
Closing Prayer Ken Walker

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - (863) 602-9005

Sunday, November 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Matt Willcut
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Paul Romine
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tyler Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer Fred Strickland
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal
Greeters Fifes
Att. Cards..... Antonio/Paul
Open & Close Building..... Charles Paulin

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer Tucker Sweeney

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 15.....	\$4,691.00
Oct. 22.....	\$4,652.46
Oct. 29.....	\$4,943.57
Nov. 05.....	\$5,581.02
Contribution Average	\$5,357.13
2017 Weekly Budget	\$4,716.51

An Every Day Lesson on “Grace & Works”

A day or so after Halloween, I was listening to a local morning live radio talk show. Somehow the three hosts started talking about whether “trick-or-treaters” actually earned their Halloween candy. To my surprise, not a single host thought the children earned Halloween candy! True, they discussed, children had to dress in a costume and walk the neighborhood, but even with all that effort and sweat, their collection of candy was still based on the generosity of the people in those houses who participated. That provides a great spiritual principle: even people in the world know the nature of a gift and receiving a gift, at least when they are talking about every day occurrences. For some reason, though, when it comes to salvation they cannot grasp that God’s gracious gift still requires human effort to receive. Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). The typical denominational church member will say this verse teaches salvation is wholly by God’s grace and there is nothing we can do to receive it. Such an idea, however, simply is not true, as even these radio talk show hosts acknowledge. True, some works are *excluded* from salvation, such as the works of the Law of Moses (Gal. 3:10, 12) and the works of human boasting (Titus 3:4-5). However, some works are *included* in salvation, such as works of faith. Noah, for example, “found (continued below)



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 . . .



Thank You to all those who came to the teaching workshop last Sunday. It is encouraging to see so many interested. We look forward to the new quarter of Bible study!

“But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear” (Mt. 13:16)



Think souls! Let’s Invite our friends and neighbors to church assemblies and/or to one-on-one Bible studies!



Pray for and encourage our young people as they work with this year’s L2L program!



(continued from above) grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:8), and that was in the midst of a world where “the wickedness of man was great ... [and] every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). Yet, Noah did as God instructed (Gen. 6:22; 7:5), so that the Hebrews writer said Noah was saved “by faith” (Heb. 11:7). Both Abraham and Rahab are said to have received great blessings from God “by faith” (Heb. 11:17, 31), yet James, speaking of the same incidents, said they were saved “by works” (Jas. 2:21, 25). The truth is that grace, faith, and God-approved works go together in God’s plan of salvation. Even Paul went on to say, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Even radio hosts realize a free gift is still free, even if effort is required to receive it! Have we been saved by grace through faith? ❤️ *Brian*