



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

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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

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

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.

GOD'S EXERCISE PLAN

by Hiram Kemp

Health and fitness is popular these days. There is a lot of discussion about the need to exercise and be careful about what we are eating. The Bible speaks of the need to treat the body properly. Paul says that there is some profit to bodily exercise (1 Tim. 4:8). It is a good thing to take care of our physical temple and do what we can to be good stewards of the bodies that God has given to us (1 Cor. 4:2, 6:19-20). However, let us be sure that as we eat, exercise, and diet for the good of our physical body that we do not neglect what is most important: our spiritual lives (2 Cor. 5:1). God has a workout plan of his own and we would be wise to take heed to the things that he says so that we will be spiritually fit for the kingdom of God (cf. Lk. 9:62).

STRETCH OUT FOR HEAVEN

It is always wise to be sure to stretch before engaging in any athletic activities so that a muscle is not pulled. Those who start running or lifting weights without first stretching run the risk of hurting themselves. Paul speaks of reaching forth for the things which are before (Phil. 3:13, KJV). The ESV says, "straining forward to what lies ahead." The word translated reaching forth or straining forward (ἐπεκτεινομαι) means to stretch forward, try hard, or to strain toward something. As we labor toward our heavenly inheritance we should be sure to stretch out for it and use every effort humanly possible to be sure we reach the desired goal (1 Pet. 1:3-5). We need to give every effort to present ourselves approved of God and we do this as we handle the word of God properly (2 Tim. 2:15). Let us be stretching out for heaven and not behaving as if we have already reached the finished line. We are to stretch toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14).

WALK IN THE LIGHT

John speaks of God being the light with no darkness in Him at all (1 Jn. 1:5). If we are going to have fellowship with God, we need to be sure to walk in the light just as He is in the light (1 Jn. 1:6-7). Walking in the New Testament is often used as a synonym for the way an individual lives. Christians are told to walk worthy of the calling that we have been called, which is the gospel (Eph. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:14). God's exercise plan includes living in the light of His word by confessing sin when we err (1 Jn. 1:8-10). Walking in the light also involves loving our brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Jn. 2:7-11). Walking in the light does not mean that we are going to be sinlessly perfect, but it does mean that we need to strive to be pleasing to God in every area of life as best we can. We are to walk in newness of life after our baptism, which means that our thoughts, activities, desires, and habits are all to be dictated by the Word of God (Rom. 6:4)

RUN AWAY FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY

While it is true that the wicked flee when no one pursues them, there are times when the people of God should flee or run away (Prov. 28:1). The Corinthians were told to flee fornication because it is a sin against one's own body (1 Cor. 6:18). While fornication is tolerated, accepted, and praised in our culture, we must be different. It is important that we not only abstain from it ourselves but that we do not watch it on television or listen to music that endorses it (Rom. 1:32). Some things should not be mentioned among us as the people of God, and fornication is one of those things (Eph. 5:4). This means that the last people on earth that should be guilty of the sin of fornication should be Christians. If we run from fornication and the youthful lust which incites fornication, we will be exercising spiritually in a way that honors God (2 Tim. 2:22).

LIFT BURDENS

Lifting weights physically builds physical strength and lifting burdens spiritually builds spiritual strength. Paul tells the churches of Galatia that they must not only bear the burdens of those who stumble, but they must bear their own burden as well (Gal. 6:2, 5). The word translated bear (βαστάζω) used in Galatians 6:2 and 6:5 means to lift, raise, or pick up. Are we lifting the load of others as God would have us to? Are we weeping with those who weep (Rom. 12:15)? Are we putting others ahead of ourselves (1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:3-5)? Are we carrying our own load (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10)? Let us lift the burdens God would have us to so you can build the strength God wants us to have.

Exercise is important, especially the spiritual exercise that God designs for us in His word. God wants us to stretch, walk, run, and even lift. We cannot be lazy in this regard (Rom. 12:11). Let us be spiritually in shape so we will please the one who is training us in godliness.

**"Finally be strong in the LORD and in the strength of His might."
Ephesians 6:10**

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, April 17, 2021

at the Daugherty's home

6:00 p.m.

SMATTER

by Vince Daugherty

My dad told me a joke growing up. He said, "you got some smatter in your eye." I said, "what's smatter?" He said, "nothing, what's smatter with you?" I think Jesus addressed "smatter" when He spoke on the Sermon on the Mount. He said "why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?" I think there are fundamental lessons Jesus packed into one sentence.

1. It is easier to see other people's small problems even if your problems are rather large
2. I ought to consider my own problems before criticizing other people's problems
3. If everyone solved their own problems first, we can solve even bigger problems together

Senior Saints by John McShane

Many years ago, the writer of Proverbs 24:28 stated, "**Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, do not deceive with your lips.**" In 1808, Sir Walter Scott said, "*Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.*"

As I look and listen to the world today, I wonder if a lot of folks have any idea what it means to deceive. It seems as if deception is a way of life for many folks, a lot more so now than when I was growing up.

In my school years, God was present every morning as we started class. He was in all the courthouses and municipal buildings. We need to get God back where people can at least be aware that there is a God and that one day, we are going to meet Him.

When we meet Him and He asks how we relate to the verses Galatians 6:7-8, "**Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one that sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life,**" how will we reply?

Let's be careful out there and not be one who deceives. God is watching.

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
 Debbie Bush

PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask
 Linda McShane
 Bernetta Green
 Bobby Simpson
 Brian Smith
 Margaret Coone
 Annette Phillip
 Ron & Judy Ford
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

Carol Edmonson
 Jim Edmonson
 Jim Turner
 Melody Baxter
 Geny Johnson
 Sharon Roy
 George Davis
 Ray Nashick

(Please update the office of any changes)

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

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Joyce Burbage and Ellen Shearer can now have visitors.
 Phone numbers are in the directory. Let's call to let them know we miss them and love them.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Darlene Thompson made it safely to TN.

Jim Edmonson's is doing a little better and hopefully will come home in 2-3 weeks.

Debbie Bush is home now. If you can provide her with a ride to a doctors appointment on 4-23 please call her.

Melody Baxter and **Barbara Jones** were home sick.

RESPONSES

Ray Naschick asks for prayers for making excuses and not attending services like he should. Ray is also moving out of state and asks for prayers.

Wadi Khoury asks prayers for a better attitude and also that his recent Bible studies will bring forth fruit.

Dates to remember

April 17 - Youth Group Game night, Daugherty's home, 6:00 p.m.

April 20 - Taco Tuesday, Kemp's home, 6:00 pm

April 23 - Singing Night at Orange St., 7:00 pm

April 24 - Ladies' Swap, fellowship hall, 1:00 p.m.

April 27 - FSOP Ladies' Class, 7:00 pm

April 30 - May 2 - WWCC, ages 13 and older

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Matthew Webb
 Devo Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Sunday, April 18, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
"A Christian Manifesto"
 1 Peter 3:10-12

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
*"A Church Pleasing to God:
 Effectively Using Our Gifts"*
 1 Timothy 4:12-16

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) David Deal
 Greeters Sweeney
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson

6:00 P.M.

Greeters E&C Smith
 P.M. Song Leader Rick Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Jeff Stewart
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Zach Jones

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Jonny Singh
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney

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, 2020.
 Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 21 \$7,361.00
 Mar. 28 \$9,182.00
 Apr. 4 \$7,370.00
 Contribution Average \$7,295.16

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AN "IN-TENTS" FAITH

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021 10AM - 3PM

(MORE DETAILS TO COME)

FOR HE IS HOLY

In reading the Books of Leviticus and Numbers, I paid a lot of attention to how everything done and offered to God had to be perfect and without blemish (Lev. 4-5; Num. 16). I couldn't stop thinking, Why? Why did God make such requirements of the Israelites? What purpose did these offerings fulfill? How could they remember what to give for what sin?

The more I read, the more I saw that the purposes of all this was that God wanted to impress upon the people the vile nature of their sins before a holy and righteous God. Second, God was pointing them to the coming Messiah who would offer His own blood (Heb. 10:4) to pay for the sins of those who truly obey.

What do we give God today? What kind of gifts or time do we give to the Lord? Do we give Him the best, or do we give Him the leftovers? That is a question we should all ponder! What do we owe God? We owe Him everything!

WALKING IN SCRIPTURE

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

GENESIS 5:24

CHRISTIANS ARE TO WALK IN WISDOM

COLOSSIANS 4:5

CHRISTIANS MUST HAVE A WORTHY WALK

EPHESIANS 4:1

GOD'S CHILDREN ARE TO WALK IN LOVE

EPHESIANS 5:2

WALKING IN DARKNESS RUINS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

1 JOHN 1:5-6

WALKING IN THE LIGHT KEEPS US CLEANSED

1 JOHN 1:7

LADIES' CLASS

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7pm

What is Truth? Part 2

John 18:38

Teacher: Shenia Brownlow-Dindy



All ladies are invited to join us in person or online. The Live stream will be through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class. If you are not already a member, please request to join the group. If you have questions please contact the Florida School of Preaching at (863) 683-4043.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

"WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING."

PHILIPPIANS 2:12