

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. 44 12-10-19

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](https://www.youtube.com/SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Twelve Reasons to Read The New Testament This Month

Hiram Kemp

The SFA Bible reading calendar is set to read the entire New Testament this month. You might consider that too much for a month. You might be intimidated by the thought of reading the entire New Testament in 31 days. Let me provide twelve reasons why you should join us in reading the New Testament this month.

1. Seeing the Whole. When you read through the entire New Testament in a month, it allows you to see the entirety of the New Testament in a good way. Paul spoke of the whole counsel of God, and reading large chunks of scripture helps us grasp this (Acts 20:26-27). When you read the Book of Acts and launch immediately into the epistles it helps you to tie things together. Many of the New Testament books will be read in one sitting in this plan which helps us get a better handle of the context for these books.

2. Seeking Things Above. We are commanded to seek things above (Col. 3:1). Christians are to seek the kingdom above all else, and God will supply our daily needs (Matthew 6:33). In the busy holiday season, reading through the New Testament helps to keep our minds on heavenly things.

3. Redeem the Time. Reading the New Testament in 31 days means that you must read 8-9 chapters a day. The good thing is it only takes 30-40 minutes to read that many chapters each day. Paul tells us to make good use of our time as the days are evil (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). Make good use of your time this month and use 30-40 minutes to read the New Testament.

4. Finish Well. Many start the year with the ambition to read the entire Bible in a year. Some have other Bible reading goals, but for one reason or another they get off track and do not finish. Set your mind to read the New Testament this month and end the year strong. How we finish is more important than how we begin (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Head into 2020 on the right track as you build good habits of Bible study.

5. Put on a Coat of Paint. I sometimes refer to Bible reading as "putting on a coat of paint." We are to meditate on the word (Psa. 119:97); study to show ourselves approved (2 Tim. 2:15); give ourselves over to reading (1 Tim. 4:13). The more times we read and study through scripture, the more the Spirit's words are ingrained

on our hearts. We are putting on coats of paint as we read it again and again and familiarize ourselves with God's word.

6. The New Testament Will Judge Us. Jesus promised that his words would judge us in the last day (John 12:48). The books will be opened at the day of judgment, one of which will be the book of life (Rev. 20:12). The New Testament contains the words that we will face at the judgment, and by reading it in its entirety, we can acquaint ourselves with its contents.

7. Jesus Is Exalted. The entire Bible is about Jesus (Lk. 24:44). Reading the Old Testament properly will point one to Jesus as the Messiah (Jn. 5:39-40). However, when one opens the pages of the New Testament, it is apparent that grace and truth shine forth in a unique way in Jesus (John 1:17). The New Testament opens with his genealogy (Matthew 1:1) and ends speaking of his grace (Rev. 22:21). In every book, Jesus is mentioned as God come in the flesh, the one worthy of worship, and the one through whom salvation comes (Matthew 26:28).

8. The Plan of Salvation Explained and Expounded. When you read the New Testament, it highlights the great plan of salvation. More than five steps attached at the end of the sermon, reading the New Testament in full helps us see how it all ties together. The gospels show us the Jesus we are to believe in and how he lived and died for our sins (John 3:16, 8:24). In the Book of Acts, Luke shows us how people became Christians. Several conversions are given in detailed fashion as one reads how different people in different places are responded to the gospel the same way (see Acts 2; 8; 10; 16). The epistles teach how one should live the Christian life and remain faithful (Col. 1:23-29). The Book of Revelation, though filled with apocalyptic language, teaches Christians about the ultimate triumph of Christ and his kingdom (Rev. 11:15).

9. The Warnings of Eternal Destruction. The Old Testament speaks of death and the dreadful state of the grave. However, the Old Testament does not contain the depth of information about hell and eternal torment that the New Testament contains. Jesus spoke of the need to avoid hell (Matthew 10:28). Jesus spoke of hell as the place where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:43-50). The apostle Paul spoke of some being destroyed with everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9). John spoke of the fire and brimstone that would destroy the wicked (Rev. 21:8). Christians need to read about this awful place not only because it is in God's word, but because it helps us remember to escape it through Jesus. Reading about hell also helps us remember to reach out to those who may be taken captive by the Devil and are heading there (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

10. Holding Fast to Hope. The New Testament is a message of hope. We have an anchor of hope in Jesus (Heb. 6:18). Jesus is described explicitly as our hope (1 Tim. 1:1). In a world of depression, discouragement, and sadness, we need to remember the hope laid up for us in heaven (Col. 1:5). Devouring the New Testament in a month will help us receive a double dose of heavenly hope. We must not let the world rob us of our hope. Read the New Testament in December and be overfilled with the hope that is contained within its pages.

11. Unsung Heroes. Reading through the New Testament in 31 days will allow us to see many of the unsung heroes in the first century church. There are many men and women that are unknown to us but well known to God (2 Cor. 6:9). Living for Jesus day in and day out is not glamorous, but it is required. As you read of many others about whom we know nothing other than their names, may we be encouraged to press on toward the goal (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Tim. 6:12).

12. Heaven. God is our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:9). Jesus is at the right hand of God in heaven interceding for us (Romans 8:34). We will one day meet the Lord in the air, and we will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17). We need to read the New Testament and be encouraged about heaven and that one day we will be there. Read the New Testament and allow your soul to be flooded with the great news of heaven as our eternal reward (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

Conclusion

It is not too late to start. Read the New Testament with us this month. I know there is a difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible. There is a time to read through books slowly and dig into every verse. There is also much profit to be gained from reading various books in one or two sittings and getting through the entire text. Take up the New Testament this month and read.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Melody Baxter, Jeanelle Thrower, Carol Pace, Ginny Hamby, Jim Turner, Cierra Edwards, Margaret Coone, Ellen Shearer, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford, Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt, Debbie Bush, Ginny Johnson, Brian Smith (upcoming tests for his heart), Bernetta Green & Rosalind Coleman (death of Bernetta's brother).

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

Others: Andre & Nasheka Medley (birth of Nya), 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, Dylan Pratt (Michelle Paulin's great nephew), having medical testing done and Peggy Nabors (Kim Faneuf's mother), Keijuan Callaway (Sharon Washington's son), Mary Grow (pneumonia).

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 15th: FSOP graduation honoring Casey Paulin after evening worship. Fellowship meal to follow. Please bring finger foods.

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 2:00 p.m.

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, including kids. 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.

Thank you

We want to thank you for the kindness & love we share from all the members of our church family, especially during the time Wesley was hospitalized. The prayers from all of you kept us safe & made us strong. With love in Christ, Neyome & Wesley

Welcome

Charles Brown has met with our elders and has placed membership with us. Let's all welcome Charles to the SFA family.

Response

Edward Atkins came forward Sunday evening requesting prayers for upcoming Bible studies during the holiday break.

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, Eric Bunch, Brownlow-Dindy family, Janet Moore, Albert Bess, Gerri Mitchell, Ruby Lewis, David & Carole Cox, Marcia Island, Marcella Swain.

Communion to Shut-Ins

Dec. 15th (4:30 pm) 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 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

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 22, 2019
 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Kyle Williams
Prayer..... David Anderson
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Rick Kenyon
Greeters..... McShane/Faneuf
Cards..... Klark/Willcut

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Rick Kenyon
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

Song Leader Rick Kenyon
Opening Prayer..... David Deal
Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 17 \$7,162.25
Nov. 24 \$4,965.50
Dec. 01 \$8,154.83
Dec. 08 \$7,128.50
Contribution Average \$6,576.51

New Member Spotlight
Annette Philip



Annette was born in Jamaica, West Indies, and also lived in New York and Miami. As a child, she wanted to be a nurse. Her first job was taking care of the elderly. She is now retired. She likes to visit friends, talk to people, cook, extend hospitality in her home, and travel. Her most satisfying accomplishments are rearing her children and becoming a nurse. The best advice she's been given is "Love the Lord; respect your elderly; love people; be the best you can." She has 5 children, 6 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. Welcome, Annette!

New Member Spotlight
Harry Williams



Harry was born in Lakeland and grew up in this area. As a child, he wanted to be an artist or preacher. His first job was for the City of Lakeland Parks. He currently works in a warehouse as a forklift operator. His favorite season is fall. He likes to read comic books. He enjoys studying the Bible. In his free time, he enjoys collecting action figures and drawing while listening to his favorite preachers. He is good at drawing. The best advice he's been given is "Keep God first and be patient." He and his wife, Victoria, have 8 children. Welcome, Harry!



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!



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

Keep Christ in Perspective! Biblically speaking, there is nothing extra special about his time of year compared to any other time of year! Jesus is the reason for EVERY season (Colossians 1:16). Let us take advantage of opportunities to teach the Christ of Scripture!



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!



Tell others about our podcasts, especially the younger generations! This is a great way to sow the Gospel!