



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

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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

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
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Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

What Congregations Owe Their Teenagers

Hiram Kemp

The teen years are some of the most challenging and yet formative years of a person's life. As friends are made and habits are formed, a good foundation must be laid in the teen years. While many have written about the exodus of young Christians once they get to college, some things can be done beforehand to ensure continued faithfulness once they get to college. Congregations should demand that members are active and doing their part, but there are also some things that congregations owe their teenagers.

Good and Challenging Bible Classes and Sermons

It is a shame that the school system will often challenge our teens more than the church will. They take in-depth math, science, and language class only to be spoon-fed Noah's Ark and Daniel in the Lion's Den continually in Bible class. The psalmist believed that a young person could cleanse his way by paying close attention to God's Word (Psa. 119:9). We should not think that our children will remain faithful in the post-teen years if we have equipped them with a bite-sized faith from the start. We all must indeed grow in grace a little more each day, but we must not underestimate our young people (2 Pet. 2:2). May it never be the case that we randomly select any warm body to teach the teen Bible class. If you need a lifeguard in a swimming pool, where do you think the strongest lifeguard should be? Should the strongest lifeguard be where people swim pretty well on their own or where people are beginners and are more likely to struggle or drown? Those who teach these classes must be prepared and not simply rush in late and read word for word from a Bible study quarterly. It communicates to teens that the class is unimportant, serious Bible study is a joke, and it is not worth preparing.

Congregations should seriously evaluate who teaches the teen Bible classes and make sure that sound doctrine is taught that will build their faith (Tit. 2:1; Heb. 5:12-14). Likewise, the sermons should be biblical and thought-provoking (2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:11). Teens should expect to hear the Bible preached and be challenged in their thinking as they learn Scripture. Eloquence is not the goal, but teens should grow up knowing that Christianity is not a mindless religion but instead requires wrestling with the greatest thoughts the human mind can contemplate—God, faith, hope, love, truth.

A Chance to Serve

The old saying, "If you want something done right, do it yourself," is a terrible leadership motto. When we do all of the work and fail to equip teenagers to serve, we are crippling the church for years to come (cf. Acts 6:1-4). Perhaps young Christians will not do it perfectly the first time. The mistakes that inexperienced or young Christians make can be frustrating, but to sideline them in the work of the church is a huge mistake. Paul told Timothy (who was not a teenager though he was young) that he should not let anyone look down on him because of his youth (1 Tim. 4:12). Teenagers can be an example in many ways, but only if we allow them an opportunity to serve and work (1 Cor. 12:12-24).

When teenagers feel they are a part of the congregation and are given chances to participate in the Lord's work, the church becomes special to them. The active teenager will view the church more as something he or she is personally a part of and not simply as something their parents or grandparents force them to do. Teenagers should be encouraged to be involved with evangelism among their peers (2 Tim. 2:2). They can be active in restoring some of their peers who have drifted away as they express sincere concern for their souls (James 5:19-20).

Teenagers can be involved in serving during worship services or even leading devotionals. They must not be made to feel like the spiritual “B Team,” or they may one day grow up and see their faith as optional or unimportant.

A Listening Ear

Teens have a lot of questions. Sometimes we are so quick to give answers that we do not listen as well as we should (Prov. 18:13). In Bible class, we should listen to the types of comments made and the questions asked. When we listen closely, we will learn the things that they struggle with and can respond accordingly. There are too many caricatures formed about today’s teens, and while they may be cute and funny, they are not helpful. We will always give the wrong answers if we do not hear the questions asked.

Listen for the things that concern our teens. Many today are looking to be involved in various social justice movements. We must show them that Christianity is the greatest cause in the world, and through being faithful Christians and actively loving our neighbors, we can do the most eternal good (Matt. 7:12). We should open our ears to our teens and listen to give well-reasoned responses.

Solid Foundation

There are certain areas that every congregation should cover several times over with their teens. Our teens should know the basics about why we believe God exists, why we believe the Bible is the Word of God, and why we are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God (1 Pet. 3:15). Furthermore, they should know the difference between the New Testament plan of salvation and the false plans offered by man (Acts 22:16). The New Testament church should be clearly explained and taught so they know the difference between the church Jesus built and denominationalism (Matt. 16:18-19). Moral issues and purity must be emphasized so that worldliness is easily detected as they see it expressed in movies, music, and

other forms of recreation. They must not have our permission to fall in love with the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17). To avoid them being crushed by the burden of perfectionism or legalism, lay a solid foundation concerning God's grace and concerning the security of those walking in His light.

As we teach all of these things, we must not forget to teach them why. We do these things because we love Jesus and want to glorify Him (Gal. 2:20). Rules and prohibitions detached from the gospel message will exhaust those who try and comply. However, when teenagers are told that we do the things we do out of love for our King who died for us, they will see Christianity not simply as a list of do's and don'ts but as a system of grace and faith. God extends His grace to us, and in faith, we live for Him.

A Message to Parents

Parents are given the primary responsibility for bringing their children up in the proper way (Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4). While congregations should help and not hinder these efforts, in the end, it is the parents’ responsibility. Too many have asked youth ministers and elders to do in a few hours a week that which takes a lifetime to do—cultivate spirituality in their children. Parents, let’s get serious about our teens’ spiritual status. Have meaningful conversations with them about eternal matters. Teach them the Word in formal and informal settings and saturate their hearts with God’s truth. God has assigned parents the role of teaching their children, and anything else the congregation does is “icing on the cake.”

Congregations must not overlook teenagers. They can play a vital role in the local congregation. They must be equipped, challenged, and involved in the work of the kingdom. The world tries to influence children as early as possible for evil. We must influence them as early as possible for good. Congregations owe teenagers their very best because that’s what God would have us to give them.

Youth Group

"The True Reality"

Video games have come a long way from their beginnings. With newer and newer technology, graphics are becoming clearer and clearer. However realistic the gaming world becomes, we know that it is not the real world. Collecting video game money or treasures does not actually make you richer in real life. When you unplug from the game or experience game over, you cannot take any of the things you collect in the virtual world with you. Jesus spoke of the reality of heaven. There He said, "moth and rust" do not destroy and He said, "thieves" cannot break in and steal (Matthew 6:20). In a sense, life, as we know it on earth, is only a dim reality of what real life will be like in eternity. So Jesus tells us to lay up our treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:20). When our life here is over, we will unplug, and none of the money, power, or fame will go with us. Only what we have stored up in the true reality.

Senior Saints by John McShane

As we mature in life, we tend to look back at the life we have lived and often compare it to others we know or admire. Sometimes we wonder if we could have the life someone else has, and sometimes we are glad that we have not lived the life that others have. It has been said that "comparison is the thief of joy." We have come this far in life, and we need to appreciate that most of us lived our life in the way that opportunity presented itself. At this stage of our life, we need to realize that we are who we are and that each of us is a unique individual. We do not need to compare ourselves to anyone or anything. In Ephesians 2:10, we read, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." If we compare ourselves to anything, it should be the Christ-like characteristics found in the Holy Bible.

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
Fred Strickland - health	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 - health
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	George Davis - eye problems

(Please update the office of any changes)

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

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
Devo Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Sunday, July 25, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Josh Cantrell
A Desperate Faith

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Josh Cantrell
Peter: Flawed, but Faithful Disciple

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) ... Jason Hendrix
Greeter Bingle
Song/prayer before class.....Matthew Webb
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer Tyler Anderson
Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Fife
P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer Alex Parramore
Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Tucker Sweeney
Devo Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

July

24 - church cook-out
26 - ladies' night out
30 - Youth group devo

August

1 - Lads2Leaders
6 - 8 WWCC
9 - School begins
17 - FSOP ladies' class
21 - Teachers' workshop
24 - ladies' night out

September

4 - Youth group fun
12 - Joey Treat
18 - Youth Seminar

October

2 - Door Knocking
2 - Ladies' Day
Trunk or Treat
(Date TBD)

November

14-17 Fall gospel mtg
19 - Youth group
thankful meal

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 4	\$8,024.00
July 11	\$6,693.01
July 18	\$5,596.00
Contribution Average	\$7,075.82

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage*
Carol Eason Ellen Shearer

*Sign up sheet to bring communion is on the bulletin board

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Reba French has broken her leg and will have to have surgery.

Tanner Estridge has been referred to Nemour Pediatrics in Orlando for treatment for PFAPA which is a fever syndrome.

Fred and Kathy Strickland are both having some health issues.

Dorothea Lauther had major surgery on Tuesday 7/20.

RESPONSES

Donna Sutton asked for the prayers of the congregation also **Wadi Khoury** asked for prayers for his brother who is having some health issues.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



Church Cook-out

Saturday, July 24, 2021

Activities and games at 2:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.

Sign - up sheet for side dishes and desserts is on the bulletin board

- Mark your calendar, August 21 -

Teachers' Workshop for Bible Class Teachers with
April Meacham and Teah McWhorter.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to the office.

This is usually the question asked of someone when they have done something terribly wrong. However, as a Christian, losing your mind is a necessity for a faithful life. To have the mind of Christ, you must lose/get rid of whatever is corrupting or negatively affecting your mind. Once you empty your mind, you can fill it with that of Christ's. (Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5)

Let us get busy emptying our minds with a few scriptures to help us.

Mark 12:29-30 (Love God with all your mind)

Acts 17:11 (Have a ready mind to receive God's word)

Romans 8:5-7 (A carnal mind is death but a spiritual mind is life and peace)

Romans 12:1-2 (Transform your life by renewing your mind)

2 Corinthians 4:3-5 (Do not let the god of this world blind your mind)

Philippians 2:2-6 (Have the mind of Christ)

Check out also: 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 2:1-5; Ephesians 4:17-24; Philippians 3:15-17; Philippians 4:6-8; James 4:7-10; 1 Peter 1:13-16 and 1 Peter 4:1-2.

Things to Remember in Anxious Times:

We can cast all our cares on God (1 Peter 5:7)

God knows the difference between a snake and a fish (Matthew 7:7-11)

We are more valuable than many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31)

God already knows what we need (Matthew 6:32)

God is the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

God gives us peace (Philippians 4:6-7)

Consider the patience of Job (Job 5:11)

Hard times can make us better (James 1:2-4)

God is still on his throne (Revelation 4:10-11)

We invite you to worship the Lord with us

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.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



Find us on Facebook

**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD"

MATTHEW 5:8