

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. 19 05-22-18

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Bobby Sheumaker

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Chuck Wyatt
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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

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

Congratulations to Our 2018 Graduates!



Shannon Chisholm graduated from Lakeland High School May 17 with honors. She sang in the chorus since elementary school. She plans to continue her education at Polk State College in pursuit of a career in the medical field.



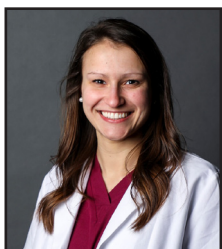
Zsazeli Enamorado graduated from George Jenkins High School May 21 with honors. She plans to continue her education locally and is considering a career in fire fighting or law enforcement.



Alexandrai Hoback graduated from George Jenkins High School May 21 with honors, earning a 4.1 GPA. She plans to continue her education locally and wants to become an occupational therapist.



Sophia Smith graduated from George Jenkins High School May 21, earning her animal science certification. She played alto sax four years in the band. She plans on attending Freed-Hardeman University to pursue a medicine or nursing degree.



Heidi Bingle graduated May 12 from Freed-Hardeman University with a BSN. After marrying Ty Rhymes (July 14, 2018), they will live in Tennessee, and she will work in the Labor And Delivery unit at Magnolia Hospital in Corinth Mississippi.

(continued on page 4)

Simeon: A Man Whose Life Was Now Complete

Brian R. Kenyon

There are many interesting events surrounding the birth and infancy of Jesus Christ that do not get much attention. One such event concerns a man named Simeon. The setting was shortly after Mary, the virgin, gave birth to Jesus. “Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord” (Lk. 2:22). Joseph was the God-fearing head of his household and made sure that Mary, his wife, followed the Lord’s instruction (Lk. 2:23-24 cf. Lev. 12:1-8). The sacrifice they brought, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” indicated their poverty. It was at Jerusalem on this occasion that we are introduced to Simeon. The account that follows reveals an attitude and response to Christ that will make our lives complete when we, like Simeon, possess them.

Simeon Recognized the Lord’s Christ

The text says that Simeon was “just and devout,” and that he was among those who had Messianic hope (Lk. 2:25). The word “consolation” in “waiting for the Consolation of Israel” is from a Greek word that means “calling to one’s side for comfort.” It would remind the first readers of Isaiah 40:1: “Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God,” a context in which the Lord comforts His people by announcing the coming Messiah. Even though many Jews of Jesus’ day were rebellious, there were still a few, like Simeon, who truly expected the Messiah. The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that “he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Lk. 2:26). This helps explain his lively hope in the Anointed One of God. When Jesus’ parents brought Him into the temple, Simeon was there and recognized Jesus as the Christ (Lk. 2:27-28). We may not be guided by the Holy Spirit in the same way that Simeon was, but we must still recognize the Lord’s Christ when we find Him. Although we can somewhat see His power through nature (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:19-20 cf. Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17), we can only find His true character and what our response to Him should be through the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Do we recognize and accept the Messiah revealed in the pages of inspiration?

Simeon Revealed the Greatness of Christ

Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms, thanked God, and said, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel” (Lk. 2:29-32). Simeon regarded seeing the promised Messiah as the fulfillment of his earthly life. He wanted to accomplish nothing more in this life! Seeing the Lord’s Christ was an assurance that his earthly labors were about to end. In thanking God, Simeon revealed Christ as God’s salvation. To Simeon, seeing the Messiah was equivalent to seeing salvation (Lk. 2:30).

As we can imagine, “Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him” (Lk. 2:33). Simeon, however, took this opportunity to reveal some truths to Mary. First, her child will be the occasion by which some will fall and some will rise. “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel” (Lk. 2:34a). Jesus will be a stumbling block to all those who love darkness (cf. 1 Pet. 2:8). That same Jesus, when accepted and obeyed, will lift people out of darkness and into His marvelous light (cf. Col. 1:13). Second, Simeon revealed that Jesus’ life will be the test by which many hearts will be revealed. “Behold, this Child is destined ... for a sign which will be spoken against ... that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Lk. 2:34b, 35b). This baby would grow to challenge humanity like no person had before nor since. People react in opposite ways to the same Jesus (cf. the rich young ruler, the disciples, etc.). Third, Jesus would grow and bring a sense of sorrow to His mother. Simeon said, “yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Lk. 2:35a).

Conclusion

How complete is our life today? Do we desire, more than anything, to “see” the Lord’s Christ? Are we “waiting” for Him? If we were to depart this life now, would our response to Christ be sufficient? Why not allow Him to make our lives complete?

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Denise Phillips, Virginia Walker and Hannah Hendrix were home sick. Jason Hendrix has pneumonia. It was good to have Bobby Simpson back with us Sunday. Also remember Faith West, Ginny Hamby, Bill Long, Jim Turner, Brenda Mask, Margaret Coone and Carol Eason.

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

Others: David Radford (nephew of Brenda Mask), Lynn Stevens, Jack Pinckert, Chrissi Fuesner, Bob McAnally, Rea Rice, Doris Smith, Joyce Stearsman, Paul Shearer, James & Ellen Shearer, JoAnn (Ginny Hamby's mother), Ruth Brunson, (Wesley Brunson's mother) Lynette Johns (sister of Richard Meadows) and Warren Lane (friend of the Kirklands).

Prayer Request

Toney Wilson: for herself and her family.

Modline Valnor (visitor): as she rededicates her life to Christ.

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 27th: Our monthly Fellowship Meal and 2nd worship service following. David William's team (R-Z) will have set-up and clean-up.

Monday May 28th: Memorial Day Cook-Out, Corn Roast, Hamburger, Hotdog Supper at 5:00 p.m. Games for young and old at 3:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite dessert. Cost \$2.00 a person or \$5.00 a family. Our local 1st Responders will be invited!

Sunday June 3rd: Fellowship In Service after evening services. Bring finger foods.

Sunday June 10th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Friday June 15th: Bridal Shower for Heidi Bingle and Ty Rhymes at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 19th: Senior Saints Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday June 26th: Trip to Bok Tower. Meet at the building at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$14.00 per person. All are invited! Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Thank You

Thank you to all the men who helped last Saturday with the work day at the building. A lot of work was accomplished and could not have been done without all the help.

Jimmy Sweeney

Visitors

Wadi Khoury, Rick & Stephanie Kenyon, Klark and Karissa Tiffany Hash, Roy & Sharon Hibbert, Modline Valnor, Michele Gregorio and Christopher Mills.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Bobby Sheumaker **Table** C.J. Grimes
Wayne Shearer **Assist** Alex Parramore

Sunday, May 27, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Ken Walker
Prayer..... C.J. Grimes

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader..... Chaz Hine
Opening Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson
Sound Booth..... C.J. Grimes

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney
Sound Booth..... C.J. Grimes
Greeters..... Longfellows
Att. Cards..... Paul/Ian
Open & Close Building..... C. J. Grimes

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Song Leader..... Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Closing Prayer..... Jimmy Sweeney

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

Sunday, June 3, 2018

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Jim Turner
Prayer..... Ken Walker

10:30 A.M.

Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... Charles Paulin
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Greeters..... Edmonsons
Att. Cards..... Cody/Ian
Open & Close Building..... Tim Croson

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Charles Paulin
Closing Prayer..... Ken Walker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

April 29.....\$5,469.31
May 6.....\$7,588.61
May 13.....\$6,681.74
May 20.....\$4,828.36
Contribution Average.....\$5,807.08
2018 Weekly Budget.....\$4,887.98



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. Let's influence Lakeland!

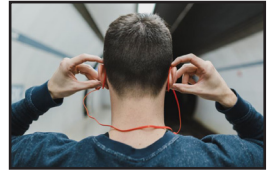


Clayton Wyatt, grandson of Charles and Evelyn, graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of South Florida on May 4, with a BS in biomedical science. He plans to continue his education to become an MD.

We appreciate all the hard work these young people have put into their studies and the significant goals each one has accomplished. May each graduate heed the words of Solomon for a successful life, **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is man's all" (Eccl. 12:13).** We love you all and pray God's blessings on your next "chapter" in life!

■ Forget About "Laurel" or "Yanny"! ■ Have You Heard the Good News!

Among the latest, social media "way-too-much-to-do-about-nothing" crazes is whether a person hears "yanny" when "laurel" is being said. Or is it "laurel" when "yanny" is being said? It would not be surprising to this writer if the whole thing were a hoax anyway! To be sure, it is potentially another way (gullible?) people get distracted from the significant by the insignificant. In the final analysis, though, who really cares about "laurel" or "yanny"? The sounds that really matter are whether people hear the soul- (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 . . .



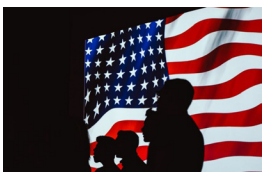
Special Thanks

To all those who helped in honoring our high school graduates! Your sacrifice was appreciated! We pray for our young people!

Think souls! Let's Invite our friends and neighbors to church assemblies and/or to one-on-one Bible studies!



saving words of the Gospel! Paul said, "the gospel of Christ" is "the power of God to salvation" (Rom. 1:16). The word "Gospel" means "good news" (Rom. 2:16; 11:28; Col. 1:5). The verb form is translated, "bring you these glad tidings" (Lk. 1:19). The fundamental facts of the Gospel are the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). However, the Gospel is not limited to these facts, as if belief in these facts alone were the "core" standard of fellowship. The Gospel includes the entire new covenant (cf. Gal. 2:14)! Biblical "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17)! Hearing "laurel" or "yanny" offers nothing significant! Let us prize hearing the soul-saving Gospel! ❤️ Brian



On this Memorial Day, we thank those men and women who gave their lives defending our country and freedom. Remember their families in prayer!



Pray for and encourage our young people as they work with this year's L2L theme, **"I Am" (Exodus 3:14)** and the Book of Exodus!