



The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 31 August 3, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
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Jimmy Sweeney

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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

YOUTUBE.com

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.

Jesus' Last Days on Earth

Hiram Kemp

The global life expectancy rate for women is 75 years old and for men, it is 70 years old. In the United States, life expectancy for women is 81 years old and men are expected to live to 77 years old.¹ Of course, these are just statistics, and they cannot guarantee us anything. Even with the current estimated figures given by experts, we must still conclude with James that our lives are a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away (James 4:14). The question we have to answer is how we are going to spend our life. One thing Jesus never wanted to do was waste time. He knew the night was coming when no one could work so he made the most of the time he had (John 9:4).

Many times, people speak of things they would do if they knew it was their last day on earth. They speak of places they would go, things they would buy, and deeds they would perform. What is impressive is that Jesus knew exactly when His last day on earth would be and He did not waste it. As His time on earth was nearing its end, Jesus spent His final moments doing all the good that He could. As with everything else by studying the life of Jesus, we learn how our lives are to be lived well (1 Pet. 2:21). If we look at the way Jesus spent His last days on earth, it will provide the direction we need to live out all of our days.

On one of Jesus' last days on earth, He took the time to serve others. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, even Judas, who would betray Him as He was nearing His final hours before the crucifixion (John 13:1-17). Jesus was setting an example for His disciples to learn how to serve each other. He wanted them to see Him demonstrate what that looked like one final time. Still, it is impressive that when He could have taken time to focus on Himself and demand that others serve Him, He did not. He did not come to be served but to serve, and He did this up until His last day on earth (Mark 10:44-45). Greatness in the eyes of God does not come from sitting high and looking down on others. Instead, God views greatness by how often and how gladly we serve our fellow man (1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:3-4). Jesus left the comforts and glories of heaven to come to earth and be mistreated and maligned for us (Phil. 2:5-8). As His life was soon to conclude, He took the time to serve others. We would be wise to use our days doing the same. In a world where everyone wonders, "What is in it for me," we need to be those who can put others before ourselves just like Jesus did.

Talked About Heaven

On Jesus' last days on earth, He spent his time speaking of eternity with God in heaven. He taught about His being the only way to God (John 14:6). He told His disciples about the many mansions prepared for them in the Father's house (John 14:1-4). When He prayed, He reminisced about the glory He enjoyed in heaven before the world existed (John 17:5). Jesus had His mind set on heavenly things, and He wanted to help His disciples to focus their minds on the heavenly things as well. Jesus spoke about heaven and that He was heading there. This would create anticipation for His disciples to follow in his steps.

Christians are to seek the things which are above where Christ is seated at God's right hand (Col. 3:1-4). We are commanded to put earthly things to death so that we can focus on cultivating the fruit of the Spirit during our earthly pilgrimage (Col. 3:5-12; cf. Gal. 5:22-23). Paul described himself as pressing toward the goal of the high prize of the upward call in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:12-14). We should occupy our days thinking about heavenly things and frequently discussing them with others.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/274513/life-expectancy-in-north-america/>

We should speak to other Christians about heaven and how wonderful and soul-satisfying it will be there. We should speak to non-Christians about their need to obey the gospel so that they do not miss out on the bliss that will be there (Rom. 1:14- 17). Jesus used His last moments before He was tried and crucified to talk about what mattered most. We should make the best use of the time and be sure to have heavenly conversations while we can (Eph. 5:16).

Praying For Others

Jesus would on occasion pray for Himself (Luke 22:39-44). Nevertheless, the great majority of His prayers recorded in Scripture show Him praying for others. As His earthly life was coming to a close, He was praying for His disciples. He prayed for the twelve (John 17:6-19). He also prayed for those who would believe on Him based on their inspired testimony (John 17:20- 26). Jesus thought it was necessary to spend time talking to His Father on behalf of His friends, asking for them to have the strength to press on in the world though He would soon be leaving them behind. Good friends pray for each other, especially in tough times (cf. Prov. 17:17). The ironic thing is that Jesus was about to be the one facing hardship. The disciples should have been praying for Him, but it was the other way around. He was praying for them.

As we live out our days, we will have personal requests to take before the throne of God, but we should remember others when we pray. We should pray for Christians everywhere, and ask God to give His people the strength to persevere in a world that wants to discourage and defeat us (1 Thess. 5:25). We need to pray that more individuals will respond to the gospel based on the words of the apostles and not the false doctrines of men. Likewise, we should pray that the church that Jesus purchased with His blood would be united and peaceful as we embody the kingdom of God on earth (Eph. 4:1-3). If Jesus thought it was important enough to be praying about it on His last days on earth, we should, too. Prayer is not just for the end of our lives, it is for all of the days in between (1 Thess. 5:17-18).

None of us knows for sure when our last day will be. The good news is we do not have to wait until our last days to perform the good deeds that God has prepared for us (Eph. 2:10). Neither should we wait until the last minute to rid our lives of evil things that corrupt and pollute us (1 John 1:9). Look at how Jesus lived His final moments, and then realize it is no different from how He lived all of the time. He was consistent from start to finish (John 17:4). How we live is how we will die, and how we die is how we will rise (John 5:28-29)!

BIBLE TRIVIA ON KAHOOT!

Every Thursday starting August 5
at 7:00 pm.

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We often focus on the people who are in the spotlight, but Scripture reminds us it is not only about those people who are in front of the crowd that matter.

1. *Jesus overshadowed John but John was the forerunner who successfully prepared the way for Jesus. Humbly John wrote "He must increase and I must decrease." (John 3:30)*

2. *Peter is probably the most prominent apostle and yet we must remember it is Andrew that brings him to Jesus (John 1:40-42)*

3. *Paul is much more well known than Barnabas, but it is Barnabas who brought Paul to the brethren when no one wanted to believe that he had changed. (Acts 9:26-27)*

All of our roles are different in the kingdom, but none are unimportant. Be a John; be an Andrew; be a Barnabas.

Senior Saints by John McShane

One of the big problems in today's society is who is telling the truth. Let's take the ongoing pandemic as an example. There are so many stories and opinions about it from anyone that gets in front of a microphone or writes a letter to the editor of the local paper. How do we know who or what to believe? What advice can we give to anyone that asks our opinion if we are not sure of the facts? In 2nd Peter 2:1, Peter warns us that there will be false teachers among us. Of course, he was referring to those that would be preaching falsehoods regarding what Jesus had taught. Today there are false teachers regarding just about everything in today's world. I do not want to be one of them, and I hope you don't either. If we live by the words of 2nd Timothy 2:15, whether about the Bible or about things in the secular world, we will be in good shape. It reads, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." And just like we study the Bible to know the truth, we need to study worldly things until we are sure that we are speaking the truth regarding that subject. We all have opinions, but we need them based on fact.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim & Carol Edmonson - health
 Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
 Bernetta Green - health
 Fred Strickland - health
 Melody Baxter - bus accident
 Debbie Bush - health
 Margaret Coone
 Sharon M. Washington - health
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Flo Duffy - eye problems
 Vanessa Palmer - health

PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane
 Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Darlene Thompson - family
 Jim Turner - health, tests
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Brian Smith - heart
 Kathy Nester - health
 Joyce Williams
 Annette Phillip - health
 George Davis - eye problems
 Tanner Estridge - 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

Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down again.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Faith West in the LRMC. She welcomes visitors.
 Jim Turner will have tests later in the month.

RESPONSES

Janis Waldon asks for forgiveness for recent sins.
 Ciara Edwards ask for prayers for strength to not allow evil to enter her heart.

Joyce Williams requests prayers for her son who has covid

Rejoicing in hope Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added another soul to His kingdom.
 Let's welcome our new sister in Christ:

Ketecia Palmer (7/30/21)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1Cor. 1:6

Senior Saints Meeting

August 17 at 9:00 a.m. to assemble blessing bags, take a trip to the Polk Count History Center in Bartow, then dutch lunch at a local restaurant



The Kemps' "New Adventures" Going Away Party

August 14th from 11:00am-1:00pm

Please RSVP to the email or the list on the bulletin board if you and your family plan to attend. It will be at the church building. The church is providing all food, and an RSVP will help ensure enough food for everyone.



This week's pantry item request:
canned or packed meat

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

August

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
 Devo David Williams
 Closing Prayer Wadi Khoury

Sunday, August 8, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "The Good Confession"
 1 Timothy 6:12-16

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "The 7 Types of Friends We All Need"
 Proverbs 18:24

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Phil Fife
 Greeter Sweeney
 Song/prayer before class David Williams
 Announcements David Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Josh Estridge
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson

6:00 P.M.

Greeters O. Smith/Thrower
 P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Terrance Dindy, Jr.
 Closing Prayer Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo John McShane
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

August

5 - Youth group Kahoot
 8 - Lads2Leaders
 17 - Senior Saints mtg.
 17 - FSOP ladies' class
 21 - Teachers' workshop
 22 - Teachers' meeting
 24 - ladies' night out
 28 - Youth group devo

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

December

Christmas caroling &
 parties
 (Dates TBD)

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

July 18 \$5,596.00
 July 25 \$6,676.25
 Aug 1 \$8,272.00
 Contribution Average \$7,101.51

How would I respond if I were faced with a horrific situation? I think about Job, that man of patience (James 5:11). But what if it were me?

Job's situation was unique, but his response to it was not. His folly was concentrating on himself and not on glorifying God. Job was not charged with sin, but he was certainly put in his place by God (Job 38-42).

I think about my 2020 financial hardship. I didn't "curse God and die" (Job 2:9), but I sure was wondering "what do I do now?"

What if disease and illness strike in 2021? I pray that I will remember God first. The Mighty God who controls the waves from leaving the sea (Job 38:11), who makes the hawk soar (39:26), who tells the morning when to dawn (38:12), who, in His wisdom, is in full control (Romans 8:28).

Before I am faced with a tragedy, I pray I see the life He breathed into each soul that crosses my path (Genesis 2:7) and will bring that soul into God's glory (Romans 15:7).

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

Teachers' Workshop

August 21, 2021

9:00 - 3:00 pm

Lunch will be provided

RSVP



Mark your calendars!

South Florida Ave church of Christ
Youth Seminar

Saturday, September 18, 2021

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Speakers:

Forest Antemasaris - Orange St.
"Peace Like a River"



Rhone Jadis - Pine Castle
"Joy Like a Fountain"



CJ Grimes - Sebring
"Love Like an Ocean"

Youth Seminar

Saturday,

September 18

9:00 - 12:00 pm

Lunch will be provided

RSVP

Ladies' Day

Saturday, October 2

9:00 am

registration & breakfast

begins at 8:30 am

Lunch will be provided

RSVP

BIBLE CLASS WORKSHOP

Teach the next generation to know God

Saturday workshop for Bible class teachers (ladies only)

Experience a wide variety of teaching methods. Learn new songs. See dozens of visual aids demonstrated. Discover the how and why of teaching all ages.

August 21, 2021 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

South Florida Ave. Church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Please RSVP to sfa.church@gmail.com or call 863-682-4702

Lunch will be provided. Visual aids and other teaching resources will be available for purchase. There is no cost to attend, nor is there any obligation to buy.

Teah McWhorter and April Meacham have been teaching bible classes for more than 40 years. They have trained teachers for more than 20 years through congregational classes, future teachers' camps, FITs, and this workshop.

www.bibleclassworkshop.com

Connect with workshopers

SAVE THE DATE:

South Florida Ave Church of Christ
Annual Ladies Day

October 2nd, 2021
Sweet Talk by Emily Hatfield
Proverbs 16:24

830am Registration and Breakfast
9:00 Start
Lunch provided

RSVP: 863.682.4702 or sfa.church@gmail.com

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



Find us on Facebook

"FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN"

PHILIPPIANS 1:21

South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested