

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. 43 12-3-19

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty
(740) 801-1106

SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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



Charles Casey Paulin

Graduating Dec. 15, 2019

Casey grew up with the South Florida Avenue church of Christ. He obeyed the Gospel as a teenager. Since 2010, he has worked for Chick-Fil-A in a number of roles, including that of certified trainer, which involved opening new stores across the nation. He has been to four Central and South American countries with the YES II mission program of Latin American Missions. In fact, his first campaign solidified his desire to attend FSOP. Casey is looking for a church with whom to work as an associate preacher or youth worker, ideally with a congregation who would involve him in missionary campaigns.

The Umpire's Call

Brian R. Kenyon

Recently, a preacher met a brother in Christ who was an American League umpire who had retired several years ago from a 20+ year career. When asked how he became an umpire, he briefly recounted his story. He loved baseball and grew up playing the game through college. However, he was not good enough to make it to the major leagues, so he figured being an umpire was the next best thing. He graduated umpire school fourth in his class of over a hundred students. He was picked up by Major League Baseball and sent to the minor leagues to see how he would do. He said his ultimately being called up by the American League as a career umpire was because, "I followed instructions and knew who was the boss!" What a basic, common sense concept, but, unfortunately, one that is unknown among too many people today! People today would be much more successful in their secular professions if they would just follow instructions (instead of thinking they know it all) and recognize who is over them (instead of being too arrogant to submit to someone else). Spiritually, the umpire's call is the only way to be successful!

"Know Who Is the Boss"

Although the word "boss" may be colloquial, perhaps even having some negative connotations to some, there is at least a sense of the word that is applicable to Jesus as the sovereign Lord. The word translated "Lord" (*kurios*) can refer to the divine "Lord" (in most of its occurrences, Mt. 1:22; 2:15; Mk. 11:9; Lk. 13:15; Jn. 6:68; etc.).

It can also be translated “master [lord, KJV]” (Lk. 12:37; 14:21), “owner [lord, KJV]” (Mk. 12:9); or “sir (of address)” (Mt. 13:27; Lk. 13:8; Jn. 4:19). That Jesus is Lord can be ascertained from the Scriptures (cf. 1 Cor. 12:3). Jesus is Lord by virtue of His role in creating the universe (Jn. 1:3). “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:16-17). He also showed His Lordship by the miracles He did, overriding the natural laws He created (Mt. 8:5-10; Mk. 4:35-41; Jn. 6:1-14).

Being the sovereign Lord means Jesus has all authority (Mt. 28:18)! Jesus’ authority is known by at least four ways. First, Jesus’ authority is known by what He taught. For example, in His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus repeated this statement, “You have heard that it was said to those of old ... But I say to you ...” (Mt. 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-34, 38-39, 43-44). In these sections, Jesus was not contradicting Moses nor merely adding to what Moses said. Rather, He was authoritatively teaching what God through Moses had taught all along. However, the masses were so blinded by Jewish tradition they could not see the truth (cf. Mt. 15:1-9). Furthermore, Jesus also set Himself as Judge on that last great day (Mt. 7:21). This would be blaspheme for anyone else besides Jesus! No wonder then, “when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Mt. 7:28-29). Second, Jesus’ authority was known by His power to forgive sins, which He proved when He told a paralyzed man “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house,” previously noting, “which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise and walk?” (Mt. 9:1-8). The implication was obvious: healing the man proved Jesus had the power to forgive sins! Third, Jesus’ authority was known by logic. When Jesus was asked, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?,” He countered with questions: “The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” (Mt. 21:23-25). The logical implication was so obvious to the chief priests and elders as they “reasoned among themselves” that they had to lie, “We do not know” (Mt. 21:26-27)! Fourth, Jesus’ authority was known by the power He possessed over His own death. Jesus told His disciples, “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father” (Jn. 10:17-18). Jesus truly is Lord, and we need to acknowledge that in every aspect of our lives!

“Follow Instructions”

Very early on in Jesus’ earthly ministry, His mother set the tone of obedience when she told the servants at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, “Whatever He says to you, do it” (Jn. 2:5). Because Jesus is Lord, His word has all authority. Paul declared, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and 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). Paul also wrote, “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37). The whole Bible, not just the “red letters,” can be traced back to Jesus, along with the rest of the Godhead, as being the source of Scripture! Thus, we must follow all the word of God (Mt. 4:4), “handled aright” (2 Tim. 2:15), if we are to correctly follow the Lord’s instruction!

There are at least two main reasons why we must follow Jesus’ words for a spiritually successful life. First, Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through” Him (Jn. 14:6). The word “way” (*hodos*) refers to a path or a road (Jn. 1:23), and is also used metaphorically to refer to way of life (Rom. 3:17), even “the Way” of the Christian life, which is identifiable by others (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22). Jesus is also the personification of “truth.” Concerning Jesus’ incarnation, John wrote, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14). The apostle further declared, “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (Jn. 1:17). Before Pilate, the Lord said, “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (Jn. 18:37). Jesus is also life. From the beginning of His fleshly walk, it was written, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (Jn. 1:4). Jesus was, and is, “life in Himself” (Jn. 5:26). Even in transition from this life to the next, we can take comfort that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (Jn. 11:25-26)! Second, we must follow Jesus’ words

(continued on top of page 4)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Melody Baxter is having knee surgery on Dec. 12th. Jeanelle Thrower's cancer surgery went well. Carol Pace is having a cancer treatment on Dec. 3rd. Ginny Hamby, Jim Turner, Cierra Edwards, Ellen Shearer, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford, Chuck (hand surgery) & Evelyn Wyatt, Debbie Bush and Ginny Johnson.

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

Others: Tonya Mathis (hospice care), Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Tanya Irizarry, Trevor & Sandy Hutchins, Rex Long (Bill & Carlene Long's son) vision problems, Wesley Brunson's mother, Dylan Pratt (Michelle Paulin's great nephew), having medical testing done and Peggy Nabors (Kim Faneuf's mother).

Upcoming Events

Saturday December 7th: Youth group yard work day. Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday December 8th: Elders/Deacons Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday December 10th: Senior Saints will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall to make teddy bears and reindeer covers for candy bars, just bring candy bars (flat) and whatever leftover material you might have to make the teddy bears.

Thursday December 19th: Senior Saints will be going to look at Christmas lights. The van will leave the building at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday December 21st: Men's Breakfast at Griffin Rd. church of Christ in Lakeland at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday December 21st: Youth group will go Christmas caroling, leaving the building at 2:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you would like for them to come and sing for you.

Saturday December 21st: Annual Christmas Party here in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. Bring a potluck dish and a white elephant gift for your specific age group. The youth group will lead Christmas carols for the whole group.

Friday December 27th: Youth group will prepare a meal for the families residing in the Ronald McDonald House in Tampa. See Vince for more details.

Tuesday December 31st: 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a side dish, drinks and dessert.

Christmas Cards

If you would like to send Christmas cards to other members, please put your cards in the basket in the foyer. The youth group will hand deliver these cards for you. Please have all cards in the basket by Dec. 18th.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Brownlow-Dindy family, Dolly Martin, Roger Jenkins, Cindy Hoffelder, Janet Moore, Jennifer Waldon, Emanusi & Marcia White, Marcia Island and Marcella Swain.

Communion to Shut-Ins

Dec. 8th.....Van Allen
 Dec. 15th.....Youth Group
 Dec. 22nd.....Volunteer Needed
 Dec. 29th.....Volunteer Needed

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder During Services - Kenny French

Open/Close Building - Bob Cooper

Bobby Sheumaker..... **Table** Wayne Shearer
 Phil Fife **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, December 8, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Bingle
Prayer.....Frank Hamby
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Deal
Greeters..... Williams/Sweeney
Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....John McShane

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Song Leader Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer Bobby Sheumaker

December Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney's team (E-K)

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

Sunday, December 15, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Rick Kenyon
Prayer..... Tyler Anderson
Sound Booth.....Phil Fife
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Gavin Williams
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....Alex Parramore
Greeters.....Sheumaker/Hendrix
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Josh Estridge
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Dustin Walling

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... John McShane
Closing Prayer..... Edward Atkins

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 10 \$6,139.25
Nov. 17 \$7,162.25
Nov. 24 \$4,965.50
Dec. 01 \$8,154.83
Contribution Average \$6,565.01

The Umpire's Call (continued from page 2)

for a spiritually successful life because His word will be our standard of judgment. Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (Jn. 12:48-50). The only hope we have for an eternity with God is by Jesus' words and Jesus' way!

Conclusion

Are we living a successful spiritual life? Let us make sure we know the Lord and follow His word (cf. Acts 9:5-6)! *AE Brian*



Special Thanks

to René for organizing and for all the others who helped assemble these stockings for the Women's Abuse Shelter. These gifts will help encourage others! There were more than these girls, but the others left before the pic was taken.

THINK SOULS! May we never underestimate the influence we have on others. Let's keep doing good to all!



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 . . .



FSOP Graduation
Dec. 15 after pm. services
Join us as we celebrate one of our own, **Casey Paulin**, as he finishes

the two year preacher training program. Please bring enough "finger food" to share, as we may have extra visitors!



MISSION TRIP PERU

We are gearing up with prayer and planning for a YES II mission trip to Ica, Peru, on July 17-25, 2020. This was the date that best fit the most members. If you have gone in the past and want to

go again, please register online as in the past. If you are new, see Brian for how to register. We appreciate our eldership for seeing the value of involving our young people in evangelism!

On one occasion, Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one came back to thank Him (Lk. 17:12-19). When we read that account, it is so obvious how wrong the other nine were not to be appreciative. Let us examine ourselves. Do our attitudes and actions show to others an obvious lack of appreciation for the blessings we have? Let's make sure our lives are a constant display of our appreciation for the Lord!

God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)**
- Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)**
- Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)**
- Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)**
- Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)**