

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Randy Judd.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald.....Scotland
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Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
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SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Paul R. Mobley, Sr.

The Lord's Supper, or communion, is partaking of our Lord's body and blood that he shed, gave, on the cross of Calvary, the perfect sacrifice for our sins. It is a commemoration of his death on the cross, and a reminder of what Christians are about. Jesus established it just before his death on the cross. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28).

The apostle Paul said, "For I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come" (1 Corinthians 11:23-36).

How often is "as oft"? Jesus instructed the twelve, those that became apostles, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18:18). In Acts 20:7, we see Paul going to Troas where he stayed seven days. And we see that the Lord's Supper, the communion, was taken on the first day of the week. The apostles had set the time and the frequency. It was bound in heaven also. At Troas we have this, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread," So the frequency is the first day of the week, or Sunday as we would name it today.

With regard to the frequency, and how it is done, we should also note that "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus is present for every part of church services.

Church leaders should make sure that every member receives every benefit of the church. Especially true is that every benefit should be void of prejudice, or bias, as Paul rebuked Peter (Galatians 2:11-14). And church leaders should prevent any loss of benefit to a member through organization, institutional-zing, exclusivity or by mistake. That also includes the Lord's Supper.

Give the Spirit to Those Who Ask

T. Pierce Brown

We find in Luke 11:13, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Have you ever asked God for the Holy Spirit? If so, did you get that gift in answer to your prayer? Since we do not recall ever having read any sound scholarly exegesis of this passage, we shall try to make some observations about it from our own limited knowledge and viewpoint. We checked more than a dozen comments from people like Adam Clarke, Albert Barnes, Charles Spurgeon and various others from many denominations, but none of them addressed and answered such questions as these: Who is promised the gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38? Does “those who ask” include everyone, Christian and sinner? If every child of God gets the gift of the Spirit when he becomes a child of God (Romans 8:9), why does he need to pray for it? One commentator suggested that the promise was universal--to all that might ask, whether regenerate or unregenerate. He did not bother to explain how a child of the devil would receive the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer. Neither H. Leo Boles nor Burton Coffman in their commentaries on Luke give any significant insight into the passage. Coffman says something like, “It is evident that we should pray for that which was promised in Acts 2:38.” But why we should pray for that which is given automatically to every person when he becomes a Christian is not made clear. Some of the most trusted conservative scholars suggest that the admonition was for those of the first century who were given various spiritual gifts, and is not applicable for us today. However, that still leaves us with the question, “Where do we find any person receiving one of those miraculous gifts as a result of praying for it?” We do find that they were given by the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 8:18; 19:6, 2 Timothy 1:6), but in no case do we find a person praying for one of those miraculous gifts and receiving it.

At the moment, it is my opinion that a more satisfactory solution can be found in an examination and exegesis of Colossians 1:9, Ephesians 5:18-19 and a parallel passage in Colossians 3:16. Paul prayed that they be filled with the knowledge of his will. He admonished the Ephesians to be filled with the Spirit. In the parallel passage in Colossians he said, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” If we can pray for each other that we may be filled with knowledge of his will in all spiritual understanding, and can pray that we can obey the injunction to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly then it seems logical and proper that we could pray that we be filled with the Spirit. Of course we would not be praying for the miraculous outpouring of the Spirit that was promised to and given to the apostles in Acts 2, nor the miraculous gifts that were given by the laying on of the apostles’ hands. We would recognize that as we studied and meditated on God’s Word, admonished each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we would be letting the Word dwell in us richly. When the Word dwells in us richly, we are being filled with the Spirit. Since the Spirit operates through the Word, which is called “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17), then it is proper for us to pray that we have more of the Word (and therefore the Spirit) in our lives.

We have no information in the Bible that suggests that God will give us the Holy Spirit directly through prayer, nor any example of where or how it was done in the apostolic age. But we do have information that suggests that the Christian may quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). We do have the command to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). We do know that Paul prayed that the Ephesians might be “filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19). So it seems beyond question that one may have a greater or lesser degree of the Spirit’s influence in his life. It also seems beyond question that it is proper for us to pray that we might always desire that the Spirit be allowed to have a greater influence in our lives. If it is proper to say, “God help me that I may trust you more completely and follow your will better,” surely it is proper to pray that God will give you the Spirit in the sense we have indicated.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: It was good to have June Hendrix, Sharon Edler and Jacquelin Dopwell back with us Sunday. Ginny Hamby's surgery went even better than expected. She will be in the hospital a few more days. The family still requests no visitors at this time. Jim Turner was home sick. Also keep Betty Thornhill, Kimberly Westbrook, Jim Turner, Gloria Nelson, Jacquelin Dopwell, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Billy Moore, Barry Richardon, Louise Stewart, Jude Hash and Wayne Hendrix.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Bill Burton, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Duane Nelson.

Others: Chrissi Fuesner, Ann Wood and Kathy Bitting-Peel. Please pray for all of these.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 5th: 2nd Annual Community Fun Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hilltop Church of Christ.

Dec. 6th: Fellowship in Service and Baby Shower for Hailee Claire Hendrix and her family following evening services. If you are able to join please bring finger foods.

Dec. 9th-11th: 60th Annual Homecoming at the Hilltop Church of Christ in Winter Haven. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Care Packages

The youth group will be making care packages for those less fortunate in our community for the holidays. See the poster in the foyer for items they need. If you would like to help, see Rene Bingle. Donations need to be in by Dec. 16th.

Hither, Thither and Yon

It is so good to have Ron & Judy Ford and Wally & Geri Lawrence back with us.

Visitors

Mark & Lee Hanstein, Bob Mess and Tim Gangle.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Ken Walker **Table** David Anderson
Tucker Sweeney **Assist** Kenny French

Sunday, November 29, 2015
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Stacey Paulin
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Williams
Sermon Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Jim Turner
Opening Prayer Ken Walker
Sermon SFA young men
Greeters Tyler & Jessica Anderson
Att. Cards Paul & Sebastian
Closing Prayer C.J. Grimes
Open & Close Building Charles Paulin

Wed. December 2nd, 2015

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

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

Sunday, December 6, 2015
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Stacey Paulin
Prayer Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Fred Strickland
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Kenny French

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Fifes
Att. Cards Quadarius & Paul
Closing Prayer Bob Pratt
Open & Close Building Bob Cooper

Wed. December 9, 2015

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kenny French
Closing Prayer David Williams

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 01.....	\$5,685.00
Nov. 08.....	\$4,603.75
Nov. 15.....	\$4,942.38
Nov. 22.....	\$4,255.57
Contribution Average	\$4,616.15
2015 Weekly Budget	\$4,302.98



HEAR OUR RADIO SPOTS

This Week

"A Great Library"

WONN 1230 or WLKF 1430 or on web page
www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

You Are Not Your Own . . . Glorify God in Your Body!

The sign in the picture to the right draws the attention of many passers-by. Most people realize the sign means “Do Not Litter [or maybe, Do not Do Figure Eights on the Lawn].” However, to discerning eyes, the sign has a much greater, though perhaps unintended, meaning. The Bible speaks of the church of Christ as being the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). Christians are members of that one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27). The church, therefore, is not the building but the people! Thus, “Don’t Trash Church Property” can be taken as “Don’t Trash Your Body, as a Member of the Church of Christ.” Paul put it like this, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). In this context, Paul was speaking to the Corinthians about the sexual sin of fornication. He pointed out the unthinkable of joining the body of Christ with a prostitute (1 Corinthians 6:15-17), and then commanded, “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality [fornication, KJV] sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18). Christians today must not “trash” themselves in fulfillment of “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:15). Our bodies do not belong to us! ❤️ Brian



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

this week's Announcements

Saturday, Nov. 28 Bible Bowl team will meet at Hiram and Brittany’s house at 10:00 am for a study session!

Sunday, Dec. 13 will be our next L2L Sunday. We will meet at the church building at 4:00 pm to work on the events we have signed up for. Steve will work with the song leaders, and Stacey and Michelle will meet with those who are participating in the “Art Says It” event with L2L

Anytime we assemble for Bible study or worship, Steve will be here about 30 minutes early and stay a little late for any of our boys who would like help on their L2L songs.

This Week’s Memory Verses → **Matthew 7:7-12** ask, seek, knock



Our Spring Gospel Meeting, **March 20-23, 2016**

Melvin Otey will be the speaker



Since it worked out so well last summer, due to your generous giving, our elders have given the okay to plan another mission trip to Nicaragua, **June 25-July 3, 2016**. Please begin praying now!

Don’t quit being thankful because “turkey day” is over

“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

