

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. 73 No. 31 8-27-19

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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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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



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

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

We Need a New Generation of Phinehases

Hiram Kemp

The children of Israel were on their way from Egypt to Canaan, but they had some hurdles to overcome along the way. They had problems with faith, food, and also with foreign enemies. One of the problems that Israel faced in the wilderness was a king named Balak, who hired a prophet named Balaam to curse them. God forbid Balaam from cursing the people of Israel. He was only allowed to bless them (Num. 23:1-12, 25-26). Once Balaam realized he could not curse the children of Israel with his speech, he attempted to seduce them to sin with the Moabite women (Num. 25:1). The Israelites gave in to Balaam's temptation and joined themselves to idols and displeased the Lord (Num. 25:2-3). God had Moses kill all of those who engaged in this idolatrous behavior in order to remove the wickedness from their midst (Num. 25:4-5; cf. Exod. 20:2-6).

After God had shown his hatred for the fornication of Israel mixed with idolatry, an Israelite man, Zimri (Num. 25:14), marched into the camp one day with a Midianite woman, Cozbi (Num. 25:15). Not only did the Israelite come in with the forbidden woman, but he also did it in the sight of all of the people, and no one did anything about it (Num. 25:6). It was at this time that Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron, rose up with a javelin and killed them both (Num. 25:7-8). God blessed Phinehas and turned away from His anger toward Israel (Num. 25:10-15). While this Old Testament account of righteous indignation and punishment may be hard for many to accept, it teaches profound truths we need to remember and practice. Phinehas sets an example that must be reproduced today as we desperately need a new generation of Phinehases.

Courage Not To Follow the Crowd

As the Israelite Zimri marched into the camp with the Midianite woman, some Israelites might have whispered about how wrong it was. Perhaps some Israelites reasoned, "It was not lawful for him to have her," but no one did anything about it (cf. Mark 6:18). Sometimes we may see things that we know are wrong, but we are afraid to speak up and do something because we are all alone. The majority is not always correct, and just because most people are silent does not mean we should be (cf. Exod. 23:2). Most people are on the wide road which leads to destruction, and we should not expect them to speak up about unrighteousness (Mt. 7:13-14). When Phinehas saw wrong, he did not wait to get the approval of his contemporaries before he acted. Phinehas was convicted already because he knew that the fornication and idolatry of Zimri and Cozbi offended his God (Psa. 139:21-22).

We need a new generation of Phinehases that will not follow the blind culture in which we currently live, but instead will follow the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Mt. 15:14). It is possible to silently approve of the wrong of others. If we do, we will give an account (Rom. 1:32). God is pleased when his people do not follow the crowd, but instead follow the way of the cross. Be like Phinehas and avoid the temptation to do what everyone else is doing.

Zealous for God

When God pronounces a blessing on Phinehas, He says that he was zealous, or jealous, for God and this drove him to act (Num. 25:11). Phinehas did not stand up and strike Zimri and Cozbi because he simply did not think they were a cute couple. There was something deeper and more important driving Phinehas' behavior than whether or not he thought Zimri and Cozbi should be together. He was concerned with what God thought about it. God had already shown his disdain for these types of relationships. If Phinehas was going to have God's approval, he needed to be against it too. God describes his attitude as zealous. This Hebrew word in this context means to campaign for someone. Phinehas' behavior was his effort to campaign for God as he was aligning himself with the God of heaven (cf. Exod. 32:26).

We need to be zealous for the Lord and to be "campaigning" for him in the same way that Phinehas did in the wilderness. When God calls homosexuality an abomination, we need to say the same thing without apology as we show the world around us that we are on the side of God and what he says about sexual immorality of any kind (Rom. 1:26-27; cf. Lev. 18:22). We should be zealous for God as we speak of the pure worship of the New Testament that is free from the doctrines and deviations of men (Mt. 15:7-9). Being zealous for God is too many times defined as simply being excited about God and having a mind that is interested in the things of God. Biblically speaking, to be zealous for God is more than just what we feel but also how we behave. It should also be noted that our zeal should be accompanied with knowledge (Rom. 10:1-4). To have zeal without knowledge is to run full speed into a ditch. Yet, to have knowledge without zeal is to be stagnant and useless in the kingdom of God. Our zeal must motivate us to speak up for God and serve him, even when it is not easy (Mt. 16:24-25). In a country where so many campaign for so many earthly causes, we need a new generation of Phinehases who will campaign for the eternal cause of Christ.

Enjoy Peace with God

God promised a covenant of peace with Phinehas as a result of the courage and conviction he showed (Num. 25:12). It is more important to be at peace with God than to have peace with man. Maybe Phinehas doing the right thing raised some eyebrows in the Israelite camp as Phinehas killed this couple right before their eyes. Some people might have even viewed Phinehas as a troublemaker and a disrupter of the peace. The truth was that Phinehas removed God's wrath from the people, and they enjoyed true peace as a result. God calls us to be peacemakers and that often involves engaging in conflict to accomplish peace (Mt. 5:9). God made peace through the blood of Jesus' cross (Col. 1:20). Phinehas enjoyed peace with God and that is what mattered the most.

We too must prioritize peace with God above peace with all others. Jesus is the prince of peace, but he also promised to bring division (Mt. 10:34-36). The division that Jesus would bring about would come as some believed in him and others did not. Even within the same household there might be differing views of Jesus which could lead to problems within a family (Mt. 10:37). If we cherish peace with our family over peace with our God, we will forfeit the covenant of peace that we can have with the Lord. Phinehas was willing to be at odds with everyone else if it meant peace with God, and we should do the same (Rom. 5:1-2).

Conclusion

The Old Testament was written and preserved so that we could learn from it (Rom. 15:4). The world wants to muzzle Christians and tie our hands, but we must resist the world (1 Jn. 5:4). It is not enough to whisper about righteousness among ourselves. We must speak of it openly to the world. We can stand up for God and stand against sin while still being respectful and kind (2 Tim. 2:24-26). We need a new generation of Phinehases that will stand up, confront evil, and enjoy God's blessing as a result. Ω

Stand Up for Jesus Every Day!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Ginny Hamby, Ray Naschick, Wadi Khoury, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, Cierra Edwards (upcoming appt with neuro-surgeon in October) and Margaret Coone (spine surgery 9-4-19).

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

Others: Bob McAnally, Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., James and Ellen Shearer, Brinlee Alford, Derek Bush (Debbie Bush's son) and Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 27th: FSOP Ladies' class at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 31th: All are invited to a baby shower in honor of Elly Enamorado (Brian & Jagie's daughter), at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship room. Please RSVP by signing the sheet on the bulletin board. Instead of a card, bring a book for baby and write a note inside to baby and parents. Small gifts or gift cards/money are encouraged as Elly will have limited space while traveling. See Kathy Sweeney if you'd like to part of the gift card/money tree.

Sunday September 1st: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Monday September 2nd: 27th Annual Labor Day Lectureship at the 6th St. church of Christ from 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon.

Sunday September 8th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday September 17th: Senior Saints meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday October 5th: Ladies Day here at South Florida Ave.

October 10-12th: Ladies Retreat to St. Augustine, FL.

Saturday October 19th: Annual Singing and picnic at Mary Holland Park in Bartow.

Saturday October 19th: Youth Seminar here at South Florida Ave.

Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone who helped me celebrate my birthday last Wednesday. I am so happy and blessed to have an amazing Christian family. Sophia and the Smith family.

Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Greene, Eric Bunch, Johnny Davidson, Margaret Khoury, Curt & Eve Moreloce, Chris and Isabella Courtwright, Allen & Rachel Grimes, Imari Bennett, Andrew & Elly Enamorado and Christy Wright.

Watch . . .



In Search of the Lord's Way

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

Communion to Shut-Ins

Sept. 1..... Van Allen
 Sept. 8..... Youth Group
 Sept. 15..... R. Kenyon

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

September

Designated Elder During Services - Kenny French

Open/Close Building - Jimmy Sweeney

Jimmy Sweeney **Table** Tyler Anderson
 Neil Entwistle **Assist** Alex Parramore

Sunday, September 1, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Williams
Prayer..... Ken Walker
Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney
Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Jim Turner
Greeters..... McCarter/Williams
Cards..... Klark Kenyon/Willcut

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... Josh Estridge
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Song Leader..... Jim Turner
Opening Prayer..... David Deal
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby

Sept. Clean-up David Williams team (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, September 8, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Tim Croson
Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Announcements..... Frank Hamby
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Deal
Greeters..... Fife/McShane
Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... David Williams
Opening Prayer..... Fred Strickland
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 04 \$6,802.75
Aug 11 \$7,477.25
Aug 18 \$5,833.18
Aug 25 \$ 6,993.07
Contribution Average..... \$ 6,561.64



New Member Spotlight

Heather Glass



Heather was born in Toledo, Ohio, and was reared in that State. As a child, she wanted to be an astronomer. Her first job was prep work at Dominos Pizza. She has visited several countries in Europe, having studied abroad with Freed-Hardeman University. In her free time, she likes to doodle in her Bible journal. Her most satisfying accomplishments are becoming a Christian and deciding to remain faithful. The best advice she's been given is from her dad: "When you accept the unacceptable, the unacceptable becomes expected." Welcome, Heather!

Member Spotlight

Robert Cooper



Robert was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a child, he wanted to deliver coal and operate the coal shoot. His first job was wiring new houses. He is a retired industrial electrician. In his free time, he likes to work in the yard. His favorite dessert is peach cobbler. He also enjoys building things, like the grandfather clock he built and the black powder rifle he's working on. The best advice he's been given is "If you don't have something good to say about someone, don't say anything." He and his wife, June, reared 4 children and have 3 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 . . .

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



SFA was well represented at Polishing the Pulpit. Hiram was a featured speaker as were other FSOP alumni and instructors.

SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

LADIES DAY

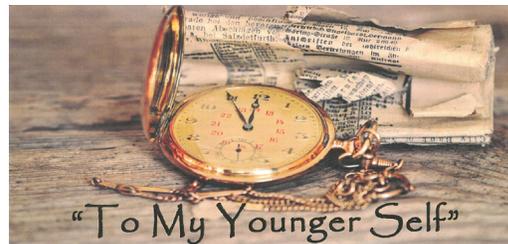
Save the date

A
B **C**

OCTOBER 5
2019

Psalm 122:1
I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Youth Seminar, Oct. 19, 2019



Make Plans Now To Attend These SFA Events!