

# 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. 33 9-10-19

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

John McShane  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty  
(740) 801-1106

## SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

## 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)

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)



IN  
SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

## 13 Things Scripture Teaches About Creation

Hiram Kemp

**1. God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1)** Moses begins the Bible by acknowledging God as creator. While the world gives the credit to macro-evolution which has no scientific basis and defies all commonsense, scripture credits God.

**2. God spoke the world into existence (Psa. 33:6,9)** The Bible does not simply say that God created the world but it tells us how God created the world. The heavens owe their existence to the words that came from God. God commanded the world and its inhabitants to appear, and they did. The power in God's word is seen by its ability to make things appear that were not previously there. In the first chapter of Genesis, the text repeatedly says, "God said ... and there was ..." (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9,11, 14-18, 20-21, 24-27).

**3. God created humans in his image (Gen. 1:26-27)** Humans are the crown of God's creation and the apple of his eye (Psa. 17:8; Zech. 2:8). The "us" mentioned in Genesis 1:26 refers to all three members of the Godhead: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are made in the image of God as we are able to think rationally, exercise free-will, and have a desire for morality and justice (Psa. 139:14). Though we often fall short of our role as image bearers, we should remember that we are elevated above everything else that God created (Psa. 8).

**4. God described his creation as very good (Gen. 1:31)** The problem with the earth was the sin that entered into the world as man disobeyed God. When God created the world he described the end of each day as good and the sixth day as "very good." The creation shows us the goodness of God as he has provided things for his people to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17).

**5. Creation points to the glory of God (Psa. 19:1-6)** While Psalm 19 is often quoted to show that God exist, that is not all this psalm teaches us. The heavens do not simply declare that God exists, the heavens declare the glory of God (1 Chr. 29:11). The God of scripture is not only a creator, but he is also the God and king of glory (Psa. 24:7-8, 29:2-3). Still, we should acknowledge that David points to the heavens and the sermon they preach to all who will hear them. When you go out at night and look at the stars, you know they did not hang themselves, God's natural revelation causes us to seek him. When sought properly, they lead us to his special revelation: The Bible (Psa. 19:7-14).

**6. Since God is creator, he rules over the nations (Isa. 40:9-31)** When the prophets wanted to warn foreign nations and the people of God about the powerful God who could punish them, they pointed to his creative power. Isaiah says that God measured out the waters in the hollow of his hands, marked off the heavens with a span, weighed the mountains in scales and hills in a balance (Isa. 40:12). Isaiah's point to the nations is that if God so effortlessly created the world that we stand in awe, the nations should beware not to bring on his wrath because they do not stand a chance. Our own nation should remember that the God, who created the world and every nation that exists, can and will destroy wicked nations that oppose his righteousness (Psa. 9:17).

**7. God created the world through Jesus (John 1:1-3; Col.1:15-17; Heb. 1:1-2)** Many people mistakenly think that Jesus' existence began in a manger in Bethlehem. It is true that Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph; however, Jesus is the only human that has ever pre-existed. Jesus is the co-equal with God the Father. The New Testament credits Jesus with being the one through whom the earth and everything in it was created. This means that Jesus himself could not have been created, though some religions teach this false doctrine (cf. Rev. 1:8). This should heighten our view of what happened on Calvary's cross. Jesus our creator was killed by his creation so that he could save the world.

**8. The Holy Spirit was involved in creation (Psa. 104:30)** Like God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world. Moses spoke of the Spirit of God being present as the earth was without form and void (Gen. 1:2). Elihu gave credit to God's spirit for creating him (Job 33:4). The Spirit is eternal just like the Father and the Son and has an often-overlooked role in the creation for the world (Heb. 9:14).

**9. God created the world in six days (Exod. 20:11)** A clear reading of Genesis 1–2 shows us that God created the world in six twenty-four-hour periods. However, as some theologians have bowed the knee to evolution, they have tried to merge the biblical account of creation with the fictional account of evolution. Moses does not leave the door open for evolution in the biblical account of creation. He tells Israel to keep the Sabbath and says they should do this because in "six days" God made the world and rested on the seventh (Exod. 20:8-11). If the days of creation are not literal days, but instead unspecified amounts of time, how would Israel be able to use Genesis 1 as a point of reference for Sabbath keeping?

**10. Those who deny creation are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-20)** The attributes of God are clearly seen by the creation of the world. Those who deny creation actually know better. They simply suppress the truth and ignore it because they want to serve the creature more than the creator (Rom. 1:18-19, 25). One does not have to have a Ph.D. to know that God exist. Looking in the mirror at the human body (Prov. 20:12), looking outside at creation (Psa. 8:3), and exercising common sense leads one to the truth Paul says is "clearly seen" (Rom. 1:20).

**11. The creation remains because God sustains it (Neh. 9:6; Heb. 1:3)** God preserves the earth by his power and sustains it through his word. God not only called the world into existence but the only reason that it remains is because he wills it to do so. God makes the rain fall and the sun rise (Mt. 5:45). God holds everything in creation together (Col. 1:17). Sometimes people think they can save the environment. We are to be good stewards over the place where we live, but never forget that God holds the world in place with or without our help.

**12. God will destroy the world he created (2 Pet. 3:10-13)** While God's original creation was seen as good, sin has defiled the earth and God has promised to destroy the earth with fire one day. Peter tells his readers to look at what took place in the days of Noah for evidence of what will happen when Jesus returns (2 Pet. 3:5-7; cf. Gen. 7:17-22). The creation and everything in it will be burned up, and so Christians should live holy lives and prepare for our dwelling place in the "new heavens and new earth" (2 Pet. 3:13; cf. John 14:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5).

**13. The New Creation is the Most Important (2 Cor. 5:17)** The creation of man and woman in Genesis 1:26-27 was corrupted by sin through disobedience. However, the new creation that takes place as one is in Christ will be saved through sanctification (Rom. 6:3-5). The new creation is where we put on Christ as we are baptized into him, and we receive all spiritual blessings that are present in Christ (Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 1:3). We want everyone to become a new creation in Christ Jesus because that is the only creation that will last (Gal. 6:15).

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Ginny Hamby, Ray Naschick, Wadi Khoury, Bobby Simpson, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Sharon Washington, Denise Gulizia, Cierra Edwards (up-coming appt with neuro-surgeon in October). Margaret Coone is home after back surgery. Trish King, Brenda Mask's niece, passed away on Sunday September 8th. Please keep Brenda and her family in your prayers.

**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, and Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law).

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday September 17th:** Senior Saints Outing to the Polk County Jail for a guided tour. Meet at the building at 9:30 a.m. Following that a trip to the Phosphate Museum in Mulberry to view their attractions. At the end there will be a dutch treat lunch at Golden Corral on the south side. Anyone who does not feel comfortable taking a tour of the jail can meet us at the museum at 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, September 21st:** Parents' meeting at 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 24th:** FSOP ladies' class, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Saturday, October 5th:** Door-knocking after Ladies' Day

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

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

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

## Responses

Wadi Khoury requested prayer for an on-going Bible study he is engaged in. Rick Kenyon asked for prayers to be a more active member. Virginia Walker requested prayer to be better at not complaining and trusting in the Lord.

## Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters of the South Florida Ave. church of Christ, Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate your concern as I recover from my back operation. You are a true testimony of love and caring and example of the brotherly love of what the Lord's congregation should be. May the Lord smile on you and bless you.

In Christian love, Wadi (Woody) Khoury

## Request Prayers

To our church family, Ginny and I request prayers of the church in regard to decisions we will be making regarding chemotherapy. We are approaching the ends of the lists of drugs given to fight this type of cancer. Prayers are appreciated as we see the doctor Tuesday and for the C-scan in October. Thank you for your continued encouragement!

In Christian love, Ginny and Frank Hamby

## Change of Membership

Carla Moore and her family have made the decision to move their membership and worship elsewhere. We are very sad to see them go. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Tiffany Hash, Mike & Barbara Stump, Allen & Rachel Grimes, Scout Carter, Victoria Stetson, Brittany Everett, Alexis Dunn and Kiana Santiago.

## 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 15, 2019 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class** ..... Jim Turner  
**Prayer**..... Wayne Shearer  
**Sound Booth**..... Alex Parramore  
**Announcements**..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... John McShane  
**Sermon**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**..... Rick Kenyon  
**Greeters**..... Shearer/Anderson  
**Cards**..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... David Anderson  
**Sermon**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Closing Prayer**..... Kenny French

### Wednesday, September 18, 2019

**Song Leader** ..... Matt Willcut  
**Opening Prayer**..... John McShane  
**Closing Prayer** ..... Alex Parramore

### 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 22, 2019 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Kyle Bingle  
**Prayer**..... Rick Kenyon  
**Sound Booth**..... Phil Fife  
**Announcements**..... Frank Hamby  
**Song Leader**..... Jason Hendrix  
**Opening Prayer**..... Edward Atkins  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Matt Willcut  
**Greeters**..... Daugherty/Bingle  
**Cards**..... Klark/Willcut boy's

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... David Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Charles Paulin  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... David Anderson

### Wednesday, September 25, 2019

**Song Leader**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Opening Prayer**..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer**..... Wayne Shearer

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

**Aug. 18** ..... \$5,833.18  
**Aug. 25** ..... \$6,993.07  
**Sept. 1** ..... \$7,296.37  
**Sept. 8** ..... \$6,885.26  
**Contribution Average**..... \$6,591.04



Member Spotlight

# Beverly Adams

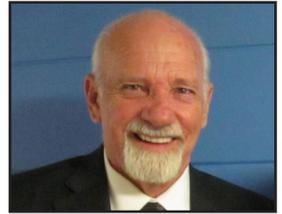


Beverly was born in Columbus, Georgia, and lived in Albany, but spent most of her life in this area. Her first job was as a staff assistant at the Health Department, with whom she still works after 51 years. Her favorite book is the Bible. In her free time, she likes to relax and watch Hallmark movies and mysteries. She also enjoys going to craft shows. Her most satisfying accomplishment is her long career at the same place. The best advice she's been given is "Try and do good." She has 1 child and 2 grandchildren, and is married to Gene.



Member Spotlight

# Bobby Simpson



Bobby was born in Akron, Ohio, and also lived in Tennessee and North Carolina before coming to Florida. As a child, he wanted to be a Marine. His first job and career was as a Marine. He is currently retired. He served in Vietnam, as well as several duty stations all over the world, including Cuba. In his free time, he likes to relax and read. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, and antiques. His most satisfying accomplishment is being baptized into Christ. The best advice he's been given is "Never give up." He and his wife, Linda, have 2 sons 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 . . .

**Ladies,  
 Plan Now  
 To Attend  
 This And  
 Invite  
 Your  
 Friends  
 & Family!**

**SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**LADIES DAY**  
 1807 S. Florida Avenue Lakeland, FL 33803

**OCTOBER 5, 2019**  
**ABCs of Christianity**

**A - A fight against the Adversary**  
 Kelecy Grimes, Sebring church of Christ

**B - Being a Barnabas**  
 Dee Parramore, South Florida Ave.

**C - a Centurion of scripture**  
 Stephanie Kenyon, South Florida Ave.

Registration begins 8:30 with continental breakfast  
 Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.  
[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)

**Make  
 Plans  
 Now To  
 Attend!**

Youth Seminar, Oct. 19, 2019



"To My Younger Self"



Youth devotional and service project at the Kemps

WELC  
M