



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Huron, SD Mission Work
Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

Jesus Grew, I Must Too

Luke 2:52

Joshua Cantrell

Once we put Christ on in baptism, the next step for the Christian is growth. Each day after we learn of God and study His revelation, it changes us. When we look at our Lord's life, it is evident that even He went through the process of growth. Growth is something we all can work on, considering Jesus is our standard. There may be times in life we feel as if we have "arrived," but we must remember that Jesus is the standard.

When John writes his book, he is not only showing that Jesus was sent from God, but that He is God in the flesh. John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (Jn. 1:1-3). John also states, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14).

God humbled Himself (Phil. 2:5) and took upon flesh to save us from our sins (Mt. 1:21; Lk. 19:10). From His introduction into the world, He began growing every day. As Christians, we are to follow our Lord's example (1 Pet. 2:21) which involves growth. Our Lord grew, and we can, too. Luke records for us in the second chapter of his book how Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem to keep the Law of Moses (Lk. 2:27). The next 18 years of our Lord's life can be summarized in this verse, "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Lk. 2:52).

Jesus Grew In Wisdom

Luke says earlier in the chapter, "And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him" (Lk. 2:39-40). The idea is not that Jesus did this all at one time, but it was something that He practiced daily. Growth is something that takes place over time. We give a conscious effort to getting wisdom, and that begins with the Word of God. The moment we stop learning is the moment we stop growing.

Through sustained effort and hard work, our Lord increased in His mind and His relationship with the Father. Dictionary.com defines wisdom as The quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; discernment, or insight. Another definition says The application of knowledge. Many understand God's word but fail to make the application. How can the Bible change us if we don't properly apply it?

Solomon's Advice On Wisdom

The great wise man Solomon gives us great insight into wisdom throughout his books. In 1 Kings 3, God allowed Solomon to request anything he wanted. The Bible says, "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people" (1 Kgs. 3:9). Solomon knew the importance of having wisdom in his life. Do we know the same? We ask God for many things. Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding should be on that list as well.

In Proverbs 4, Solomon goes into depth on the subject, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain

my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Pr. 4:1-7).

Wisdom is often observed but rarely applied. Getting an understanding of wisdom helps us make the necessary application in our lives. Many of us can look back on our lives and immediately see the difference because we have knowledge that’s applied. Solomon would also say, “All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness” (Ecc. 7:23-25). Solomon accomplished many things in this life, yet he encourages us to get wisdom (Pr. 4:7).

Growing Daily In Our Relationship With God

One of the first things we need to do is desire wisdom. Solomon also says, "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou

criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;” (Pr. 2:1-4). We need to pray for wisdom. James says, “If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God” (Jam. 1:5). In this context, James is discussing trials and patience. Asking God for wisdom while we are going through the trials of life helps us endure (Jam. 1:12). In facing trials, it is often difficult to see what God is doing in our lives. Having wisdom helps us to see God’s will and causes us to be more patient. We’re often inclined to ask God to help us get out of something but never pray for wisdom to let His will be done. James says, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be interested, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (Jam. 3:17).

The word “liberally” in James 1:5 means bountifully or fully of generosity. We ask God for wisdom, and He will give wisdom without any reservations or concerns. He will give wholeheartedly and without reproach. God will not find fault in our request nor demean us for asking. God will not hold back in giving us wisdom. When we are fully persuaded (Rom. 4:18-20), God will grant us that which we long for the most. Wisdom is not so far from us. Just like our Lord grew, we must be willing to grow in our relationship with God as well.

YOUTH GROUP

Vince Daugherty

Young people are exhorted, "let no one despise your youth, be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith in purity" (I Tim. 4:12). What happens when you are doing all those things right yet still face rejection? In Luke 4:16-30, Jesus dealt with rejection. Through careful study, we can learn from His example. 1) **Do not be surprised when you face rejection.** If the sinless Son of God faced rejection, know that you will at some point face rejection. 2) **Do not let fear of rejection stop you from speaking the truth.** Jesus was tasked to fulfill the text of Isaiah and plainly declared it to be so, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (v. 21). Make no mistake there may be negative consequences to speaking the truth: you may lose friends, people may think you are mean, or try to get rid of you. However, the consequences of not telling the truth are much worse. 3) **Do not let rejection cause you to stop doing what is good and right.** When Jesus was rejected, He went to other places where He taught (v. 31,43,44), healed people (v. 38-40), and cast out demons (v. 31-37,41). Satan would love nothing better than for you to be frozen in fear of rejection, but we are to always desire to be pleasing in our Heavenly Father's sight. So then, continue to be salt and light in whatever situation you find yourself in.

Senior Saints

by John McShane

This will be my last Senior Saints article as Linda and I prepare to move to Middleburg, Florida. I want to thank all those that have encouraged me along the way and those who inspired me to write some of the articles. It has also been an education for me as I did the research needed to ensure the articles were aligned with God’s word. Hopefully, one of you will step up and keep this column going. I know that many of you have the same or better ability than I have in writing articles relevant to our world today. There are too many things going on in our country that will affect all of us, and we need to try and do our part to try and keep things aligned with God’s word. I don’t have the answer to many of the ongoing problems, but I know who has. He is not on Facebook or any of the other social media sites. Not only are there false preachers in pulpits around the country, but there are also many false prophets on social media. So stick to the Bible and live by its directions, and you can’t go wrong. Finally, thanks for the wonderful memories of the South Florida Avenue congregation and its people that Linda and I will carry with us as we move on.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Brian Smith - heart
 Debbie Bush - health
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Stacey Paulin - health
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg
 Carol Eason - sick
 Anita Shearer - oxygen levels
 Charles Paulin - sick

John & Linda McShane - moving
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Margaret Coone
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Darlene Thompson - health
 Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Staci Smith - sick
 Toney Wilson - sick
 Bobby Sheumaker - fell

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

Updates & Prayer requests

Linda Simpson is getting better after being sick.

Toney Wilson has been sick.

Charles Paulin is in the hospital and very sick.

Anita Shearer is clear of all infections. She is still undergoing treatment for fluctuating blood oxygen levels.

Bobby Sheumaker fell last Sunday evening. He is home recovering.

Dorothea Lauther is in the Lakeland Regional ER getting tests on her heart.

Sharon Egolf had a medical procedure on Monday.

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

Don't Forget!

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Pew packers in auditorium

Mondays at 7:00 pm - Epistles class - Romans

Wednesdays at 10:00 am - Ladies Bible class

Thursdays at 7:00 pm - Ladies Bible class

Ladies Night Out - Happy Gal-entine

will be on Tuesday, February 22 at 6:00 pm

More details to come.

It will be a great time to fellowship!

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Sunday, February 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Loving Like God"
 1 John 4:7-11

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Get Rid of the Evidence"
 John 12:9-11

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Sheumaker
 Greeters Waldon
 Song/prayer before class Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Announcements Brian Kenyon
 A.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader David Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
 Lord's Table Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
 Greeters Bingle

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Announcements David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Josh Potvin

Upcoming Events

February

13 - Elders, deacons, & preachers mtg, 4pm

18-20 - WWCC Spring Ladies Retreat

19 - area-wide men's b'fast at SFA

19 - Youth Group Game Night, 6-9 pm

February

20 - Teacher's mtg, 5pm

22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm

25-27 - YES Weekend

26 - Ladies Day Port Charlotte

27 - Fellowship in-service

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan 23 \$3,872.00

Jan 30(building fund)..... \$9,113.00

Feb 6 \$8,296.00

Contribution Average \$6,774.83

Weekly budget \$7,663.43

I was recently reading the book entitled "The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman and began to wonder what is God's love language. Then I remembered that I don't need to wonder. He tells us!
 "If you love me, keep My commandments" John 14:15.
 Plain and simple, He tells us that His love language is service!

If we truly love Christ, we will obey His commands. We will love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31). We will do to "others would do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12). We can also observe His examples in scripture where He constantly loved others by serving them (Mark 10:25).

While many claim to love God, they refuse to love Him in the love language He commands.
 His word tells us to
 hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe His gospel (Mark 16:16),
 repent of sins (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10),
 be buried with Him in baptism (1 Peter 3:21).

If we truly love Him, we must love Him in His love language!



Teach the next generation to know God

Saturday workshop for
Bible class teachers

March 5, 2022 Please RSVP to sfa.church@gmail.com
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. or call 863-682-4702

BIBLE CLASS WORKSHOP

Save the Date
March 27 – 30, 2022
 Spring Gospel Meeting
 South Florida Ave.
 church of Christ

**GROWING TO
 SPIRITUAL
 MATURITY**



1807 S. Florida Ave. Lakeland, FL 33803 863-682-4702

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**South Florida Avenue
 CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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Return Service Requested

*"If you love Me, keep
 My commandments."*

- Jesus
 John 14:15

