



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 23 June 8, 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

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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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.

The Promises of God

Hiram Kemp

There are many reasons to love and appreciate our God. However, one of the primary reasons to adore and praise God is because He always keeps His promises. God is a God who cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2). It is impossible for God to lie, and therefore, we can place our hope firmly in Him (Heb. 6:18). The truthfulness of God should motivate God's people to see Him as the trustworthy God who always delivers whatever He says He will. When God promises us something, we can be sure that it will come to pass. In this article, let us notice a few of the promises that God has made to us and allow our faith to be bolstered as we contemplate His execution of those promises.

God's Abiding Presence

One of the things that God has promised to His people is His abiding presence. When Joshua replaced Moses, God promised Joshua that He would be with him wherever he went (Josh. 1:9). We read later of Joshua's success which was no doubt based upon the presence of Yahweh (Josh. 21:43-45, 24:29-31). When Jesus came into the world, it is said He would be called Emanuel, which means God with us (Matt. 1:23). As Jesus' earthly ministry was ending and He was preparing to ascend back to the right hand of God, He promised His disciples that He would always be present (Matt. 28:20). The promise of Jesus' continual presence was not just true for those present when He uttered those words. Matthew wrote those words down, and they have been preserved for all of God's people down through the centuries. If our lives are free from covetousness, we will be able to be content with God's presence because He has said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5).

God has promised to be with us as His children, and we can live everyday confidently knowing no matter what He is there. We cannot escape His presence nor should we want to (Psa. 139:7-11). God's presence gives us the courage to face the challenges because we realize that we do not battle alone. We are clothed with God's armor and surrounded by His presence (Eph. 6:10-17). The enduring presence of God is one of the promises that He has made and kept. Let us be cognizant and grateful for God's presence as we live for Him.

God's Eternal Word

People have said negative things about the Bible throughout the centuries, but no one has been able to get rid of it. The Bible is here to stay no matter how much unbelievers and skeptics may despise it. God gave us the Bible He also promised that it would endure forever. The grass and flowers are transient, but the Word of the Lord endures forever (Isa. 40:6-8). The prophet Isaiah wrote 700 years before Jesus Christ, but we can still read and study his writings today. When Jesus preached about the destruction of the temple, He reiterated Isaiah's words, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Furthermore, Jesus emphasized that Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). This means that the Bible is unchangeable, and it is indestructible. We should take confidence as we read our Bibles that we are reading the same words that were originally penned in Hebrew and Greek but have been preserved for us to read in English today. The God who promised the Word has protected the Word from ruin or extinction. Peter wrote to Christians in Asia Minor, and he quoted from Isaiah to stress the abiding nature of the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23-25).

Jesus' Arrival and Advocacy

Jesus was promised in the Old Testament. The Old Testament promised that he would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2). Isaiah said he would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14). We are even told that he would suffer terribly on humanity's behalf (Psa. 22; Isa. 53). When we turn to the pages of the New Testament that is exactly what who we find. The promised Messiah comes and fulfills every prophecy and promise that God made about him in the Old Testament (Lk. 24:44). Paul goes as far as to say, "All the promises of God in him [Christ Jesus] are yes, and in him Amen, to the glory of God by us" (2 Cor. 1:20). God did not simply promise that Jesus would come to die for us but that he would live to continually aid us during our earthly sojourn (Heb. 7:25). Jesus is in heaven right this moment serving as our advocate (1 Jn. 2:1-2). He is sitting at the right hand of God making intercession for the people of God (Rom. 8:33-35). What God has promised and delivered in Jesus is far beyond anything we could have expected. Jesus came to earth from heaven so that one day we could go from earth to heaven (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

Eternal Life

The final promise worthy of our consideration is the promise of eternal life. Eternal life is promise that God made before the world began (Titus 1:2). Our minds struggle to think back that far because we were not there, but God was, and he has been keeping his word ever since. John simply states that God has promised us eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25). We already possess eternal life in one sense if we are Christians (1 Jn. 5:13). Still, we are waiting for the full realization of our eternal inheritance which we will not receive until we see Jesus and are ushered into his presence forevermore. We do not have to doubt our salvation. If we are walking in the light we are cleansed from our sins and assured of eternal life (1 Jn. 1:7). God will not cast us out and no one can take us out of his hand (John 6:37, 10:29). Eternal life in the New Testament deals with both a quality of life and a duration of life. We enjoy the abundant life now (John 10:10) and we will live forever when this life concludes (John 11:25). Thank God that He keeps his promises, and we can depend on him. Read your Bible looking for the promises of God and cling to them. See God as the one who fulfills everything he foretells. God keeps his promises to us, and this should motivate us to keep our promises to him (2 Tim. 2:11-13).

Challenging Words From Jesus

Not everyone goes to heaven (Matthew 7:21-23)

Jesus is the only way (John 14:6)

We must repent or perish (Luke 13:1-5)

We must forsake all to follow Jesus (Luke 14:33)

We must forsake all to follow Jesus (Luke 14:33)

We will have tribulation in the world (John 16:33)

Failure to believe in Jesus is damnable (John 8:21-24)

We must love Jesus above everyone (Matthew 10:37-39)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS *by Vince Daugherty*

When Solomon was tasked with leading Israel, he was smart enough to do some things right.

1. He made sacrifices (II Chronicles 1:6)
2. He asked God for wisdom (II Chronicles 1:10)

As long as Solomon made proper sacrifices and sought wisdom from God, he was successful.

You can follow in Solomon's footsteps. When we are asked to do hard things...

1. Make proper sacrifice -- Matthew 6:33 says, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
2. Ask God for Wisdom -- James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

As long as you make the proper sacrifices and seek the wisdom that comes from God, you can be successful too!

Senior Saints *by John McShane*

As the Pandemic starts to slowly make its way out of our lives and things are starting to return to what can be considered the new normal, it is time to reorganize our Senior Saints program. This program is for any of our members who have the time and would like to be part of a group that meets once a month to enjoy fellowship, make new friends, and listen to speakers giving talks on things that affect our lives. We also may make trips to various attractions in our local area, enjoy some meals together, and do some projects that reach out to the community around us. Our first meeting will be this month on Tuesday, the 15th, at 9 a.m. in our fellowship hall. There will be a guest speaker from the City of Lakeland. Please come and be a part of this program.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Adeline Hine - completed treatments
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
 Bernetta Green - health
 Bill & Carlene Long
 Melody Baxter - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Kathy Nester - health
 Joyce Williams
 Annette Phillip
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health

Linda McShane
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health
 Darlene Thompson - family
 Jim Turner - health
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Ceara Edwards - procedure delayed
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Ron & Judy Ford - health

(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

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
 Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Call before visiting.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Edmonson has fallen and injured his head and shoulder.

Fred & Kathy Strickland have not been feeling well.

Daniel Sheumaker, Bobby's brother, has been diagnosed with Guillan Barre Syndrome and is having more tests.

Elders/Deacons/Preachers
 Meeting is June 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Thank you

There is a card on the bulletin board from

Darlene Thompson

SFA Ladies are invited to a baby shower for Nasheka Medley on Saturday, June 12 4:00-6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There's a sign-up sheet for food on the bulletin board.



If you are interested in the American Mission Campaign sponsored by Latin American Missions, please see Brian for more details.

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.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo Paul Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

Sunday, June 13, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "John 9: Seeing is Believing"

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
 "Getting and Giving Grace"

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) David Anderson
 Greeter J. Williams
 Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
 Announcements Jimmy Sweeney
 A.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer George Davis

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Sweeney
 P.M. Song Leader Brian Kenyon
 Scripture reading/Prayer Wesley Brunson
 Lord's Table Andre Medley
 Closing Prayer Mike Van Allen

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Jimmy Sweeney
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

As of **May 26, 2021**, wearing masks is optional. This policy may be adjusted if covid numbers in the congregation warrant such. Thank you for your patience!

We still request you stay home if you are not feeling well or have covid symptoms.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020. Thanks for your cooperation. - Elders

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 23 \$5,643.00
May 30 \$7,354.00
June 2 \$8,206.00
Contribution Average \$7,247.50

A few months ago, we had a SWAP day at our congregation which is basically where you bring your no longer wanted items and swap them for others' no longer wanted items. As they say "one (wo)man's trash is another (wo)man's treasure!" This makes me think about some other things I could give away that might be a treasure to someone else. First, I thought of a smile! It costs me nothing to give away, but to someone sad or lonely, it may prove invaluable. The scriptures tell us in Prov. 15:30 "a cheerful look brings joy to the heart." Next time you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

How about a simple act of kindness. It, too, costs nothing and can also be such a treasure to others. As Christians, we are to "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Col. 3:12). Let's make it a habit to share these "clothes" with others. It's easy to pick up groceries for someone when doing your own shopping or making a little extra food to share with a member who just had surgery. Not only are we being kind, we are imitating Christ and sharing Him as well. "Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving each other just as Christ forgave you." Eph. 4:32

Another priceless treasure is our time. Again, it costs nothing but could mean the world to one who's lonely or sad. A few minutes on the phone with a shut-in or a 30-minute visit could do wonders to cheer them up. I'm sure you will leave uplifted as well! John 9:4 says "while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." Let's strive to give some time away this week, not only will someone receive a treasure, so will you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," Matt. 6:19-21



Ladies' Day Meeting
Sunday, June 13 after morning service



Senior Saints
Tuesday, June 15, 9:00 a.m.
in the fellowship hall



Ladies' Night Out
Tuesday, June 22, 7-9:00 p.m.

Faith in God's Own Words

Faith is based on evidence
Hebrews 11:1

We cannot please God without faith
Hebrews 11:6

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world
1 John 5:4

We are saved by faith
Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith without works is dead
James 2:20

A little faith goes a long way
Matthew 17:20

We are justified by faith
Romans 5:1

We walk by faith
2 Corinthians 5:7

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: 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

FOR ALL THE PROMISES
OF GOD IN HIM ARE
YES, AND IN HIM AMEN,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
THROUGH US.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20