



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 25 June 22, 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.

## The Parents of John and Jesus

Vince Daugherty

Tragedy is a fact of life. Because of this reality there are plenty of potential parents who consider not having children. Disease, natural disasters, malevolence are all seemingly very good reasons potential parents may want to think twice about having children. When Solomon considered the tragedy of life, he wrote, "better than both [the living and the dead] is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun" (Ecc. 4:3). If we only consider "life under the sun" (or consider life without God), the pain and suffering a child will face would make it justifiable for mothers and fathers not to bring children into the world.

Consider the end of two children -- John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Their parents had to endure their children facing life as an outsider, prison, beheading, cruel torture and crucifixion. Would Zacharias and Elizabeth have prayed so hard for a child if they knew what his end would be? When Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would have a child by the Holy Spirit, she did not even have a choice in the matter of bringing a child into the world. What if she had figured she did not want to bring a child into a world of suffering? We do not know if she had any reservations, but scripture says she replied, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord"(Luke 1:38).

Why accept the responsibility of becoming parents? For one, the great potential a child can bring. John was going to "turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God." He would go forth with the "spirit and power of Elijah" and "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:16,17). Mary and Joseph are told that their child would "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). John and Jesus demonstrate that children can take on spiritual roles as well. John would become the forerunner of the Messiah. Jesus would be the Christ Himself. Parents ought to consider when they bring a child into the world, he could potentially become a great gospel preacher who leads many to Christ. Sons could potentially become elders or deacons leading and watching over the flock of God. Parents could potentially bring forth girls who become wives of missionaries, Bible class teachers, and may bring more children of God into the world. Yes, a child brings headaches, heart aches, and financial strain but John and Jesus teach us about the potential good that can come from having a child.

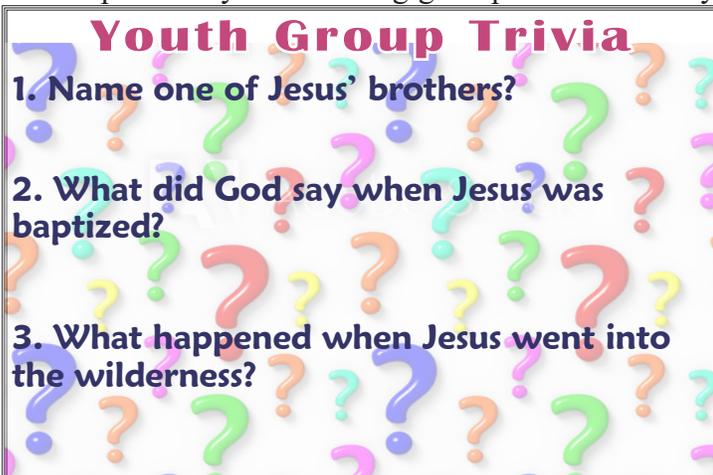
From the beginning, God commanded humanity to be fruitful and multiply. Humanity has not struggled with fulfilling this ordinance. Sheer numbers do not guarantee good children, good people, and good societies. Very often the more people there are the more potential for problems. Limited resources, diversity of opinions, conflicting desires all make life messier.

Who ought to accept the responsibility of becoming parents? I would venture to say that God fearing and non-God fearing people alike would say good people ought to be at the forefront of considering parenthood. What does Scripture say of John's and Jesus' parents? Luke says about Zacharias and Elizabeth, "they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Matthew says of Joseph, that he was a "just" man (Matt. 1:19), and of his betrothed the angel Gabriel said, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" (Luke 1:28). The parents of Jesus and John were carefully hand selected by God to bring in the forerunner and the Christ. God was not haphazard in His selection. Husbands and wives ought to carefully consider Psalm 127:3-5, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb

is a reward. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate." The psalmist compares children to arrows that parents can shoot (or send) out into the world doing good wherever they go for good. We know that our world needs more forces for good in it. Good godly parents are those who can potentially muster more forces for good in this world. John and Jesus were able to tip the scale in the right direction. If God was looking for good godly parents to bring in the next generation of spiritual leaders, would he look at you or me?

Properly raising children is no small task. The world offers a multitude of directions. Parenting books, seminars, gurus and coaches abound. God who forms us from the womb, who knows the very hairs on our head gives us many examples of how to and how not to do parenting from Scripture. When the parents of John and Jesus were tasked with raising the forerunner and the Christ do you think they felt extra pressure to do a good job? Do you think they would forget to read their Bible regularly together? Do you think they would skip prayer time? Do you think they would fail to teach them to fear the Lord? Do you think they would fail to pray over their children? Do you think they would skip worship service times? Luke 2:41 says that Jesus's parents always went up to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover. Ephesians 6:4 says that parents ought to "bring them [children] up in the training and admonition of the Lord." We as parents today do not have a direct message from an angel telling us what our child will become, but we can still take the lessons from Scripture on how we ought to raise our children, to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves (Luke 10:27).

God has made everything beautiful in its time in Ecclesiastes 3. Included in a long list of times, there is a time to "be born." We do not control when our time to be born is or what time in our life we are currently in, but we can think about the responsibilities of godly parents at any time. To grandparents, you can still pray for adult children and grandchildren. "Spiritual grandparents" can set good examples by getting to know children, young adults, and young married couples. Communicate to them the privilege and responsibility of becoming good parents some day.



**Youth Group Trivia**

- 1. Name one of Jesus' brothers?**
- 2. What did God say when Jesus was baptized?**
- 3. What happened when Jesus went into the wilderness?**

Share the good and bad experiences from parenting. Give helpful advice and support. To husbands and wives, consider what children can potentially bring. They are gifts from God. They are potential arrows in your hands that can be sent out into the world for good. If you are apprehensive about having children, consider making yourself ready. Learning from Scripture about good and bad examples of parenting. Make sure your family and home is ready financially, physically, spiritually, and otherwise. To those who are single, consider your role in becoming a spouse and a parent. As you grow into those roles, what are characteristics you like and don't like in the opposite sex? What kind of characteristics does the opposite sex like and don't like about you? Men who are good providers, and women who are good keepers of the home are praised in Scripture. When looking for a potential spouse, think about the long term. Is this someone I could trust raising my children? Is this someone who will train up children in the right way?

In the face of the tragedy of life how should we respond? We should choose to meet it with our eyes wide open and our hearts full of the truth. Life is difficult, but that does not mean we should run and hide. Zacharias and Elizabeth, and Mary and Joseph give us a great lesson on how we should properly and wisely accept that role of parents. While the task is daunting and the tragedy of life is overwhelming. Good parents bring forth children with exponential potential that can be God's servants for good in a world that so desperately needs them.

### Senior Saints by John McShane

I found the following blurb and decided that it may help you and me as we go through life. "It is time to accept: This is you, and you have to spend the rest of your life with you. So start loving your sarcasm, your awkwardness, your weirdness, your peculiar habits, your unique sense of humor, your voice, your talents, your everything. It will make your life so much easier to simply be yourself." However, we must remember who created us. In Genesis 1:27, "So God created mankind in His own image, ... in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them." But He did not create us as clones. What kind of a world would it be if we were all alike in many ways? So do not be afraid of who you are. God has given you what you have to enjoy life here on earth and be an example of what God can and will do for those who follow His teachings. He made each of us a unique individual with different talents and expects us to use our talents to further His kingdom here on earth. Peter 4:10-11 "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus."

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health	John & Linda McShane
Jim & Carol Edmonson - health	Ron & Judy Ford - health
Nasheka Medley - pregnancy	Darlene Thompson - family
Bernetta Green - health	Jim Turner - health
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson - health
Melody Baxter - bus accident	Brian Smith - heart
Debbie Bush - health	Kathy Nester - health
Margaret Coone	Joyce Williams
Sharon M. Washington - health	Annette Phillip
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	George Davis - cataract surgery

(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

**Reba French** fell and skinned her knee Sunday morning on the way to services. She is at home and doing fine now.

**Jim Turner** has tested positive for Covid. His symptoms are mild. He is feeling weak.

**Bobby Simpson** has been in Bartow Regional Hospital due to bronchitis.

**Dorothea Lauther** has not been feeling well.

Let's lift our elders in our daily prayers as they continue to lead us.

Let's remember them in the search for a new minister.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

to **Sharon Egolf** on the death of her nephew,  
Gene Radeka.

*Thank you* There is a card on the bulletin board from  
**George Davis**

## PRAYER LIST

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Stacey Paulin  
Devo ..... Kyle Bingle  
Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

### Sunday, June 27, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"Understanding the Holy Spirit"  
Romans 8

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"What James Teaches Us About Prayer"  
James 5:13-18

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ..... David Deal  
Greeter ..... Bingle  
Song/prayer before class ..... David Williams  
Announcements ..... Tyler Anderson  
A.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
Lord's Table ..... Rick Kenyon  
Closing Prayer ..... Lou Van Allen

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... O. Smith/Thrower  
P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Potvin  
Lord's Table ..... Rick Kenyon  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

### Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
Closing Prayer ..... David Anderson

## Upcoming Events

### June

22 - Ladies night out  
27 - CFBC week

### July

18 - Lads2Leaders

### August

1 - Lads2Leaders  
6 - 8 WWCC  
21 - Teachers' workshop

### September

5 - New Quarter

### October

2 - Door Knocking  
Trunk or Treat  
(Date TBD)

### November

14-17 Fall gospel  
meeting  
Youth group  
thankful meal  
(Date TBD)

### December

TBA

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 6 .....	\$8,206.00
June 13 .....	\$5,904.15
June 20 .....	\$6,321.71
Contribution Average .....	\$7,156.73

## YOUTH GROUP TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. James, Joseph, Simon and Judas (Mark 6:3)
2. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3:17)
3. He was tempted by Satan (Mark 1:13)

## Ladies' Podcast



To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge is one of the things for which the apostle Paul prays for the Christians in Ephesus. It is something for which we also should strive.

That is why this podcast is called "To Know the Love of Christ." In each episode, we will study scripture in its context but also dive deep to find the love of Christ, a love so fervent, so honest, and so faithful that it is the very essence of His being.

We invite you "To Know the Love of Christ."



A Panamanian preacher once asked the question, "What army would only train half its soldiers?" He was referring to the lack of effort in many parts of the brotherhood to train women to a deeper knowledge of the Bible, to be better Bible class teachers, and to evangelize their sphere of influence. That preacher correctly observed in most assemblies of the local church, at least half (and usually more) of the members attending are women, yet there are not the opportunities for them to be trained. Yes, nurturing little children into productive Christians is absolutely important and takes first priority, but there is still a need and desire for women to continue helping the church grow. There have always been explicitly defined areas where women can work (Titus 2:3-5). There are also a wide variety of implicitly designated areas women can work, as long as they do not violate God's authority principle (2 Tim. 2:8-15). One such Scriptural work is this podcast. In depth Bible studies taught by faithful women with practical applications given by women to women are an important part of training the "other half" of God's army.

"To Know the Love of Christ" will be a study and discussion of the Book of Ephesians.

Please pray for this effort and for the encouragement of those who hear. It will begin **Monday, June 28**, and continue every other Monday through the entirety of this epistle by Paul. Ladies, for personal growth and as part of fulfilling the great commission, please listen and share with women you know!

} Brian

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

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Find us on social media



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Return Service Requested

"MY SON, GIVE ME  
YOUR HEART,  
AND LET YOUR EYES  
OBSERVE MY WAYS."

PROVERBS 23:26