



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



# MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 7 February 16, 2021

### ELDERS

David Anderson  
Kenny French  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

### DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

### MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

### SECRETARY

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.

### EMAIL

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

### WEB PAGE

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)

### 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.

You are invited to a

## Spring Gospel Meeting

hosted by the

South Florida Ave. church of Christ

# March 7 – 10, 2021

## Islam in Christ's Eyes

*A study of the origins of Islam and the Christian response*

Sunday, March 7 – 9:30 am (Bible class hour)

*The Quran or the Bible?*

Sunday, March 7 – 10:30 am (Sermon in worship)

*I am an Arab, and I am a Christian*

Sunday, March 7 – 6:00 pm (Sermon in worship)

*Abraham, Muhammad, and the*

*Golden Butterfly*

Monday, March 8 – 7:00 pm

*Evolution*

Tuesday, March 9 – 7:00 pm

*Islam Myth Buster*

Wednesday, March 10 – 7:00 pm

*For We Do Not Wrestle*



Wissam Al-Aethawi  
Dearborn, MI



Live stream will be available



South Florida Avenue church of Christ channel

# Thank You, SFA, for Keeping the "Unity of the Spirit"!

Brian R. Kenyon

As we see the polarization of our nation over political issues and over how the COVID-19 pandemic should be handled (and whether the two are related), I am so thankful that the harmony and fellowship of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ has not been damaged by these potentially divisive factors. I have heard of congregations who have split or come near splitting over these issues and of preachers who actually had to move because of the way these issues were handled. This lack of division with SFA is all the more remarkable in that there are members here on both sides of all these issues, who also feel *very strongly* about their views. Yet, no one has allowed his or her opinion to drive a wedge between the sweet fellowship to which Christ has called us (1 Cor. 1:9). The whole congregation is to be commended for this!

This shows we take seriously Paul's God-breathed instruction that members of the church are to be "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). The term "endeavoring [giving diligence, ASV]" tells us up front that maintaining unity is not something that will always come easy. The word means to do one's best, spare no effort, or as we might say in today's vernacular, "give it everything you've got." Where the word is used shows that what follows is not something that always comes easy. Paul used the word again when he commanded, "Be diligent [study, KJV] to present yourself approved to God" (2 Tim. 2:15). Peter used the word twice, where he encouraged Christians to "be even more diligent to make your call and election sure" (2 Pet. 1:10), and to "be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Pet. 3:14). Presenting ourselves approved to God, making sure we have done our part in salvation, and being found by Christ faithful on Judgment Day are things that take much effort! They will not result by accident (Mt. 7:13-14)!

It is not easy for some people, especially during these polarizing times, to restrain from forcing their opinion on others and/or degrading others for holding their opinions, whether it be on mask mandates, live-stream worship, or the latest impeachment trial. Yet, members at SFA have done admirably by not allowing these issues to divide us! We are a good example to the brotherhood! Let us continue to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love" (Eph. 4:1-2), so that this "unity of the Spirit" may continue until the Lord returns!

## ~ Stay Plugged In ~

by Vince Daugherty

Jesus said to His disciples, "I am the true vine, and My father is the vinedresser." Later He said, "abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine." In the fall, leaves lose their color. Leaves that once were alive and green change to beautiful colors of yellow, orange, and red, but, once they fall, they turn brown and brittle. Because they are not plugged into the life-giving tree, their beautiful appearance fades, and their flowers wither. Kids who grow up plugged into the church are green and full of life. Some think that striking out unattached may be a fun adventure. Something that may begin fun and exciting only turns out to be for a moment. Before they know it, life has made them brown and bitter. Here are five ways to stay plugged in as a kid: (1) stay plugged into Bible Class; (2) stay plugged into your Bible; (3) stay plugged into payer; (4) stay plugged in to church events, especially youth events; and (5) invite other kids to plug in to the Jesus.

## *Senior Saints*

by John McShane

I found the following article on the internet a while back. "We've tried hate. We've tried wars. We've tried destruction. It only caused us more pain. Let's try something different. Let's try LOVE, PEACE, EMPOWERMENT, COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION. Let's see how that turns out." As Christians this is nothing new to us. The Bible mentions all of these things in one form or another from Genesis through Revelation. When the article mentions "we've," are we part of that group or are we part of the love, etc group? Each of us has to answer that question and we are going to have to answer it again when the book of life is opened as we stand before God. We have to make the choice as we go through life on this planet. The book of life is being written day by day. Don't we all wish we could see what is written in it now? I believe we can be sure that what is written in it can be summarized by following the "Golden Rule" of Leviticus 19:18 as quoted by Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 7:12; see also Luke 6:31) and described by him as the second great commandment. The common English phrasing is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt  
 Chuck Wyatt  
 Adeline Hine  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Ceara Edwards  
 Kathy Nester  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Joyce Williams  
 Sharon Roy  
 Jeanelle Thrower

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Brian Smith  
 Jim Turner  
 Annette Phillip  
 Ron & Judy Ford  
 Geny Johnson  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Carol Edmonson  
 Wayne Shearer  
 Ingrid Stewart  
 Melody Baxter  
 Geny Johnson  
 Margaret Coone  
 George Davis  
 Ray Nashick  
 Jim Edmonson

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West      Joyce Burbage      Carol Eason  
 Ellen Shearer      Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Annette Philip** is in the hospital having tests run to see why she has little strength to the point of near passing out.

**Geny Johnson** has had a few challenging set-backs from her surgery, but is home and has a follow-up appointment Monday.

**Adeline Hine** continues her treatments and is handling them "like a champ." A pathology report will be on a future date.

**Jim Edmonson** is still in ICU, not doing well. Medical staff are trying to get him to the point of being able to handle rehab.

**Katrina Greene**, Virginia Walkers daughter will have knee surgery with a biopsy on Friday.

## RESPONSES

**Marcella Swain** requested prayers for her upcoming surgery and that she can be a stronger Christian.

**Eric Bowman** requested prayers for a family connected with the Dunnellon church of Christ.

Gift cards for **Casey & Emily Paulin** are being collected by **Michelle Paulin** until the end of February (registries are on board)

## Thank you

There is a note from **Jeanelle Thrower** on the bulletin board.



**For those interested, there are some daily planners available for free on the front pew. You may pick one up in person or come by the office and we'll get one to you!**

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Jonny Singh  
 Devo ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer

### Sunday, February 21, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
 "Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?"  
 JOHN 18:37

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
 "A Church Pleasing to God: Sound Doctrine"

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ..... David Anderson  
 Greeters ..... Bingles  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Andre Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
 Lord's Table ..... Lou Van Allen  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Olivia Smith  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Lord's Table ..... Lou Van Allen  
 Closing Prayer ..... George Davis

**Next Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting is March 14 at 4:00 p.m.**

### Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Song Leader/prayer ..... Ian Enamorado  
 Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

### ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

**To side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.**

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22. Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 31 (building fund) ..... \$8,562.00  
 Feb. 7 ..... \$8,087.00  
 Feb. 14 ..... \$5,665.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$7,300.38

# The Danger of Assuming

Have you ever made an assumption about someone, only to find out that you were completely wrong? In Acts 21:27-40, we read the account of the Jews being stirred up in the temple upon the arrival of Paul. Initially, the Jews were upset because they believed Paul was teaching against the Law of Moses. They even went a step further to say that he had brought a Greek into the temple (Acts 21:28). The Jews were completely mistaken, and because of their assumption, they were attempting to kill Paul (Acts 21:30-31). How often do we make assumptions about people that we hardly know or do not even know at all? Furthermore, not only do we make assumptions, but sometimes we even gossip to others about what we think is true (Prov. 18:8). We should think the best of others, not the worse (1 Cor 13:7). In Matthew 7:1-2, we are cautioned about hypercritically judging others because it is with that same judgement that we will be judged. Let's take the time to learn from this incident involving the Jews in Asia. There is a real danger in assuming when it comes to the lives of others. We do not know what kind of harm or hurt we are bringing to them when we misjudge and assume. Instead, let us truly get to know others and may our assumptions of the worse in others cease.

## Are We Planters or Waterers? We Must Be at Least One!

When Paul said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6), he was showing, first, that every worker is equally important in bring souls to Jesus (1 Cor.3:7-8), and second, God is the one ultimately responsible for the increase (Acts 2:47). God will always do His part! Will we? Let us target souls by planting and watering the Gospel seed.

We have received positive feed-back from our evangelistic card ministry. Remember to keep your eyes opened for people outside of Christ who would benefit from a "card shower." Thanks to Anita for coordinating this as names are submitted to Brian and Vince.



In order for our live-stream participants to hear better (and to "retrain" our men for the eventual return of the pre-covid way of conducting the Lord's Supper), we would like for those presiding to stand in the middle of the communion table where the microphone is. Thank you!



Beginning **March 7**, we will have our Fellowship in Service begin after evening services, around 7:00. We thank Rene' and others who kept this good work through the covid pandemic!

## Dates to remember

**February 16** - FSOP Ladies' Class, 7:00 p.m.

### March

**March 7-10** - Gospel Meeting with Wissam Al-Aethawi. "Islam in Christ's Eyes"

**March 7** - Fellowship in Service AFTER evening services.

**March 14** - Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting, 4:00 p.m.

**March 17** - Quarterly challenge

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

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

Find us on social media



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 1807 South Florida Avenue  
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653  
 Return Service Requested

WALK WORTHY OF THE  
 CALLING WITH WHICH  
 YOU WERE CALLED ....  
 BEARING WITH ONE  
 ANOTHER IN LOVE

EPHESIANS 4:1-2