



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 18 May 4, 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)

### 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.

## *Influential Mothers in Scripture*

by Hiram Kemp

The history of the holiday we know as Mother's Day is interesting. Anna Jarvis originally pushed for the public recognition of mothers after the death of her mother in 1905. She received some financial backing and then celebrated the first Mother's Day at her church in West Virginia in May 1908. She later wanted to see the holiday added to the national calendar claiming that male achievements dominated the holiday calendar. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis originally thought of the day for personal celebration between mothers and families. She envisioned visiting the church with one's mom and wearing a pink or red carnation flower if your mother was living and white if they were deceased. However, once the holiday became a national observance, the commercial market took over. The florist and card companies turned Mother's Day into a cash cow. Jarvis was angry. She spent the rest of her life childless and never married. She was arrested once for attempting to disturb a Mother's Day observance. It didn't turn out as she hoped, and she used all her time and wealth for the remainder of her life trying to get the holiday removed from the American calendar. I'm not sure the way she behaved would have pleased the mother she sought to honor. The Bible introduces us to the role of the mother in the home and the honor the position deserves long before Anna Jarvis thought it should be nationally recognized. As we are getting ready to recognize mothers this Sunday, here are a few influential mothers from God's book and a few important things to keep in mind about them.

### *Eve- The Mother of All Living (Genesis 3:20)*

Eve is famous for being the first woman on earth, the first human being to speak with the Devil, the first to be enticed and deceived by him, and the first to give in to sin (Gen. 3:1-6). However, the Bible also lets us know that she is the first mother in the Bible. All of humanity goes back to Adam and Eve. After God pronounces punishment on Adam and Eve for their disobedience, Moses writes that "Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). Eve was the first to experience childbirth and the pain that accompanies that experience (Gen. 3:16). She was the first mother to know the excitement of bringing children into the world (Gen. 4:1-2). She was the first mother to know heartache at the loss of a child (Gen. 4:3-8). She is the mother of all living as she is the matriarch of humanity. A study of her life, failings, and experiences would be beneficial to all Bible students.

### *Jochebed- A Mother of Courage (Exodus 2:1-4, 6:20)*

Moses grew up to be a faithful man of God. He knew the Lord in a special way. However, he may have never known the Lord at all if it had not been for his mother (Jochebed) and the courage she demonstrated in the dark days of the Egyptian empire. Pharaoh had ordered the slaughter of all the male children of Israel (Exod. 1:22). Moses' mother saw his life as valuable, and she decided to hide him and preserve his life (Exod. 2:3-4).

She eventually sent him in an ark, or basket, down the Nile, where he was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter and taken into her house (Exod. 2:4-7). Providentially, Moses' mother (Jochebed) was able to re-enter his life and play a valuable role in raising him (Exod. 2:8-10). The Book of Hebrews describes Jochebed and her husband (Amram) as acting on faith and being unafraid of the king's commandment (Heb. 11:23). She is an example of courage, faith, and determination to do what was right. Her desire to step out front and save her son eventually led to his leading God's people through the Red Sea and the saving of the entire nation of Israel (Heb. 11:24-29).

### *Hannah- A Prayerful Mother (1 Samuel 1:9-11, 2:1-10)*

Hannah, like several women in the Old Testament, was unable to conceive and bear children. She prayed to the Lord in the bitterness of her soul, requesting a child and vowing to devote him to the Lord, if allowed to have a child (1 Sam. 1:10-11). The Lord remembered her prayer, and she brought forth a son and named him Samuel (1 Sam. 1:19-20). After her request was granted, she kept her word, and Samuel became a faithful and devout Israelite. He served as a prophet, judge, and priest for decades (cf. 1 Sam. 12:1-3). Hannah offered a prayer of praise and thanksgiving after the Lord heard her and blessed her with a son (1 Sam. 2:1-10). She demonstrates the need for mothers to be prayerful both in requests and in rejoicing. She knew she needed to ask the Lord for the things she desired, but also to thank Him for what He graciously provided (Phil. 4:6-7). She gave her son back to the Lord, who had given him to her in the first place. That is what all faithful mothers intend to do (Psa. 127:3).

### *A Sacrificial Mother (1 Kings 3:16-28)*

Her name is unknown, but her story is unforgettable. Shortly after Solomon became King in Israel, he was approached by two women. Both women had a child, but one child had died, and now they were both claiming that the remaining child belonged

to them. Solomon, in his wisdom, offered to cut the child in half and split him between the parents (1 Kings 3:16-25). The true mother was willing to let the other woman have her child to preserve his life (1 Kings 3:26-28). This story illustrates more than the wisdom of Solomon. It shows that there is nothing that a mother would not do for her child. Moms sacrifice, go without, and deprive themselves of many conveniences for the sake of their children. This unknown mother is known for her willingness to sacrifice for her child, and godly mothers have been known for the same ever since.

### *Elizabeth and Mary—Mother's in Tandem (Luke 1:5-80)*

Elizabeth would give birth to John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25). Mary would give birth to Jesus, the Son of God (Luke 1:26-45; cf. Matthew 1:18-25). These two women were relatives, and they also were going to give birth to two individuals prophesied about in the Old Testament (Isa. 40:1-3; Mal. 4:5; Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2). God communicated His will for both their sons and the ministry that their sons would do for Him. They even enjoyed each other's company on one occasion, as Elizabeth rejoiced for the Messiah in Mary's womb (Lk. 1:39-45). Elizabeth and Mary were mothers at the same time. Both were first-time mothers in very different circumstances. Elizabeth was older, and Mary was a virgin. They both had a unique situation out in front of them. Mothers are different. Mothers should communicate with each other and help each other as best they can. Instead of motherhood competition, there should be the spirit of cooperation and congratulations (cf. Rom. 12:15).

Mothers mean a lot to God, and therefore they should mean a lot to us. We should honor our mothers and all mothers (Prov. 23:22). We should look to mothers in scripture and learn from their lives of faith, courage, prayerfulness, and cooperation. Mother's Day comes once a year, but every day is a day to honor mothers in the way they deserve to be honored.

## ~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

# BIBLE TRIVIA ON KAHOOT!

Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 pm.



Last day to  
sign up is  
Wednesday,  
May 5

Remember to  
pre-register  
before  
May 16



## Senior Saints

by John McShane

Have you been on a diet lately? Watching what we eat is important to our health. But a diet is not only what we eat. It can be what we watch on various social media apps and television or what music we listen to. It can be who we hang around with. These things could harm our Christian life if they do not measure up to the basic teaching of the Bible. Today, we are in a fast-changing world where people seem to want to get as far away as possible from what God has taught in His word. This is not the world that anyone in their senior years grew up in. God has been banished from many places where we older folks were used to seeing Him. That being the case, I feel that we seniors really need to reach out and mentor all the young people we come across in our daily lives. Our voices should be loud and clear regarding the lives Christians are expected to live. We have to be constantly on a diet that others can see, leading to a home in heaven.

First Corinthians 16:13,

**"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob & Bea Pratt  
 Chuck Wyatt  
 Adeline Hine  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Cieara Edwards  
 Kathy Nester  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Ron & Judy Ford  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Brian Smith  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annette Phillip  
 Nasheka Medley

Carol Edmonson  
 Jim Edmonson  
 Jim Turner  
 Melody Baxter  
 Geny Johnson  
 Joyce Williams  
 Debbie Bush

(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

Phone numbers are in the directory. Ask to come visit!

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Lillian and Kristen Palermo**, Darlene Thompson's granddaughters, are in need of prayers.

**Naomi Zamot, Jagie Kenyon's niece** is having surgery for a brain aneurysm on Tuesday, May 4.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to **Reba French** on the death of her younger sister, Margaret Lawrence, on Friday, April 30, in Malvern, AR.

## Thank you

There is a card on the bulletin board from **Annette Phillip**

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.

**Sisters Sending Sonshine** reveal will be on Saturday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Rene' Bingle's home

## LADIES' CLASS

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7pm

"There's Nothing New Under the Sun"

An over view of the book of Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Shenja Brownlow-Dindy

All ladies are invited to join us in person or online.  
 Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

Song Leader/prayer ..... Jonny Singh  
 Devo ..... Zach Jones  
 Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

**10:30 A.M.**

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"Eunice: A Mother to Emulate"*  
 2 Timothy 1:5

**6:00 P.M.**

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
 Q & A

**10:30 A.M.**

Open/Close bldg (both times) ..... David Deal  
 Greeters ..... Sweeney  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Kyle Bingle  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Lord's Table ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

**6:00 P.M.**

Greeters ..... Bingle  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Zach Jones  
 Lord's Table ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Matthew Webb  
 Devo ..... David Williams  
 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, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation. - Elders

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 18 ..... \$5,868.00  
 Apr. 25 ..... \$7,092.00  
 May 2 ..... \$5,679.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$7,114.80

It is easy to desire mercy for ourselves or those we love. However, when we or those we love have been wronged, do we seek mercy for our antagonist? While it is natural to desire justice, as Christians we need to keep our motives in check. We must ask ourselves, "Do I value the Lord's vengeance above His mercy?"

Micah 6:8 states, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, *To love mercy*, And to walk humbly with your God?" (emphasis added)

God offers mercy to the penitent and obedient individual. Do I personally withhold that? It is sometimes all too easy to distance ourselves from precious souls who cry out for mercy and forgiveness. Should I be disgusted by sin? The answer is unequivocally a resounding "Yes!" But do I begrudge mercy towards others? Do I view their sins as being so egregious that they cannot be fully washed by the blood of Christ? What a pitiful answer it would be to say "Yes." When the person at fault is penitent and God has wiped the slate clean, I should see that person as God does---covered by the blood of the Lamb, spotless, and whole.

How can I expect God not to let my sins define me if I let others' sins define who they are in my eyes?

## Marks of a Mature Christian

**Always rejoicing** - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

**Praying incessantly** - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**Thankful in all circumstances**  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Submitting to the Spirit** - 1 Thessalonians 5:19

**Honoring Prophecy** - 1 Thessalonians 5:20

**Test all things with Scripture**  
1 Thessalonians 5:21

**Refrains from evil in all aspects**  
1 Thessalonians 5:22

**Allows God to work in and through him/her**  
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

## Scripture's Emphasis on Unity

**Jesus prayed that we be United**  
*John 17:20-21*

**Paul pleaded against division**  
*1 Corinthians 1:10*

**There are many members but one body**  
*1 Corinthians 12:20*

**There is only one body**  
*Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:4*

**Jesus only built one church**  
*Matthew 16:18-19*

**Two must be in agreement to walk together**  
*Amos 3:3*

[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

**"HUMBLE YOURSELVES  
IN THE SIGHT OF THE  
LORD, AND HE WILL  
LIFT YOU UP"**

**JAMES 4:10**