

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

Four Things Every Christian Should Do "Before Winter"

Hiram Kemp

As Paul knew death was coming, he encouraged Timothy, his son in the faith, to make the trip to Rome to see him (2 Tim. 1:3-4). Paul was ready to leave this world and receive the crown of life laid up for him (2 Tim. 4:6-8). He encouraged Timothy to bring some of his belongings with him and let them know of the whereabouts of some of their fellow coworkers (2 Tim. 4:9-12). Even as death was looming over him, Paul wanted his coat and his books (2 Tim. 4:13). As Paul's plea to Timothy closes, he urges him to be sure to come before winter (2 Tim. 4:21).

In the first century it was dangerous to travel during the winter. Transportation ceased on the Mediterranean from November to March. If Timothy did not leave at once, he probably would not be able to see Paul. Add to this that Paul would need his coat for the winter conditions as he sat in his cell awaiting execution. Paul's phrase "before winter" is one that I want to key in on in this article. We should do some things before winter. I am using winter here not in reference to the season that comes on our calendars but as a synonym for difficulty. There are some things that we should do before it is too late or too difficult to do those things.

Make Our Calling and Election Sure

Peter wrote to Christians and told them to add the Christian graces to their lives and further develop them so that they could make their calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:5-10). We do not have forever to be ready for death or for the Lord's return (Heb. 9:27). Before winter we should be examining our lives and making sure that we are walking in the light of God's word (1 Jn. 1:7). Are we studying the Bible as much as we can to be sure we hide the word in our hearts (Psa. 1:2; 119:11)? Are we praying to God fervently and casting our cares on him (1 Pet. 5:7)? Are we developing the fruit of the Spirit by heeding the Spirit's words (Gal. 5:22-23)? If the answer to these questions is no, what are we waiting for? We need to make our calling and election sure before it is too late.

Those who wait on perfect timing before they are faithful to God may never be faithful. There will always be troubles and roadblocks, but we must overcome (Jn. 16:33). Never mind the lukewarm faith possessed by others, we must be sure not to allow our own faith to falter. Hold to the things we have been taught and continue in the truth of God's word (2 Tim. 1:13; 3:14-15). We can know that we have eternal life, not because we are faultless, but because we have trusted in the faultless Lord and served him (1 Jn. 5:13).

Share the Gospel With Those We Love

We should share the gospel with all of those with whom we come in contact, but there are some we are closer to than others. When Andrew found the Messiah, the first person he found was his brother Peter so that he could introduce him to Jesus (Jn. 1:40-42). Before winter we must speak to those we love about the one we love the most. Maybe you have close friends and relatives with whom you have not broached the subject of salvation. Change this while you can. Paul wanted his Jewish kinsman to know Christ, and he did all he could to give them an opportunity (Rom. 9:1-5; 10:1-4).

Maybe you could mail a tract or send a YouTube link of a sermon to those who live further away. Whatever it takes, we must strive to get the gospel to those closest to us before time runs out. Paul was eager to share the gospel with those at Rome, and we should be eager as well (Rom. 1:15). If Timothy waited too long he might never see Paul again. If we wait too long to confront those outside of Jesus with the gospel, we may never see them again (Mk. 16:15-16). There are no guarantees that they will become Christians if we evangelize them, but if we do not mention Jesus the chances that they will be saved are even lower. Before life passes us by, may we reach out to those we love with the message of salvation (Col. 1:23).

Forgive Others Who Have Wronged Us

God forgives us of our sins as we repent and confess those sins (1 Jn. 1:9). When others are seeking our forgiveness, we should not withhold (Eph. 4:32). There are times when we have been severely wronged by others and it may seem fair to hold a grudge. The Bible teaches that Christians must forgive others or God will not forgive us when we seek his forgiveness (Mt. 18:23-35). While forgiveness cannot truly take place until it is sought, we should also do all we can to try and reconcile with those who may be at odds with us. This is what God does with humanity (cf. 2 Cor. 5:18-21). Maintain a disposition of heart that stands ready to pardon others as soon as they reach out for it. May we not keep track of wrongs done toward us because God does not do this with us (Heb. 8:12; cf. 1 Cor. 13:5).

Forgiveness does not let the guilty off free. It keeps us from becoming the prisoner of bitterness. Before it is too late, we should seek peace with others as best we can (Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14). What a tragedy to have someone die whom we have never forgiven, even when they sought it. Jesus taught Peter that we should forgive our brethren as often as they desire it (Mt. 18:21-22). Jesus and Stephen sought forgiveness for those who killed them, and we would be wise to follow in their footsteps (Lk. 23:34; Acts 7:60).

Give Others The Honor They Are Due

There is nothing wrong with giving honor to others, the Bible commands that we do this (Rom. 13:7). If we love and appreciate someone, we should let them know before winter. Paul did not hesitate to tell his brethren continually how much he loved them and appreciated them (Phil. 1:8). Winter may be here before we know it, and we may lose the opportunity to tell others how much they mean to us. Maybe an elder, preacher, deacon, Bible class teacher, or otherwise faithful Christian has greatly influenced us for good. We should let them know how much we appreciate them while they are alive to hear it, and we are alive to tell them (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

Write a note of encouragement, tell them face to face, or send a small gift of appreciation. Paul often ended his letters praising those who were his faithful coworkers in the cause of Christ (cf. Rom. 16). Do not wait until it is too late to tell brethren how much they mean to you. Tell them now (Jn. 13:34-35). If your parents are still alive and have had influence on you for good, honor them now (Eph. 6:2). Husbands are to give honor to their wives (1 Pet. 3:7), and wives are to reverence their husbands (Eph. 5:33). Sometimes tragedy comes into a home unexpectedly with no time to say goodbye. Let us be showing proper honor and affection on a continual basis.

Conclusion

We are not told whether Timothy made it to Paul before winter. I hope that he did. The apostle was nearing the end. He had tears in his eyes (for Timothy) and hope in his heart (for heaven). He wanted to see his son in the faith once more, but Timothy would have to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16). There are many important matters to tend to in this life, let us do what we can before winter! Ω

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Linda McShane's surgery went well. Ginny Hamby was having some testing done at Moffitt this week. Ray Naschick, Faith West, Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Bob McAnally, Eunice Powell, (grandmother of Stacey and Rene') Larry Lester (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr. (Neil Entwistle's father), John Beckwork (relative of Chris Wilson, Toney Wilson's son), Peggy Nabors and James and Ellen Shearer (Wayne Shearer's parents) and Maci Teagarden (friend of Dottie Fife's sister's, 10 month old baby).

Upcoming Events

Friday July 12th: Youth Group (ages 14 and older) will be preparing a meal at the Ronald McDonald House in Tampa. Please see Hiram for details.

Saturday, July 13th: Celebrate Summer Fellowship Cookout with water games and fun for the whole family! Games will begin at 2:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs and corn will be provided. Please bring a side dish and dessert. We are looking for volunteers to help cook. If you can help in any way please see John McShane.

Sunday July 14th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday July 14th: Meeting for all parents of children cradle roll and up after morning service. If you are unable to attend please see Vince Daugherty for details.

Tuesday July 16th: Senior Saints outing to the Polk County 911 center. The van will leave the building at 9:00 a.m. Tour is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Dutch treat luncheon at a local restaurant following the tour.

Saturday July 20th: Men's breakfast at the Griffin Road church of Christ in Bartow at 8:00 am.

Thank You

Dear church, We are so truly thankful for all the donations to the Florida School of Preaching in memory of our dear one, Emma Lou Rodgers. May you all be blessed for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Sam Rodgers and family

Placed Membership

Stacy Wilson, husband of Toney Wilson, requested to place membership.

Let us welcome him.

Response

Neil Entwistle requested prayer for better attendance and also for his father's upcoming surgery.

Donations for FSOP Student Housing

FSOP needs in good condition: 2 beds- full or queen size frame & headboard, 1 dresser or chest of drawers, 3 night-stands and 1 end table. If you can donate any of these items please contact Kathy Sweeney at the school office or on her cell.

Visitors

Heather Glass, Sherman Williams, Jerry Greene, Eric Bunch, Harry & Victoria Williams and family, Margaret Khoury, Tiffany Hash, Megan and Sam, Larry Laster, Tawana Burkett and Mr. & Mrs. Curt Morelock.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder During Services - Bobby Sheumaker
Open/Close Building - Kenny French

Bobby Sheumaker..... **Table** Wayne Shearer
Phil Fife **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, July 14, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Bingle
Prayer..... Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Wesley Brunson
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... David Deal
Greeters..... Daugherty/Bingle
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Mission Report
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Song Leader..... Ken Walker
Opening Prayer..... David Williams
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore

July- Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney (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, July 21, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Jim Turner
Prayer..... Tyler Anderson

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Alex Parramore
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Wesley Brunson
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Greeters..... Sheumaker/Hendrix
Cards..... Willcut boy's

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Josh Estridge
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Dustin Walling

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Song Leader..... Jim Turner
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Wadi Khoury

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 16	\$4,857.11
June 23	\$7,197.45
June 30	\$6,504.46
July 07	\$5,642.97
Contribution Average	\$6,508.67



Youth Spotlight

Peyton Willcut



Peyton was born in Winter Haven, and he has lived in this area all of his life. He wants to be a lawyer when he becomes an adult. He is currently a student ready to enter the sixth grade. He has visited Mexico, and he speaks only English. In his free time, he likes to go outside, play soccer, and play video games. He likes summer time. His favorite drink is Coca Cola. His favorite dessert is chocolate ice cream. He is an early bird. He does not eat weird food. He is good at memorizing Bible facts. The best advice he's been given is "Give 110% on everything."



Member Spotlight

Jean McCarter



Jean was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and also lived in Ohio and Oklahoma before moving to Florida. As a child, she wanted to be a nurse. Her first job was baby sitting. She is currently retired from the insurance business. She enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, and gardening. Her most satisfying accomplishments are her marriage and family. The best advice she's been given is from her dad: "No matter the job you accept, no matter the pay, *always* give more than 100%." She and her husband, Dennis, have 2 children and 2 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 . . .



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.



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

2019 SFA peeps @



We had a great time! Make plans to be at Mullins/Faneuf Week next year!



REMEMBER THE LORD IN ALL YOUR SUMMER PLANS!