



# The South Florida Avenue church of Christ



## MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 73 No. 44 November 3, 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.

## *Things to Consider Concerning Visitors*

Hiram Kemp

Jesus commissioned His disciples to take the good news about Him into all the world (Mark 16:15). We should be going out in our daily lives and sharing the gospel with those we come into contact with and making the most of the opportunities given to us. We should be on the proactive side of things going into our community to engage those who are lost in sin. Still, there are times when the community comes to us. We are blessed to have many visitors that frequent our assemblies on Sundays and Wednesdays. We should give careful thought and attention as to how we interact with our visitors. It is our hope that every visitor will eventually obey the gospel and become a member of God's church and so we should do all that we can to help that become a reality. We need to be sure that we serve as a good advertisement for the Lord since we are His representatives to a watching world (2 Cor. 3:2, 5:19-20). When visitors come to our assemblies, they are watching us and taking notice. We must not do anything that would be a stumbling block to their coming to Jesus, instead, we should do everything to draw them closer to Him.

### *Be Kind and Welcoming*

I once heard a football coach say, "first impressions are last impressions". Though people can change the initial impression they leave with us, it is true that we rarely forget our first encounter with someone. When visitors come to our assembly, let us be sure to show them kindness and extend a warm welcome. Everything we do is supposed to be done in love (1 Cor. 16:14). As God's elect, we are to be clothed with kindness (Col. 3:12). The aim of our charge is love from a pure heart (1 Tim. 1:5). Included in the fruit of the Spirit is kindness (Gal. 5:22). Let us be kind toward those who are gracing us with their presence, and do all that we can to show we are glad that they have chosen to worship with us.

Practically speaking, this means we should speak to visitors in the parking lot. When we get out of our cars and are approaching the doors, it would be a good idea to say hello or give a kind wave to others entering the building. As you read the gospels, take notice of how often Jesus is seen greeting individuals He came into contact with. His favorite greeting was "Peace be with you" (Luke 10:5, 24:36, John 20:19, 20:21, 20:26). Jesus was warm, inviting, and polite; we should mimic His behavior. We should not ask a visitor to get up or change seats so we can have our preferred pew (Matt. 7:12). When we see visitors approaching, we should pause our conversations to greet them. We often mention in the announcements that we are glad visitors are here and want to get to know them better after services. Our actions must show that we mean what we say (1 John 3:18). After services conclude, instead of going to our friends and those we see often, it might be wise to go a visitor and ask their name; where they are from; who invited them (if anybody); if they had any questions about the services; and let them know we hope to see them again. If we are able and they are willing, we might occasionally invite a visitor over for dinner or out to lunch (cf. Luke 14:12-14). The last thing that should be said about Christians is that we were cold, stand-offish, or rude (1 Cor. 13:4-5). Let us be warm and welcoming. Visitors may become our brethren.

## Show Them the Ropes

As those who have attended worship services frequently, we are pretty well acquainted with the order of services and how things go. Most visitors will not be as familiar with our services. When we see visitors flipping through the songbooks trying to find the song we are singing, we should be of assistance. If they come in for Bible class, let us show them where we meet or point them to the classroom for their children. We should not assume they know where to go and what to do. Recently, the men doing the scripture reading have been saying what page the passage can be found in the pew Bible. I believe this is helpful and wise seeing that many today may be unfamiliar with the Bible. As Philip helped the eunuch navigate the Book of Isaiah and ended up converting him, we must be willing to reach over and help others who need assistance as well (Acts 8:26-31).

When we transition to different items of worship, we should clearly announce what we are doing and give a concise and scriptural reason why we are doing so (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23-30; 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8). Before we launch into a prayer, it would be good to give visitors and members notice by asking them to bow in prayer with us. While some of these things may seem unnecessary or excessive, we should be willing to do these things to help others be less distracted. Let us remove every barrier we can for others who may see our worship services as foreign and strange.

## Be an Example

Our worship must be in spirit and in truth to be pleasing to God (John 4:23-24). As Paul wrote to the Corinthians about their worship service, he told them that all things should be done decently and in order (1 Cor. 14:40).

God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Cor. 14:33). Paul warned the Corinthians that if their worship was chaotic, unorganized, and confusing that unbelievers would think they were crazy (1 Cor. 14:23). However, if things were done properly, the unbeliever could be convicted, and as a result, turn to God (1 Cor. 14:24-25). While we do not possess the miraculous gifts present in the Corinthian church, we must possess the order and structure in our worship services that Paul required of them (cf. 1 Cor. 13:8-13).

Furthermore, we should worship like we want to be present and truly love our God. When visitors see members sleeping, texting, or thumbing through the Bible and not following along, what does this communicate to them? Are we not communicating to them that what we are doing does not matter to us and should not matter to them? If we are packing up as the invitation is being extended, we might be distracting someone from hearing the plan of salvation that they need to obey to be saved; we should be careful to think of others' needs and be considerate (Phil. 2:3-5). As we sing, partake of the Lord's Supper, pray, give, and follow along during the sermon, let us do it for God's glory but also with the knowledge that outsiders' eyes are on us. We must behave in such a way that God's kingdom will not be evil spoken of because of us.

We love it when visitors come to our services. Let us behave in a way that will keep them coming back. Our worship services are to focus on worshipping God, but we should also keep our eyes open for visitors among us and show them the love of Christ. We are heaven's advertisement on earth. Let us represent God properly!

## Senior Saints by John McShane

We are still looking at things that we should shed in our life. Last week, we looked at anger and if allowed to fester, can turn into hate. This week, we will look at hate. Hate is defined as feeling an intense or passionate dislike for something or someone. Hatred is a feeling. It can cause an angry or resentful emotional response that can be used against certain people or ideas. Hatred is often associated with feelings of anger, disgust, and hostility towards the source. It is normal to hate or dislike some things in life. I, for one, hate certain veggies. However, hatred can become so strong within us that it takes over our soul and spirit and becomes the guiding source for our life. This should not be so and can lead to mental, physical, and spiritual problems here on earth. Let not hate keep us from the final home in heaven. The Bible has many things to say about hate. Here are just a few.

**Proverbs 10:18** *The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.* **Proverbs 26:24-26** *Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.* **Proverbs 10:12** *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.* **Titus 3:2** *To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*

## YOUTH GROUP by Vince Daugherty

### Humble Pie

Philippians 2:5-11

Have you ever heard the phrase "someone got served a slice of humble pie?" People will say it when someone makes a mistake and has to own up to something. But, in Christ, we ought to serve ourselves humble pie. Philippians 2:8 says that Christ "humbled Himself." Even though Christ was "equal with God," He "made Himself of no reputation," took "the form of a bondservant," and "became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Because Jesus gave Himself a slice of humble pie, God "highly exalted Him." Paul said we are to take this mindset. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."



When we humble ourselves,

- 1) it is easier to make friends
- 2) we are being like Christ
- 3) God is pleased
- 4) God will exalt us at the proper time.

**I think I'm ready for a slice of pie!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt	Brenda Mask	Carol Edmonson
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt	Linda McShane	Stacey Wilson
Darlene Thompson	Bernetta Green	Ray Nashick
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson	Melody Baxter
Ciera Edwards	Brian Smith	Geny Johnson
Kathy Nester	Jim Turner	Margaret Coone
Sharon M. Washington	Annette Phillip	George Davis
Joyce Williams	Ron & Judy Ford	
Antoine & Marcella Swain		

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week.

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

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

## RESPONSES

**Jeff Stewart** responds repenting of sins that involved his anger. He requests prayers that he will not allow his anger get to him in situations. He also requests prayers for his physical health.

## OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES

**Sharon Egolf's** sister-in-law, Beth Radeka, passed away last Friday in Texas.

## UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

**Carol Edmonson** has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

**Chuck Wyatt's** emergency appendectomy went well. Sherry is staying with Evelyn while he is in the hospital.

**Brenda Mask** will begin medical treatment for her lung condition. She thanks everyone for the prayers.

**Bob Pratt** will be getting results of his biopsy sometime this week.

**George Davis** is now home from the hospital.

## BIBLE TRIVIA ON KAHOOT!

Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Ask Vince for details.

## 5th Sunday Collection

November 29th is the 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund. If you would like to give additional funds, there are designated envelopes in the foyer. Please place it in the collection plate. You can also mail or bring your contribution to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

## PRAYER LIST

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Song Leader/prayer ..... Ian Enamorado  
Devo ..... Matthew Webb  
Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

### Sunday, November 8, 2020

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
"What Everyone Must Believe About God"  
Exodus 34:6-7

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Hiram Kemp  
Q & A

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both services) ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Song/prayer before class ..... Matt Webb  
Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
A.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Alex Parramore  
Lord's Table ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Stewart

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tyler Anderson  
Lord's Table ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
Closing Prayer ..... Wesley Brunson

### TODAY - Elders/Deacons/Preachers Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer ..... Johnny Singh  
Devo ..... Gavin Williams  
Closing Prayer ..... Edward Atkins

### ASSEMBLING UPDATE

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

*The City of Lakeland discontinued their mandatory face mask mandate on Oct. 5. However, to side with caution, we are still requiring masks to be worn upon entering the building as we have since July 2.*

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

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 18	\$7,961.00
Oct. 25	\$5,484.00
Nov. 1	\$8,422.75
<b>Contribution Average</b>	<b>\$7,137.34</b>

# Beacon of Hope

Will you become a beacon of hope for someone? Pointing them towards the Light.

Will you become a beacon of hope for lost souls? Telling them that Jesus died for the sins of the world.

Will you become the beacon of hope for your family? Living a life of example in word, thought and deed.

Will you be that beacon that help others to find their way home?

Lovingly encouraging, teaching, and inviting the lost to live for Jesus.

Let your light so shine that others will see Jesus in you!



**Personal Evangelism**  
**SEMINAR**  
**NOVEMBER 16-19**

TRAINING THE SAVED TO TEACH THE LOST

## MONDAY, NOV. 16

6:30 PM: Let's Get Motivated

7:30 PM: Let's Stay with the Message

## TUESDAY, NOV. 17

11:30 AM: Why Some Don't Obey the Gospel

12:30 AM: What About My Family

6:30 PM: Let's Talk About the Manner

7:30 PM: Let's Apply The Model

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

11:30 AM: What about my Baptism

12:30 AM: What About Instrumental Music

6:30 PM: Let's Make the Application

7:30 PM: Lesson 1: Back to the Authority of the Bible

## THURSDAY, NOV. 19

6:30 PM: Lesson 2: Back to the Church of the Bible

7:30 PM: Lesson 3: Back to the Salvation of the Bible

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

Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto: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

**"LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"**

*MATTHEW 5:16*