

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.

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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

Congratulations FSOP Graduates



Vince Daugherty came to FSOP from the Beville Road church of Christ in Daytona Beach, with whom his dad serves as preacher. Prior to enrolling at FSOP, he served as a youth minister with Beville Road (2016-2017). He also worked four years as a middle and high school teacher. He received other formal education from Harding University (BA in social science, 2013). He and his wife, Tiffany, have two sons, Ellis and Judah. He will be our associate minister as of June 1.



Alex Szabo came to us from the Wesconnett church of Christ in Jacksonville. Prior to enrolling at FSOP, he worked in information technology, having owned several businesses. He is a first generation American, whose parents escaped the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. He is from Reading, Pennsylvania, and served in the United States Navy (1976-1980). He and his wife, Beth, have one married daughter. As of this printing, he was looking for a full-time preaching work.

Staying Committed to the Commitment

Brian R. Kenyon

All Christians, especially preachers, have made a commitment to be faithful to the Lord and to incessantly serve Him. In baptism, we have been made “a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new,” and those “all things” that are new “are of God” (2 Cor. 5:17-18). Thus, God and His word should from henceforth permeate every part of our being! We can, however, lose enthusiasm, grow lukewarm, and fall out of God’s favor (cf. Rev. 3:14-22). What must each Christian do to stay committed to the commitment?

Christian Responsibility

Timothy was told what must be done in order to stay committed: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have

heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:1-2). First, Timothy was to “be strong [be strengthened, ESV] in the grace ... in Christ Jesus.” This stands in contrast to Phygellus and Hermogenes, who, along with others in Asia, “turned away” from Paul (2 Tim. 1:15). The grace in Christ Jesus may refer to the means by which Timothy was to receive strength or to the sphere in which the strength was to be experienced, or perhaps both ideas are involved. Either way, Timothy was to continue in this strength (cf. 2 Tim. 4:17; Eph 6:10; Phil 4:13; 1 Tim 1:12).

Second, Timothy was to “commit ... to faithful men” what he learned, so those faithful men could teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). “Commit [entrust, ESV]” means to entrust something to someone with the idea of keeping it safe and passing it on to others (2 Tim. 1:18; 1 Pet. 4:19). What Timothy learned was what Paul taught to the local churches (1 Cor. 4:17 cf. 1 Thes. 3:2). “Faithful men” are those who are not just faithful Christians, but who are also reliable and trustworthy. When committed Christians of each generation do this, the Gospel will continue its influence until the Lord returns! What are we doing to perpetuate the commitment to the next generation? Are we courageously living and teaching it to reliable Christians who will, in turn, pass it on to the succeeding generations? Yes, this is the work of preachers, but it is also the work of every Christian as each has the opportunity!

Maintaining Momentum

In order to motivate Timothy to keep on committing to faithful men what he has been taught, Paul gave him three familiar illustrations. Although each example contained particular emphasis, each also showed that maintaining commitment involved a level of suffering, patience, and endurance. First, Paul appealed to the soldier’s focused endurance: “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:3-4). The term “endure hardship [endure hardness, KJV; suffer hardship, NAS; share in suffering, ESV]” is from a word that has the prefix “with” built into it and means to undergo one’s share of suffering or share in hardship with someone. This word occurs elsewhere only once, where it is translated “share with me in the sufferings” (2 Tim. 1:8). To share in suffering, Christian soldiers must understand the nature of their mission and be totally focused on it. They cannot be controlled by the “affairs of this life” (cf. 2 Pet. 2:20). Do we understand that living faithful requires a willingness to suffer persecution? We will be treated as an enemy by the agents of the wicked one (cf. Eph. 6:12; 1 Jn. 5:19)! Let us keep focused and unyielding to the world’s control!

Second, Paul appealed to the athlete’s following the rules: “And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules” (2 Tim. 2:5). “Competes in athletics [strive for masteries, KJV; contend in the games, ASV; competes as an athlete, NAS; an athlete, ESV]” is actually from one Greek verb that means to compete in an athletic contest. Paul used athletic imagery elsewhere because it was common knowledge and readily applicable to Christianity (1 Cor. 9:24-27; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8). Three major areas are involved in making successful athletes: (1) self-discipline in training; (2) stamina to press on (both in training and in competition); and following the rules. This last aspect is emphasized here. “According to the rules [lawfully, KJV]” informs us that there is one legitimate way to be crowned. If God’s standards are not followed all the way through, the Christian will be disqualified (1 Cor. 9:27; 2 Cor. 13:5-6). Are we following God’s pattern? We are not at liberty to make our own rules. Let us follow God’s word and the course He has set (Heb. 12:1-2).

Third, Paul appealed to the farmer’s work ethic: “The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops” (2 Tim. 2:6). “Hard-working [laboureth, KJV]” is from a word Paul often used to convey hard work and intensive labor (1 Cor. 4:12; Eph. 4:28; Col. 1:29; 1 Thes. 5:12; 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 Tim. 5:17), especially as it related to Christian service (Rom. 16:6, 12; 1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 4:11). Strong work ethic in God’s vineyard implies whole-hearted devotion to His will (cf. Mt. 6:24). It also implies that the hard worker has a legitimate claim to the fruits of his labor (cf. Deut. 20:6; Pr. 27:18; 1 Cor. 9:7). The ultimate reward for the Christian worker is in the presence of God forever! It is no wonder then that John wrote, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them’” (Rev. 14:13)!

Conclusion

Let us keep committed to our commitment by being strong in the Lord and by continually committing the truth to faithful people. Let us keep the momentum going by having a focused endurance, following the rules, and being a hard worker for the Lord! Only then we will hear the words, “Well done”(Mt. 25:23)! *Æ Brian*

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Naomi Zamot (Jagie Kenyon's niece), Larry Lester, Gina, (daughter of Kathy Nester), Paulisky Irizarry, Lynn Stevens, Chrissi Fuesner, Christina Jones, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle's father, Gail Patterson, family member of Darlene and Brenda, and Peggy Nabors (member at Orange Street).

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 12th: FSOP graduation after evening service. Potluck fellowship meal afterward honoring our graduates, Vince Daugherty and Alex Szabo. Please bring enough food for our visitors.

Saturday May 18th: Men's breakfast at North Lakeland church of Christ at 8:00 a.m. The church van will be going. The van will leave the church building at 7:25 a.m. All are invited to join us!

Tuesday May 21st: Senior Saints meeting. Dutch treat breakfast at Fred's Southern Kitchen at 8:30 a.m. Presentation at 9:30 in the fellowship hall on the "The History of the Kathleen Area".

May 26th-29th: The first annual Family Enrichment Seminar at the Griffin Rd. church of Christ in Bartow. The speaker will be Kevin Patterson.

Friday May 31st: Ladies' Swap Till You Drop. Bring your items to the church building by May 22nd and on May 31st at 7:00 p.m., you can come and swap. See the flyer for more details or see Rene Bingle for any questions

June 2nd-6th: Mark Your Calendars! Our Vacation Bible School. Please invite family and friends. Come and see where you can help.

Thank You's

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Thanks to all of you that have kept me in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the food, cards, visits and phone calls. You all are so special to me. I am on the mend still but getting closer to returning to church. Miss all of you!
Love, Debbie Bush

Dear brothers and sisters, Thank you for all the kindness and love expressed while I was sick. Most of all thank you for your prayers. I love each of you very, very much! God bless you always,
Love, Brenda Mask

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and visits while I was in Lakeland Regional with blood pressure problems. I really appreciate my good friends here at South Florida Ave. church of Christ.
Love, Bob Pratt

A special thanks to Rene Bingle and Stephanie Kenyon and all those who helped to make Declan's birthday party so heartwarming and fun for us!

Thank you for all the kind gifts. You make us feel so special

In christian love, Josh Potvin

Visitors

Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Sherman Williams, Haley Pack, Harry & Victoria Williams, Johnny Davidson, Heather Glass, Susan Stearsman, Margaret Khoury, Bruce & Cheryl England, Larry Baker and Dan & Kim Barnett.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Open/Close building-David Williams

Josh Estridge **Table** Tucker Sweeney
John McShane **Assist** Dustin Walling

Sunday, May 12th, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine
Prayer.....David Williams

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth.....Casey Paulin
Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Kyle Faneuf
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....Wadi Khoury
Greeters.....Nona W. Jeanelle T /Shearer
Cards.....Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....Chad Tagtow
Opening Prayer.....Fred Strickland
Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer..... David Deal

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Song Leader.....Jim Turner
Opening Prayer..... Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer.....Alex Parramore

May- Clean-up David William's (R-Z)

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

Sunday, May 19, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....Jim Turner
Prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth.....Alex Parramore
Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....Wesley Brunson
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....**Jim Edmonson**
Greeters bettye b/Melissa Craft
Cards..... Willcut boy's

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Sermon.....Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....Jim Turner

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Song Leader..... Ken Walker
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Tyler Anderson

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 14.....	\$6,668.25
Apr. 21.....	\$6,414.65
Apr. 28.....	\$6,542.00
May 5.....	\$7,520.64
Contribution Average	\$6,705.92

New Member Spotlight

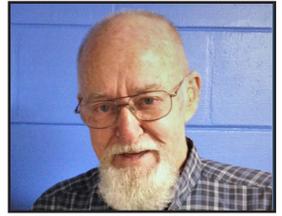
Alex Parramore



Alex was born in New Orleans and has also lived in Memphis, Washington, D.C., and now Tampa. As a child, he was not sure what he wanted to be. His first job was at Zaxby's Chicken. He is currently an unemployed professional student. He enjoys spending time and playing video games with friends, building computers, exercising, reading, and studying business. His most satisfying accomplishment is being accepted into USF, where he will study business management. The best advice he's been given is "Always have a purpose in what you do."

Member Spotlight

Bob Pratt



Bob was born in Huntington, West Virginia. As a child, he wanted to be US Sailor. His first job was helping to deliver groceries. He is currently retired. He has visited several countries. He is good at tinkering and repairing lawn equipment. He likes to spend time with his wife. His most satisfying accomplishments are serving his country in the US Navy for eight years and marrying his childhood sweetheart. The best advice he's been given is "Don't quit!" He and his wife, Bea, have two sons, four grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.



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 . . .

VBS June 2-6, 2019



Old House Update Contractors are working daily on the house, and it will likely continue thru summer. **Please stay away from the area.**



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

 **FSOP graduation will be after our evening worship service Sunday, May 12. The school is grateful for SFA's support through its fifty-year history!**