



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 35 September 1, 2020

### 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.

## How To Grow As A Christian

Hiram Kemp

Christianity is a religion where we are commanded to grow (2 Pet. 3:18). We cannot remain stagnant and be pleasing to God. We come into Christ as babes, but we must grow and progress from that point (1 Pet. 2:2). If we remain in spiritual infancy for too long, we will not be pleasing to God (Heb. 5:11-14). We need to graduate from the milk of the word so we can produce the fruit that God desires that we cultivate. Therefore, it is wise for us to take inventory of our spiritual progress (cf. Prov. 27:23). We should look to ourselves and determine if we are “stuck into neutral” or pressing toward the mark (Phil. 3:14). As it relates to spiritual growth, our speed is not as important as our direction. We may not be growing at the rate of some, but we should not be comparing ourselves to others. God wants us to examine ourselves, develop our talents, and grow in our faith. The question is, how can we do this? How can we fulfill the command to “grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ”?

### Read Scripture Daily

How many times you have heard this in sermons and Bible classes? We need to be reminded constantly that we are to be a people of the Book. We will not grow close to God apart from growing close to His word. While we have often heard of the need to read the Bible daily, how many times have we failed to make this our habit? Is it your daily practice to read a portion of the word of God? The Jews in Berea are praised because they searched the scriptures every day (Acts 17:11). Joshua was told to meditate in the word day and night (Josh. 1:8-9). Job prized the word of God above his daily food (Job 23:12). Timothy was to give every effort to handle the word of truth properly (2 Tim. 2:15; cf. 1 Tim. 4:13). Those who want to grow will make it a priority to read scripture daily. As this becomes a pattern, we will be able to consume and comprehend more scripture. By putting what we read into practice, we will become more like the Christ we serve (2 Cor. 3:18). It is one thing to know we should read the Bible daily, but only those who actually engage in this discipline will know true spiritual growth. It is true that we will all miss some days and sometimes fall out of the routine, but we must fight against allowing this to become the norm in our lives. We cannot live by bread alone. We need to hear from God in His word (Matt. 4:4). Get a reading calendar and read along with others in the congregation. Follow a reading plan of your own choosing. Whatever you decide, make it a priority to get into the Bible every day. As you learn more about God through His word, your love for Him will deepen and your fidelity toward Him will flourish. Those who want to grow as Christians will become and will continue to be daily readers of the word of God.

### Serve Selflessly

Jesus left us an example of servitude (John 13:1-17). In the eyes of God, the way to greatness is by surrendering our lives in service to our fellow man. Jesus did not come to be served, but He came to serve (Mark 10:44-45). If you and I want to grow spiritually, we would be wise to find ways to serve selflessly.

Pride is the Achilles heel of spiritual growth. The antidote to pride is humble service. Those who are busy doing for others do not have time to be inflated with their own importance. As we spend our time helping others, we will not be consumed with thoughts about ourselves.

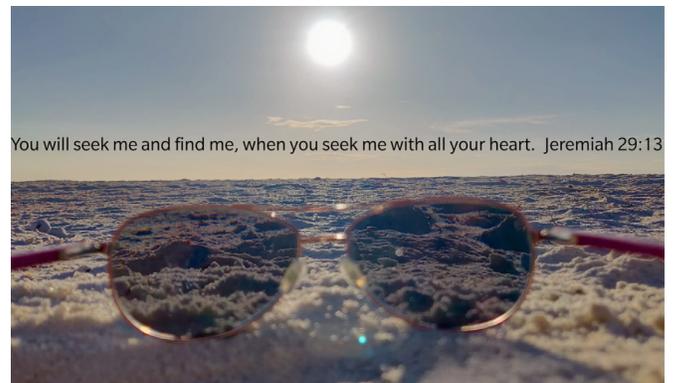
Think of something you can do every day for someone else. Call and check on a shut-in. Write a birthday card to someone celebrating another year around the sun. Make a meal for a grieving family or for someone who cannot do so for themselves. Help an elderly neighbor put their trash near the curb. Our service does not have to be glamorous in order for it to be godly. We may not immediately notice the growth taking place in us as we serve, but we can be sure that it is happening. We may go unnoticed by those we serve and that is ok, too, because God sees (Heb. 6:10). The approval of God is more important than the applause and recognition of men. As we have the opportunity, let us make it our habit to do good to everyone (Gal. 6:10; cf. Acts 10:38). We grow as Christians as we become less focused on ourselves and more focused on how we can please God and serve our fellow man (Gal. 5:14). Our faith will grow to unite our faith with works. Faith without works is dead, but faith with works is alive and thriving (James 2:26).

### Pray Deeper Prayers

Christians know that prayer is an indispensable weapon that God grants us in our spiritual warfare in this world. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17) and be watchful in prayer (1 Pet. 4:7). Jesus commanded us to pray and never lose heart (Lk. 18:1). In the book of Ephesians, notice the prayers that Paul offered up for the church and how we could all grow in this area (Eph. 1:15-19, 3:14-21). There is nothing wrong with praying about the same things, but the more we study the word and serve others, our prayer lives will transform. We will realize that there are things that should be

mentioned in our prayers but were not before. We will find ourselves praying for more opportunities to be used as a vessel for God. Notice the things the Holy Spirit thought necessary to include in the Word of God, such as the boldness, variety, and frequency that marks the prayers voiced by David, Paul, Moses, and Christ. Those of us who are growing as Christians are praying to the same God we have always prayed to but not in the same way we have always prayed to him. We will grow as Christians when we read and study the prayers offered and preserved in scripture.

Do not remain stagnant as a Christian. Do not settle for mediocrity or the status quo. Let us be those who challenge ourselves and each other to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord. Jesus was perfect, and yet He grew (Lk. 2:52). As those striving to be like Him, may we resolve to do the same.



You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

## Senior Saints

by John McShane

I found the following statement on the internet; "Y'all better stop disliking people over what you heard, and be thankful God isn't disliking you over what He knows." In today's world, it is so easy and tempting to just repeat things without checking the facts to see if the statement is, in fact, true. In the age that most of us Seniors grew up in, that was called "gossip" and usually spread from one person to another and most likely concerned our neighbors. Today we have all kinds of technological means to spread information on anyone or anything, true or false, as fast as we can type or face time. The word of God has much to say about how we use our speech. Proverbs 12:18 **"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."** As Children of God, our tongues have a lot of power. Proverbs 18:21 confirms this by saying, **"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."** Are we healing or hating with our words, written or spoken? God knows. Check out Matthew 12:36.

### **Youth Group** by Vince Daugherty

**My God is so BIG so strong and so mighty  
there's nothing my God cannot do!**

**Genesis 1 tells us how God spoke the entire  
world into existence. Psalm 33:9 says,  
"For He spoke, and it was done;  
He commanded and it stood fast."**

**Only God is so powerful that He can speak  
and things come into existence.**

**Truly there is nothing my God cannot do!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Frank Hamby  
 Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt  
 Nikki Williams  
 Bill & Carlene Long  
 Cierra Edwards  
 Bruce Longfellow  
 Sharon M. Washington  
 Kathy Nester  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda Mask  
 Linda McShane  
 Bernetta Green  
 Bobby Simpson  
 Ellen Shearer  
 Jim Turner  
 Annette Phillip  
 Brian Smith

Ron & Judy Ford  
 Tonya Anderson  
 Ray Nashick  
 Bob Pratt  
 Geny Johnson  
 Margaret Coone  
 George Davis  
 Margaret Norman

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Cheryl Barker  
 Carol Eason Ellen Shearer Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

## Extended family:

George French (Kenny & Reba's son)  
 Trevor & Sandy Hutchins (Becky Sheumaker's sister & brother-in-law)  
 Thelma Rachford (Dottie Fife's sister)  
 Maria Wardell (Darlene Thompson's granddaughter)  
 Alicia Zamot (Jagie Kenyon's aunt)  
 Chip Bolding (bettye bolding's son)  
 Keijuan Callaway (Sharon Washington's son)  
 Vontreal Mitchell-Copeland (Ruby Lewis' nephew)  
 Gene Johnson (Mark Johnson's father)  
 Gina (Kathy Nester's daughter)  
 Beverly Kinsey (Debbie Bush's sister-in-law)  
 Tim Albright (Glenda Beebe's cousin)  
 Elle Potvin (Josh Potvin's stepmother)



## Friends:

Roselyn Roberts (friend of Darlene Thompson)  
 Elizabeth (Tubbs) Dean (former member)  
 Cooper Terry (friend of Jeff Bingle)  
 Carter Hancock (friend of Sophia Smith & Jessica Anderson)  
 Tina Thomas (friend of Sharon Washington)  
 Carl Chambers  
 Rosie Patterson (Medulla member)  
 Marcia Allen (Ingrid Stewart's friend in Jamaica)  
 Steve Higginbotham (minister at Karns congregation in Knoxville, TN)  
 Diane Pierce (friend of Linda McShane)

## RESPONSES

Ciara Edwards wants to be a better example at work and home.  
 Gavin Williams also wants to be a better example. He does not want to be a stumbling block to other FSOP students.  
 Vince Daugherty wants to be better at making peace with others and how to better engage with people.

## Thank you cards

(Cards are on the bulletin board)

Frank Hamby and family

John and Linda McShane

Tonya Anderson

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### September

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Jeff Stewart  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

### Sunday, September 6, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"James: From a Skeptic to a Servant"*  
 James 1:1

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
*"What Everyone Needs to Know about Sin"*  
 Ezekiel 18

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) .... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Song before class/Prayer .... Tucker Sweeney  
 Announcements ..... Brian Kenyon  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Lord's Table ..... Alex Parramore  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Andre' Medley  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Allen Grimes  
 Lord's Table ..... Alex Parramore  
 Closing Prayer ..... Kyle Bingle

### Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Devo ..... Johnny Singh  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

## ASSEMBLING UPDATE

We still encourage those who do not feel well and those who consider themselves high-risk to stay at home.

**As of July 2, the city of Lakeland has issued a face mask mandate. Masks must be worn upon entering the building.**

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22. In view of more people attending, we will post a "Those to Serve" list above. If you would like to serve, please let the office know.  
 - Elders -

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 16 ..... \$6,768.00  
 Aug 23 ..... \$6,648.00  
 Aug 30 .... (Building Fund) .... \$7,525.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$7,129.61

# Sweet Are Your Words

by Ingrid Stewart

*Sweet are your words to the palate of our mind  
Teaching us how to be loving, patient and kind  
Words of wisdom for us to chart the waters of life  
Building blocks to help us with problems and strife  
We need to feast on your words day by day  
So that we have a clear vision of the one true way  
Sweet are your words everlasting and true  
Pointing us to Jesus Christ and eternal life with you*

Women of the Word

Women of the Word

## What Isaiah knew about Jesus

He would be born of a virgin  
(Isaiah 7:14)

He would wear various titles  
(Isaiah 9:6-7)

He would suffer for our sins  
(Isaiah 53)

His kingdom would begin in Jerusalem  
(Isaiah 2:1-4)

He would come from the lineage of David and  
Jesse  
(Isaiah 11:1-5)

He would be God's humble servant  
(Isaiah 42:1-4)

He would proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord  
(Isaiah 61:1-3)

He would bring about a new order  
(Isaiah 65:17, 66:22)

## Jesus is Better Than:

The Angels  
(Hebrews 1:4)

Moses  
(Hebrews 3:1-6)

Old Testament Priesthood  
(Hebrews 5:1-8)

Old Testament Hope  
(Hebrews 7:19)

Every Previous Mediator  
(Hebrews 8:6)

Old Testament Sacrifices  
(Hebrews 9:23)

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

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Facebook

*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"LET  
BROTHERLY  
LOVE CONTINUE"

HEBREWS 13:1