

# 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. 18 05-08-18

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney  
Chuck Wyatt  
John McShane

## MINISTER

Hiram Kemp  
(386) 405-5372

## 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

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)



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

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

## Things We Will Never Say in Heaven

Hiram Kemp

The Christian's hope is tied to Jesus Christ and the reward of heaven (Col. 1:5). The heavenly reward that is promised to us was in the mind of God before the world began (Tit. 1:2). In order for us to enjoy heaven, there are some things that we must say in this life. We must confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord (Rom. 10:9-10). If we are ashamed of Jesus, he will be ashamed of us before his father (Mt. 10:32-33). We must also say no to the world. The world is constantly pulling on us to give in to ungodliness and sin, but we must learn to say no to the advances of the world with our lips as well as our lives (Tit. 2:12). We need to confess our sins to God when we stumble as well as apologize to one another when we are in the wrong (1 Jn. 1:9). This is a brief list of things that we need to be in the habit of saying if we expect heaven to be our eternal home. However, when we get to heaven there will be a change. There are some things that we will not say in heaven. It is challenging for the mind to consider some of the statements that will be removed from our lips forever, and it is exciting at the same time. Notice a few statements that we will never say in heaven. We long for the day when this is a reality.

### *"Let us Pray"*

While on earth, we are commanded to pray incessantly (1 Thess. 5:17). We need prayer as temporary pilgrims through the earth to keep in contact with our loving heavenly Father. The trials, anxieties and heart aches of this life often drive us to the Father's throne in prayer. We will not make it successfully through this life unless we learn how to pray to God and cast our cares on him (1 Pet. 5:7). Yet, in heaven we will never have to pray again. For one, we will never be faced with a situation in eternity where we have to pray about it. Also, we will be in the presence of the Lord and be able to speak directly with him (1 Thess. 4:17-18). The barrier of distance which separates us from his presence now will be forever removed. We will not have to approach him through the avenue of prayer but, instead, face to face. It staggers the mind to consider that in eternity we will not have to close our eyes and bow our heads. Instead, we will open our eyes and lift our heads, looking on the one who has all the answers and assurances we need. Prayer is a great blessing and a privilege, but thank God it is only a temporary one. We will never have to say let us pray in heaven because we will enjoy the presence of God like never before.

*(continued on page 2)*

# *“I Wish I Missed More Worship And Read Less Bible”*

For sure there will be those with regrets in eternity, like the rich man who desired Abraham to send Lazarus to simply dip his finger in water to cool his tongue. Because of the flames, many will desire relief (Lk. 16:24). Abraham reminded the rich man that not only was there a great gulf that separated the two places, but also in his life the rich man had his good things and did not use them in a way that honored God (Lk 16:25). I imagine the rich man regretted the way he squandered his earthly resources. There will be many who in eternity regret that they put ball games, hunting, shopping, and a few extra hours of sleep before their relationship with the Lord. The faithful child of God will not regret the time spent drawing closer to God. In heaven, we will never say, I wish I missed more worship and read the Bible less. We will not look back on the times we rummaged through the scriptures mining for gold as times to be lamented (Psa. 119:108). The times we prioritized the assembly over our extra-curricular activities will be viewed as a blessing to be enjoyed rather than a thorn in our side (Heb. 10:24-25). No one in heaven will ever say that time was wasted pursuing spiritual things. Seeking the things which are above will prove to have been worth every effort (Col. 3:1). Though people sometimes belly ache and complain about having time to read the Bible or attend the services, no one will say in heaven they wish they had done less of it.

## *“That Hurts”*

Every one of us has known pain to varying degrees. There is physical pain but there is also emotional pain that is endured in this life. When Peter described the reward awaiting the faithful, he said it is incorruptible, undefiled, and it fades not away (1 Pet. 1:3-4). Nothing that defiles or corrupts will enter the eternal dwelling place of the righteous. This means those harsh words, rude comments, and awful memories that cause emotional pain here will be somehow prevented from troubling us in the world to come. We will also not experience physical pain in heaven. The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years and their feet never did swell, yet many feet swell today, and doctor visits seem to be constant (Deut. 8:4). While our physical bodies break down and crumble, the body we will receive at the resurrection and occupy for all eternity will not be like this one (Phil. 3:20-21). We will never say that something has hurt us in heaven because God is going to see that things which defile and cause us to shed tears in this life are prohibited from entering heaven’s gates (Rev. 7:17). I realize this is hard to fathom while living in a world where all we have known is pain and heart ache, but it is still true. With the eye of faith, we long for the day when pain in any facet will be forever done away.

## *Conclusion*

I am looking forward to going to heaven. The things that I will never say in heaven excite me to desire it more and more. This list could be expanded to include statements like: “I repent.” “I’ve sinned.” “Forgive me.” All of these are statements that will also perish in eternity as we stand before God eternally forgiven (Heb. 8:12). In order to make it to eternity and enjoy a time when we will never say these things, we must endure for now. We must be those who pray to God and rely on him for help. We need to be those who worship him and study the scriptures. We have to tolerate pain, both physical and emotional, for a time so that we do not allow it to cause us to give up. I hope our anticipation for heaven heightens the longer we live. May we remember that heaven will be worth it all. Not only will heaven be a great place because of what will not be there, but heaven will be great most of all because of who is there, our God (Rev. 4:1-11). Ω

**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup>Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:1-4).**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Denise Phillips has been home with the Shingles. Ginny Hamby is having some medical testing this Tuesday and requests prayer. Bill Long was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday. Good to see Wanda Bruno Sunday morning. Also remember Faith West, 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, and JoAnn (Ginny Hamby's mother), who has been diagnosed the third time with cancer.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday May 13th:** F.S.O.P. Graduation following evening services. Please bring finger foods for a fellowship meal to celebrate with our graduate.

**Tuesday May 15th:** Senior Saints meeting at 9:30 a.m. Presentation on how to obtain a caption telephone for those with a hearing problem. We will also discuss a trip to Bok Tower.

**Saturday May 19th:** Men's breakfast at North Lakeland church of Christ at 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday May 20th:** Graduation Celebration for our High School Seniors after evening services.

**Sunday May 20th:** Teacher training session for those teaching next quarter at 3:30 p.m.

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

## Thank You

Dear Lads to Leaders Team, Wow, what a fantastic performance at your banquet. Your love for the Lord really shows to all and your hope lights the way for the future of our Master. Keep up the great inspiration and encouragement with God's help. A loving member.

## Hither, Thither and Yon

Bernetta Green will be traveling to Virginia and the Carolinas to see family. Please pray for safe travels.

## Prayer Request

Wesley and Neyome Brunson request prayer for Wesley's mother's health condition and prayers for the salvation of the rest of their family. Also guidance from the Lord in this situation.

## Visitors

Shelby Thomas and Bella, Mr. & Mrs. Darnell Kirkland, Rick & Stephanie Kenyon, Klark and Karissa and Tiffany Hash, Megan & Sam.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### May

Frank Hamby ..... **Table** ..... Fred Strickland  
 Kyle Faneuf..... **Assist** ..... Dennis McCarter

**Sunday, May 13, 2018**  
 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Vince Daugherty  
**Prayer**..... David Anderson

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader**..... Chaz Hine  
**Opening Prayer**..... Jimmy Sweeney  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... C.J. Grimes  
**Sound Booth**..... Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Steve Hunley  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney  
**Sound Booth**..... Paul Sweeney  
**Greeters**..... Williams  
**Att. Cards**..... Paul/Colby  
**Open & Close Building** ..... C. J. Grimes

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Steve Hunley  
**Opening Prayer**..... Ken Walker  
**Closing Prayer**..... Phil Fife

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

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**  
 9:30 A.M.

**Song at Bible Class**..... Stacey Paulin  
**Prayer** ..... Kenny French

10:30 A.M.

**Announcements** ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
**Song Leader**..... Chaz Hine  
**Opening Prayer**..... Paul Romine  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... John McShane  
**Sound Booth**..... Casey Paulin

6:00 P.M.

**Song Leader**..... Kyle Williams  
**Opening Prayer**..... Alex Parramore  
**Sermon**..... Hiram Kemp  
**Closing Prayer**..... Wayne Shearer  
**Sound Booth**..... Casey Paulin  
**Greeters** ..... Fifes  
**Att. Cards**..... Willcut boy's  
**Open & Close Building** ..... C.J. Grimes

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**Song Leader**..... Casey Paulin  
**Opening Prayer**..... Steve Hunley  
**Closing Prayer**..... Tucker Sweeney

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

**April 15**.....\$5,365.87  
**April 22**.....\$5,772.60  
**April 29**.....\$5,469.31  
**May 6**.....\$7,588.61  
**Contribution Average**.....\$5,812.86  
**2018 Weekly Budget**..... \$4,887.98

# Chewing Gum & the Golden Rule

The other day, while walking on the sidewalk of an outdoor mall, I noticed all the chewing gum spots where the traffic walks, which reminded me of a pet-peeve. Why is it that people spit out their chewing gum on busy sidewalks? Do they do it on purpose so others will step in it and get their shoes messy? Do they think chewing gum evaporates and disappears after a few minutes? Does it fall out of their mouths out of control like mucus when they sneeze? If they are tired of their chewing gum and think they must spit it out, why do they not just spit it out in the bushes or somewhere less likely for people to encounter? These questions may never be answered satisfactorily, but contemplating this situation does provide occasion to think about the Golden Rule. Jesus said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Mt. 7:12). This verse begins with a self-examination: in whatever way we want people to treat us is how we should treat other people. "Do I like to step in gum and get it all over my shoe?" If no, then why would I set people up to step in it? Next, this verse gives an imperative: actually do to others whatever it takes to fulfill the way we want to be treated. This takes a deliberate effort. Finally, this verse gives a standard by which doing good is measured: "the Law and the Prophets." While it is true people today do not live under "the Law and the Prophets" (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 . . .



If you or someone from your immediate family is graduating this year, please get a picture to the office by May 13, 2018, along with the name of the school, degree (if applicable), and future plans. We will include them in a special bulletin!

**Save the Date VBS Saturday, July 28**  
**Teachers, helpers, and volunteers will be needed!**

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



**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. First John 4:7**

(continued from above) (i.e., the Law of Moses), the same principle is true. The New Testament reveals the standard by which doing good is measured. An alcoholic, for example, might want people to give him whiskey, so he might in turn think giving that to someone else is good. However, that is not what should be done according to God's word, if we love him (cf. Mt. 22:36-40). The Golden Rule, of course, is much bigger than chewing gum, but when we apply that standard of living in the "little things," we will be more likely to practice it in every aspect of life. Let's be more like Jesus, "who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38)! ❤️ *Brian*



**May 19** -Work day at camp  
**May 20** -Day of prayer for the camp's building projects  
**July 1-7, 2018** Join several from SFA and area congregations attending during the Mullins/Hilliard/Faneuf week!