



South Florida Ave. church of Christ 1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 73 No. 16 ----- April 21, 2020

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
John McShane
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.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com

YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

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.

What God Wants From His Church

Hiram Kemp

We often spend a lot of time talking about the identifying marks of the church and rightfully so. We need to continue to preach and teach about the singular nature of the church (Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4). We also need to teach our friends and neighbors about how one is scripturally added to the church that belongs to Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36-41, 47). Likewise, we should be sure to emphasize the way the New Testament church worships and her opposition to denominationalism (Jn. 4:24, 17:20-21). However, after we have searched the scriptures and learned how to properly identify it and become members of it, we should see what God expects from those of us who are members of the church.

Faithfulness

God wants His church to be faithful in all things. Jesus promised persecution to His followers, but He also promised a reward for those who endure until the end (Matt. 10:22). God is faithful to us and has fulfilled all of His promises. This should motivate us to respond in faithfulness to Him (1 Cor. 10:13). It is easy to begin going in the right direction, but faithfulness means that we continue to go in the right direction until the end. The churches in the first century were told to be faithful even in the face of death, and they would receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10). If we are faithful, we can expect to receive the same (2 Tim. 4:8).

Faithfulness involves doing the things that God desires and doing them in the way God desires them to be done. We need to be faithful to preaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). God expects us to cover all of the things that are in His word as best we can. This will challenge us at times because we are occasionally tempted to gravitate toward certain topics repeatedly. Still, faithfulness means that we need to let God's word set the agenda for our preaching and teaching (1 Pet. 4:11). God desires that we be faithful in our commitment to Him. When we obeyed the gospel, we were pledging our loyalty to God and must hold to what we professed (Heb. 10:22-23). Instead of being lukewarm and inconsistent, each of us must examine our lives to be sure that we are not defaulting on our end of the deal. God knows that we will not be faultless, but we can be faithful (1 Cor. 15:58).

Fellowship

God desires that His church enjoys fellowship. The primary fellowship that we enjoy is with the Godhead in heaven (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Jn. 1:3). As we have been baptized into a relationship with the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit, our fellowship is heaven centered (Matt. 28:19). God desires fellowship with His creation. This is why He sent Jesus to the earth to die for our sins. As Jesus died and rose again, the process of reconciliation began. As we receive the grace of God and demonstrate obedient faith we are

reconciled to God (i.e. made friends again; 2 Cor. 5:19-21). We are to worship, love, and serve God in order to deepen the fellowship that we have with Him. We are even to suffer on behalf of Christ so that we can experience what Paul calls “the fellowship of his suffering” (Phil. 3:10; cf. Phil. 1:29). We cannot have fellowship with God while walking in darkness, therefore, holiness is essential (Eph. 5:11; 1 Jn. 1:5-6). Fellowship with the eternal God is not something we should take lightly. We should not take for granted the idea that God desires to have a close and intimate relationship with us as His people. He was willing to die to make that happen (Matt. 26:28).

Moreover, God desires that His church enjoy fellowship with each other. Fellowship is having things in common with one another and enjoying a rich relationship with each other based on the things shared in common. The early church began with fellowship (Acts 2:42). As we walk in the light, we have fellowship with each other (1 Jn. 1:7). Our relationship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ should be among our richest relationships in all of the world. God desires that we spend time together, support each other, and sacrifice for one another. A part of fellowship as Christians means that we bear each other’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). It has never been God’s desire that church interactions resemble a business interaction where we exchange goods and go our separate ways. Fellowship is costly, but it is necessary. God wants us to weep together and laugh together (Rom. 12:15). God wants his people to have fellowship with each Him and with each other.

Unity

When Jesus was going to the cross, he prayed for unity to exist among His followers (Jn. 17:20-21). We often speak of unity in the church when correcting misconceptions held by our denominational friends, but we need to take heed ourselves. Paul told the Corinthians that they needed to be unified rather than divided. Furthermore, He begged the Ephesians to “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit” (Eph. 4:1-3). While there is certainly a time to withdraw and practice church discipline, we need to be sure that we do not revel in those times (2 Thess. 3:6, 14). It seems that some among us are always willing and ready to divide or to cause problems among the people of God. Paul said that those who develop the habit of sowing discord must be dealt with (Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:10-11). Unity matters to God. We should do all within our power to preserve it. Let us see the best in others and speak well of brethren. Let us be those who love the brotherhood and rejoice when the gospel is preached (Phil. 1:15-18; 1 Pet. 2:17). God desires for us to do more than just have the same name on the front of our buildings. We need to actually be united.

As we think about the church, let us always remember what God has done to establish it. Let us remember that as members, however, we have a responsibility to God. The church displays God’s multifaceted wisdom in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:9-11). God always delivers what He promises. Let us give to Him the things He desires from us!

YOUTH GROUP SECTION

Christian Training Manual

Chapter 1 - What Sets Us Apart (Rom. 12:1)

We must be acceptable to God, give my reasonable service

Chapter 2 - Proper Mindset and Attitude (Rom. 12:2)

Cannot be shaped & molded like the rest of the world
We are transformed by the renewing of our mind

Chapter 3 - Being a Team Player (Rom. 12:3-8)

Don’t get the big head (v. 3)

There are many members yet one body (v. 4, 5)

Do your job (v. 6-8)

Chapter 4 - Code of Conduct (Rom. 12:9-21)

Love without hypocrisy, abhor evil, cling to good (v. 9)
Treating others with affection, brotherly love, honor, preference (v. 10)

Service that is not lazy but passionate (v. 11)

Ability to handle adversity in hope, patience, and prayer (v. 12)

Hospitable (v. 13)

Bless those who curse (v. 14)

Empathetic (v. 15)

Humble and kind (v. 16)

Peaceful rather than vengeful (v. 17,18)

Even enemies have nothing to cite against you (v. 19-21)

Senior Saints Section

Advice to our Senior Saints

Some people embrace their golden years while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter.

Spend time with positive, cheerful people, and it will rub off on you. Your days will seem much better and a lot more enjoyable. Spending time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.

Embrace each new day for the opportunities it has for you. Enjoy your golden years. Take each day as it comes.

Yesterday has gone and tomorrow is in the future.

**“This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**

Psalm 118:24

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

PRAYER LIST

Ginny Hamby; Carlene Long; Stacey Paulin; Bobby Simpson; Melody Baxter; Carol Pace; Cierra Edwards; Margaret Coone; Ellen Shearer; Bob Pratt; Ray Nashick; Ron & Judy Ford; Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt; Debbie Bush; Geny Johnson; Brian Smith; Sharon Washington; Bernetta Green (hip pain); Annette Phillip.

Others: **George French** (Kenny & Reba's son, pancreatic cancer); **Roselyn Roberts** (friend of Darlene Thompson); **Daniel Styer** (Rene' Bingle's friend's son, neck cancer); **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Keith Cozort** (former member); **Chip Bolding**; **Tony Seibert**; **Neil Entwistle Sr.**; **Tanya Irizarry**; **Trevor & Sandy Hutchins**; **Derick Jordan**; **student of Jimmy Sweeney** (brain tumor); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Mary Ankroum** (knee surgery); **Bruce Coleman**; **Patricia Hewitt** (chemo); **Mary Grow** (former member having health issues); **Larry Lloyd** (cancer has spread to brain and lungs).

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Carol Eason
 Joyce Burbage Cheryl Barker
 Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

RESPONSES

Johnny Singh requests prayers for Bible studies he is continuing and for more that he has planned.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

A case of the virus has been discovered at **Ellen Shearer's** facility. Please pray for Ellen and all the residents to be safe & healthy.

Daniel Styer (see above) had a successful surgery and will not need chemo or radiation therapy but will have immunotherapy for one year.



The birthday & anniversary calendar and the Bible reading calendar for May will be emailed next week.

If you need a copy of the directory, please let the office know. It can be emailed to you.



Communion to Shut-Ins

THIS WORK HAS BEEN POSTPONED. PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

*Faith West Ellen Shearer Joyce Burbage
 Carol Eason Cheryl Barker*

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Responsibilities of the Faithful in Times of Testing"

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Can Our Conscience Be Our Guide"

All worship assignments are postponed.
 Live stream will continue until further notice.
 Please **do not** come to the building
 for worship service.

COVID 19 NOTICE

Since March 22, we have not assembled for Bible classes or worship service at the church building. However, we are still worshipping our Lord on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). As scheduled, we are live-streaming the entire worship service. You are able to access this on our website and/or YouTube channel.

As commanded, we will still worship together, but it will be from home. We trust you will participate either with your family or with a small group. A handful of our men will lead worship: prayers, songs, sermons, Lord's supper. If you need communion, come by the office or it can be brought to you before Sunday. For the contribution, you may bring it or mail it to the office.

Auditorium Bible classes for both Wednesdays and Sunday mornings will be live streamed, also. Hiram and Vince will also be recording video devotionals during the week. These can also be accessed on our website.

This is a very unusual situation we are facing. We appreciate your cooperation. The safety of our members is very important. The worship of our Lord is of utmost importance. This is a temporary expediency for worshipping. This will not be a permanent situation. The Lord will see us through this crisis.

We covet your prayers,
 David Anderson Kenny French
 Brian Kenyon Bobby Sheumaker
 - Elders -

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 5	\$6,647.00
Apr. 12	\$7,545.00
Apr. 19	\$6,080.00
Contribution Average	\$6,909.85

Esau and His Descendants

Genesis 25:29-34 -- Esau gives away his blessings for a pot of stew

Obediah 2-4 -- Esau's descendants will be brought low for their part in the day of Israel's captivity

Hebrews 12:12-17 -- Esau's spiritual descendants are those profane people who reject God's blessings and find themselves too late to repent

Esau flippantly gave away his birthright, to be in the line of the Messiah, for a momentary satisfaction of the flesh. His actions are the embodiment of profane: giving up the sacred for the secular. Esau's descendants were profane, too. Lifted up by pride, they thought themselves too strong to fail. Yet their pride was their downfall. God said, *"Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down."* (**Obed. 4**). We still have descendants Esau in the world today -- spiritual descendants. **Hebrews 12:12-17** reminds us to avoid the profane mindset of Esau. There will come a time when those profane and prideful people will regret their ways but will be too late. *"Afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears."* Hell is described as a place of weeping and tears. Those tears flow from Esau, his physical descendants, and his spiritual descendants. Take heed lest there be a spirit of Esau in you.



Linda McShane is making masks
for anyone
who would like one.

Remember our online Bible classes
available for our kids.

Sunday mornings 9:30 am: teens -
the gospel of Mark

Thursday 4:00 pm: 2-3s and 4-5s -
Heroes of the Bible

Thursday 7:00 pm: teens - Apologetics
(Log-in info is on your webpage)

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me
and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the
kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14*

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



 The Modern
Day Christian
Podcast

www.YouTube.com/

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



We invite you to worship our Lord with us
During this unusual time, you can worship via our
YouTube channel where our service will be live streamed.

You can enjoy our Bible class at 9:30 am
then morning service which begins at 10:30 am.
We come together in the evening to worship again at
6:00 pm.

**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested