

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. 71 No. 47 12-11-18

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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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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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



C. J. Grimes

**Graduating FSOP Sunday,
December 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**

C. J. is originally from Kansas. He met his future wife, Kelcey Anderson, at the University of Oklahoma, from where he graduated with a BS in health and exercise science (2011). The two were married on May 26, 2012, and moved to Lakeland, Florida, about a

month later. Before enrolling at the Florida School of Preaching, C. J. worked as a head coach for Gymnastics, Etc. We are thankful they placed membership with the South Florida Avenue church of Christ. We have been blessed to watch their family grow, numerically and spiritually, from the birth of Avery to their newest daughter, Riley Kate. Beginning January 2019, C. J. will work with the Sebring Parkway church of Christ as their youth and family minister. We look forward to hearing of the good God will do through the Grimes family!



Which House Is Our Home?

Brian R. Kenyon

One truth that should give each Christian encouragement and confidence to “keep on keeping on” in the Christian life is our promised home in heaven! Paul said, “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). No matter what happens to the present, physical body, we will have a new body in the resurrection (cf. 1 Cor. 15:50-58).

The Physical Body

The present, physical body is not meant to be permanent. The word “earthly” indicates “of this world.” It is the same word translated “terrestrial [bodies]” (1 Cor. 15:40 cf. Jn. 3:12; Phil. 2:10; 3:19; Jas. 3:15). The word translated “house [home, ESV]” usually refers to a literal structural house, but can (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) refer to a person's life (Mt. 7:24-27) or, as in Second Corinthians 5:1, a person's body. On earth, our human body is but a "tent [tabernacle, KJV]," which indicates a temporary body for this earthly realm. "Tent" here is not from the usual Greek word for "tent." The word occurs again only a few verses later (2 Cor. 5:4). The Greek word is used in an Apocryphal work called Wisdom of Solomon 9:15 and throughout the papyri to refer to the human body (Kruse 112), which meaning certainly fits this context (cf. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10). The persecutions Paul endured could have at any moment resulted in his death (cf. 2 Cor. 1:8; 11:23-27).

From a Jewish perspective, the use of this word for "tent" would be reminiscent of the Feast of Tabernacles. During this feast, the Israelites were to dwell in tents as a reminder of God's taking care of them throughout the wilderness wanderings (Lev. 23:34-36, 39-43). This would suggest to Paul's readers that "the Christian would have to live in a booth before reaching the promised land" (Rogers and Rogers 401). The word "destroyed [dissolved, KJV]" lets us know this body will not be permanent. The word means to destroy, tear down (Mt. 5:17; 24:2; 26:61; 27:40; Gal. 2:18). According to Thompson, "It is the word for the dismantling of a tent when the time comes to move on" (72).

The Resurrected Body

In contrast to this earthly body, or "tent," the future resurrected body, or "house not made with hands," will be made for permanency (2 Cor. 5:1b). A "building" refers to a solid structure (Mt. 24:1). The word is also used figuratively for edification (2 Cor. 10:8; 12:19; 13:10). Whereas a "tent" is temporary and insecure, a "building" is both permanent and secure! Jesus used "temple" to refer to this building (Jn. 2:21-22). "Not made with hands" describes something that is not of this world (cf. 1 Cor. 15:42-54).

Conclusion

Let us not get too comfortable with the world and this temporal life (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 9:27). Rather, let us live in such a way as to make our eternal home with God in heaven! Have we accepted life (cf. Rev. 22:17)? ♥ Brian

UPDATE ON FORMER PREACHERS' HOUSE

By John McShane

Putting the required signs advertising a free house in front of the house got a tremendous response. The house was also placed on Craig's List, Facebook, and the church website homepage. One of the first responses was a call from the Lakeland Ledger wanting to do a story on the house. The story appeared in the Tuesday paper and prompted a request from TV Channels 10 and 13 to do a story for their news broadcasts. The response from all this publicity was tremendous. Over thirty phone calls were received regarding the "free" house. Some did not read the fine print that said the house had to be moved, which eliminated a lot of the requests. Others, when told the estimated cost of moving the house, decided it did not fit their budget. As of today, there are four parties seriously interested in having the house.

One person has offered to rehab the house where it sits. It would be brought up to all current building codes and be made into four apartments to be used by students at the FSOP. This would be done at no cost to the congregation and it would still be the property of the congregation. He would restore it as close as possible to the original building. He would also paint it to match the current church building. At the time of this bulletin printing, the elders were considering this offer.

Otherwise, the house is being offered to those expressing interest in moving it, in the order that I received their call. The first person is getting estimates on moving the house to two lots on Lake Hollingsworth Drive. There are several procedures that have to be followed in order to move the house. First it has to be approved by the Historical Preservation Board. Then if approved, permits have to be obtained from the city on what route the house will take and what it will cost to move traffic lights, wires and whatever else has to be moved to make room for the house to travel the streets to the final location. All of this is going to take time. The Historical Preservation Board only meets once a month and we all know that the city does not have a fast speed. I believe we will eventually see the house going down Florida Ave, but it will not be in the next week or so.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Wanda Bruno, Wayne Shearer, Sharon Washington, Dorothy Trice, Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby and Margaret Coone.

Shut In Members: Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: Wayne Shearer's parents, Paulisky Irizarry (Jagie's brother), Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Bobby Cole, Ruth Brunson, Chip Bolding, Tonya Mathis, Elizabeth Tubbs Dean, Mikey Phillips, Connie Jordan and Maureen Nichols.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Dec. 15th: Men's breakfast at North Lakeland at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Dec. 16th: FSOP Graduation after evening service. Potluck fellowship meal afterward honoring C.J. Grimes.

Sunday Dec. 16th: We will be stuffing stockings for a local ladies' shelter. Items needed will be for boys and girls ages 11-16 and also for ladies. There is a basket in the foyer to put your donated items. We will also take cash to do the shopping. Give your money to Rene' Bingle by Dec. 12th.

Tuesday Dec. 18th: Senior Saints dinner at Fred's restaurant and then going to look at Christmas lights. Meet at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 22nd: We will be Christmas Caroling. Please meet at the building at 12:45 p.m. Let Jagie Kenyon know if you plan to come.

Saturday Dec. 22nd: Our Annual Holiday Party at the Sweeney's at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend please add your name to the sign up sheet and indicate what food you will bring. Remember your white elephant gift for the gift exchange.

Monday Dec. 31st: 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off at 6:00 p.m. Judging will be by a panel of experts chosen by your deacons. Please bring a side dish, drinks and dessert. Please sign up if you are bringing a pot of chili. Games and a Senior Citizen ball drop to follow the meal.

Baby Girl

Congratulations to C.J. and Kelcey Grimes on the birth of their daughter named Riley Katherine, weighing 8lbs 12 ozs born Tuesday Dec. 4th. They are all doing great and Avery is a very proud and protective big sister!

Congratulations

Maritza Buezo was baptized into Christ on Tuesday Dec. 4th. She has been studying with Veda Roach. Please let us welcome Maritza!

Card Giving

Tis the season for card giving! Our youth and helpers will be hand delivering your cards throughout December. A basket is on the foyer table. Simply drop your cards in the basket and our youth will deliver them for you.

Visitors

Janet Moore, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Alex Szabo, Mary Moore, Tiffany Hash and Megan.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

Dec 16	McShane
Dec 23	Kemp
Dec 30	Kenyon

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Wadi Khoury	Table	Josh Estridge
Bobby Simpson	Assist	Dustin Walling

Sunday, December 16, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Kyle Bingle
Prayer	Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	Kenny French
Sermon	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer	Ken Walker
Sound Booth	Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	David Williams
Opening Prayer	Fred Strickland
Sermon	Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Jim Turner
Sound Booth	Casey Paulin
Greeters	McShane/Bingle
Att. Cards	Colby/Sawyer
Open & Close Building	Bob Cooper

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Song Leader	Jim Turner
Opening Prayer	Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer	Alex Parramore

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

Sunday, December 23, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class	Kyle Williams
Prayer	Casey Paulin

10:30 A.M.

Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer	Wesley Brunson
Sermon	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer	Wayne Shearer
Sound Booth	Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader	David Williams
Opening Prayer	David Anderson
Sermon	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer	Bobby Sheumaker
Sound Booth	Alex Parramore
Greeters	Longfellow/Kemp
Att. Cards	Willcut boys
Open & Close Building	Bob Cooper

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Song Leader	Ken Walker
Opening Prayer	David Deal
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 18	\$6,204.30
Nov. 25	\$5,194.77
Dec. 02	\$7,331.10
Dec. 09	\$6,806.25
Contribution Average	\$5,958.06
Weekly Budget	\$4,887.98



Member Spotlight **Nicole Dix**



Nicole was born in Lakeland and has been a member with SFA since she was baptized into Christ. As a child, she wanted to be a nurse. Her first job was at Badcock main offices. She currently works as a stay at home mom. She enjoys going to the mountains, and, when she has free-time here, she likes to go antique shopping and make signs with her vinyl machine. The best advice she's ever been given was "Always put God first." Her favorite book is the Bible. She and her husband, David, have two children. Read more about Nicole on the bulletin board.



Member Spotlight **David Deal**



David was born in Lakeland and is one of the few members here who were a part of the Patterson Street congregation before the church moved to SFA. His first job was bagging groceries. He served our country in the military. He is retired from the Post Office and works part-time with Viste. He has traveled to Spain, Morocco, fourteen countries in Europe, Panama, Nassau, and Nicaragua. He enjoys staying busy and being dependable. The best advice he's ever been given was "Save your money." Read more about David on the bulletin board.



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 . . .



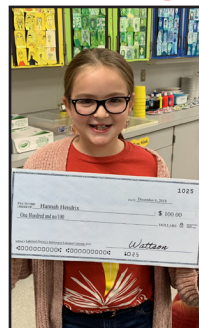
We are thankful and rejoice with heaven that Maritza was baptized into Christ Tuesday,

night, Dec. 4, 2018. She was first invited to our services by her friend, Veda, who recently placed membership with SFA. We are thankful for the friendliness of the congregation here and the "team effort" in bringing souls to Christ. We especially thank God for His Gospel plan of salvation (Mk. 16:15-16)! Let's welcome our new sister!



Thankful for These Little, Loving Hands that gathered last Saturday to make cookies for our senior saints! Special thanks to Jessica for making all the cookies and to Dee for organizing those fingers to decorate!

Congratulations, Hannah!



She won the Lakeland Electric Calendar contest for Polk County Elementary Schools. She was 1 of 13 who won, out of 300 students. She drew four ways to conserve energy. Her drawing will be featured on the month of June 2019!