

# 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. 47 12-12-17

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Brian Kenyon  
(863) 944-8565

## SECRETARY

Michelle Paulin

## 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](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## Doing Right In God's Eyes

Hiram Kemp

The darkest days in the history of Israel were the days of the Judges. The period of Judges lasted for 450 years, and the people persisted in sin throughout those four and a half centuries (Acts 13:19-21). The Book of Judges has a cycle within it that is repeated continuously: Israel sins; they are oppressed by their enemies; they cry out to God for deliverance; and then God sends a deliverer (judge) to rescue them. The key theme in the Book of Judges is: "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). No wonder the time was so dark for the people of God: there was no leadership and everyone did what he or she thought was right. There are many today who want to live by this philosophy, but this is a deadly motto to adopt. When people are left to themselves and reject the counsel of God, things often get worse, not better. Man is not wise enough to direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). There is a way that seems right, but that way leads to destruction (Prov. 14:12, 16:25). Even trying to build a home without the Lord's help is an exercise in futility (Psa. 127:1). Never mind what is right in the eyes of man, we should be concerned with what is right in the Lord's eyes.

God has communicated to humanity what is right in his eyes. He does this through his word (Psa. 119:33-34). We need our eyes opened so we can see things the way God wants (Psa. 119:18). Human understanding is often faulty, but if we trust in the Lord, he will direct our paths (Prov. 3:5-6). The world thinks that doing what is right means that we approve of every behavior and praise sin, but God says we must call evil exactly what it is and never cast approval on it (Isa. 5:20; Rom. 1:32). Some think it does not matter how we worship God as long as we are sincere, but God is looking for those who worship in spirit and according to the truth (Jn. 4:23-24; 17:17). Many teach that truth cannot be known for sure, but Jesus assured us that we can not only know the truth, but that the truth will liberate us (Jn. 8:32). The days of the judges were dark. They were filled with murder, immorality, and wickedness. The sad thing about the days of the judges was not simply that it was a sinful time, but that it was an extremely sinful time for God's people. Whenever we use the world's bifocals and do what is right in our own eyes, we can expect darkness, destruction, and despair. Yet, when we do what is right in the eyes of God, we will have victory, triumph, and his approval. As Moses told Israel, "And you shall do what is right and good in the **sight of the LORD**, that it may go well with you" (Deut. 6:18).

# Make Plans Now to Be a Part of This Study!

Monday is MLK, Jr. Day! Use the holiday for the Lord! The afternoon program has young people in mind!



Forest Antemesaris



Stephen Atnip



Rico Brown



Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.



Jimmy Clark



B. J. Clarke



Bill Davis



Cloyd B. Frock, Jr.



Elvis Galbreath



B. Kenyon, Director

## Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803  
(863) 683-4043 ♦ www.fsop.net ♦ fsop@fsop.net

# Do You Understand



Bruce Harris



Jason Hendrix

# The Biblical View of the Home?

43rd Annual Lectureship

January 15-18, 2018

Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Hiram Kemp

### Monday

9:00 Family Beginnings (Gen. 2:18-25) Stephen Atnip  
9:40 Blended Families: Different from the Start Jerry Martin  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Does OT Polygamy Justify Polygamy Today? Dan Stearsman  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Young People and Family

1:30 A Christian in a Non-Christian Home Forest Antemesaris  
2:00 What to Look for in a Spouse Ty Rhymes  
2:30 Why Abimelech Could Not Have Her (Gen. 20) Hiram Kemp  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Biblical Role of Wives Troy Postlethwait  
7:45 Wives Married to Non-Christians (1 Pet. 3:1-6) B. J. Clarke



John L. Lewis

### Tuesday

9:00 Breakdown of the Home's Impact on Society Jason Hendrix  
9:40 Harmonizing the Home Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Dealing with Adultery Logan Summers  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Extra Effort Families

1:30 Special Needs Children Cloyd B. Frock, Jr.  
2:00 Making Strides with "Steps" Teral Walker  
2:30 Rearing Children in Blended Families Elvis Galbreath  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Biblical Role of Husbands Bruce Harris  
7:45 Husbands Living with Their Wives (1 Pet. 3:7) Jimmy Clark



Dean Miller



Troy Postlethwait

### Wednesday

9:00 Sustaining Faith Through Unexpected Death Rick Kenyon  
9:40 Reeling in Rebellion Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 How the Love of Money Impacts the Home Jimmy Clark  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Home Wreckers

1:30 Divorce David Stearsman  
2:00 Pornography Jack Wilkie  
2:30 Selfishness Chad Tagtow  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Traits of a Successful Father Christian Torres  
7:45 Why Some Fathers Fail Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.



Rick Kenyon



Jerry Martin

### Thursday

9:00 Surviving Widowhood Dean Miller  
9:40 Turning Trials to Triumphs Bill Davis  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Biblical Principles on Training Children Melvin L. Otey  
11:30 LUNCH

### Forum: Challenged Families

1:30 Inner City Families Rico Brown  
2:00 Single Parent Homes John L. Lewis  
2:30 Culturally Mixed Marriages Philip Vanwinkle  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Congregational Singing  
7:00 Is the Lord Building Your House? Hiram Kemp  
7:45 Christ: The Pattern for the Home Melvin L. Otey



Melvin L. Otey



Ty Rhymes

Broadcast live at [www.fsop.net](http://www.fsop.net) ♦ Lectureship books available \$16



Daniel Stearsman



David Stearsman



Logan Summers



Chad Tagtow



Christian Torres



Philip Vanwinkle



Teral Walker



Jack Wilkie

# Invite Your Family, Friends, and Neighbors!

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Kenny French is recuperating at his daughter Teresa's house in Naples for the next few weeks. Wanda Bruno is now out of ICU and off the ventilator, but still no visitors at this time. Jim Turner was home with the flu. Also remember Evelyn Wyatt, Genny Johnson, Ginny Hamby, Brenda Mask, and Margaret Coone in prayer.

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

**Others:** Geri Howell, Lynn Stevens (cousin of Daniel Stearsman with stage four cancer), H. D. Simmons (preacher in Portland, TX), Joy Baker, (Michelle Paulin's cousin), Duane Nelson, Joyce Stearsman and Jack Pinckert.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday Dec. 15th:** Girl's night for the young ladies (middle school to young adult). They will be doing a service project and decorating cookies at the Grimes' house from 6-9 p.m.

**Saturday Dec. 16th:** Annual Christmas party at 5:30 p.m. at the Sweeney's house. Bring finger foods, desserts and drinks and a white elephant gift if you would like to participate.

**Saturday Dec. 16th:** We will be Christmas caroling at the nursing homes etc. Please meet at the building at 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday Dec. 16th:** Men's breakfast at the Hilltop church of Christ in Winter Haven at 8:00 a.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 21st:** Senior Saints trip to see local Christmas lights. Meet at the building at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday Dec. 23rd:** Young and young at heart are invited to an outdoor Christmas movie night at the Grimes' at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a movie snack to share and a lawn chair.

**Sunday Dec. 31st:** Chili Cook Off after evening services. Bring your best chili, enough to feed at least 20 judges. Cooks sign up in foyer. A senior citizen's New Years Eve ball drop will take place at 8:30 p.m. Bring friends and neighbors.

## Christmas Stockings

We will be making Christmas stockings for some needy families this year. If you would like to help please see Rene Bingle.

## Phone Update

Faith West has an updated phone number, it is 863-940-2102.

## Visitors

W.C. Hill, Bitsy Thomas, Teresa Reeves and Kaylen, Virginia Ullrich, Kyle & Amanda Faneuf, Jason & B.J. Rollo and family, Audra Bouldin, Dorothy Smith, Barbara Smith, Mark and Latonya Smith, Joe & Kathie Monro, Lindy Hendrix and Jenna Hart and Jennifer Waldon.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### December

Stacey Paulin..... **Table** ..... Josh Estridge  
Chaz Hine..... **Assist** ..... David Anderson

### Sunday, December 17, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Kenny French  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Ken Walker

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jim Turner  
**Greeters** ..... Bingles  
**Att. Cards**..... Antonio and Paul  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bob Cooper

### Wednesday, December 20, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Fred Strickland

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

### Sunday, December 24, 2017

9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Kyle Williams  
**Prayer**..... Paul Romine

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Song Leader** ..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Matt Willcut  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... David Deal

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader** ..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer** ..... David Anderson  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Tyler Anderson  
**Greeters** ..... Darlene/ Brenda  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul and Ian  
**Open & Close Building**..... Bob Cooper

### Wednesday, December 27, 2017

**Song Leader** ..... Jim Turner  
**Opening Prayer** ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Jeff Bingle

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov. 19.....	\$5,369.11
Nov. 26.....	\$4,607.82
Dec. 03.....	\$6,147.12
Dec. 10.....	\$5,661.50
<b>Contribution Average</b> .....	<b>\$5,395.94</b>
<b>2017 Weekly Budget</b> .....	<b>\$4,716.51</b>

# Would Witnessing a Miracle Cause You to Obey?

Sometimes when doing one-on-one evangelistic Bible studies, people will say, “If I saw miraculous powers, like you say happened in the first century, I would believe too!” At least two instances in the New Testament, however, show that not even miracles were enough to convince some people. First, in Matthew 12:22-37, those who committed “blasphemy against the Spirit” knew the unmistakable healing of a “demon-possessed” man who was “blind and mute.” While the “multitudes were amazed,” some Pharisees said that Jesus cast out demons by the power of “Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” Jesus went on to tell them, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Mt. 12:32). Their hearts were too hard to accept the miracle as proof that Jesus was the Son of God! Second, Jesus unmistakably raised Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, from the dead (Jn. 11:-44). Although many believed because of that miracle (Jn. 11:44), some did not, even to the extent that they plotted how not only to kill Jesus (Jn. 11:45-53), but also to kill Lazarus because he was living proof of why people should believe and obey Jesus (Jn. 12:10-11). Again, the hearts of these Jesus-rejecters were so hard that not even His raising a man from the dead would convince them! This is reminiscent to the discussion that took place between Abraham and the tormented rich man in Hades. The rich man *(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 . . .

**Save the Date**

**Feb. 23-25, 2018**

**YES Weekend**

Forrest Park, Valdosta



If you would like to attend YES Weekend, see Hiram or Brian so we can work on accommodations & travel logistics!



**to Serve Jesus**

**and two ways to serve Jesus are working in the sound booth and/or helping to keep our benevolence food pantry organized. We need brave volunteers! See an elder or deacon if interested!**

*(continued from above)* asked Abraham to send the beggar to “my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment,” to which Abraham responded, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Lk. 16:27-29). The rich man continued, “No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent,” to which Abraham again replied, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead” (Lk. 16:30-31). What is the condition of our hearts today? The age of miracles has ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-13), so we will never see a true miracle as long as we live. However, we do have accurate, reliable, God-inspired testimony in the Bible that proves beyond rational doubt Jesus is the Son of God and that teaches what accountable humans beings must do to be saved from their sins. Obey His word today! ❤️ *Brian*