

# The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**

The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 73 No. 41 11-12-19

## ELDERS

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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.

**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.

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## YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



IN  
SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

## Questions From The Beginning

Hiram Kemp

The Bible is a book full of answers. The Bible furnishes us with everything we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). However, the Bible is also a book filled with questions. Sometimes there are questions asked by those who feel as if God has deserted them (Psa. 10:1). God had a host of questions from Job when He appeared out of the whirlwind after Job complained about His absence (Job 38:1-3). The Pharisees had questions for Jesus, and Jesus had questions for them that they would not answer (Matt. 21:23-27).

The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. The word Genesis means beginning. As we open our Bibles to the first book in the Bible, we read of the beginning of the world, the beginning of God's fellowship with man, the beginning of sin, and the beginning of questions. There are several important questions asked in the first few chapters of this book that still need to be answered today.

## Where Are You?

After Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, He confronts them in the garden (Gen. 3:1-6). God comes to them, but he is not welcomed by Adam and Eve. Instead, they hide from him as their guilt consumes them (Gen. 3:7-8). God asked Adam, "Where are you?" God was not asking Adam where he was because He could not find him. God created the garden and all of its intricacies (Gen. 1:31). God knows everything and does not need anyone to teach him anything (Rom. 11:33-36). So why was He asking Adam where he was? He wants Adam to examine himself and see what he had allowed sin to do to him and to his relationship with God. Adam who had once enjoyed genuine and uninterrupted fellowship with God now is hiding in shame from his maker.

This question is important and still needs to be answered today. Each individual should take careful consideration of where he stands spiritually. Are you in Christ where all spiritual blessings are present (Eph. 1:3)? Are you walking in the light with Jesus and being cleansed by his blood (1 Jn. 1:7)? Are you in the church that Jesus is coming back to save (Eph. 5:23)? Are you involved in works of the flesh that will keep you from the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21)? The question of where we are does not relate to our geographic location. Instead, it relates to our spiritual location. Are we on the Lord's side or on the side of the Devil (Exod. 32:26)? Adam was ashamed of what he had done and where it placed him. He claimed that he was afraid and his fear was no doubt caused by his sinful actions (Gen. 3:10). If this

question causes fear in our hearts, we can repent and realign our lives and leave fear behind. God wants us where he is, and this happens as we reorient our lives to have them shaped by his word.

## Who Told You That?

The second question that God asked Adam was, “Who told you that you were naked?” (Gen. 3:11). God is getting at the heart of Adam’s disobedience and trying to get him to see that the reason he realizes he is naked is because he has sinned. Adam had been naked his entire life up to this point, and it never bothered him, but now he is ashamed of it. Adam was not getting his information from God. Adam was getting his information from himself and trying to maneuver in the way that he thought was best.

Today in religion there is a lot of information being passed around. Many never stop to consider who is telling them the things they are believing. Paul was disappointed in the churches of Galatia as they were being moved away from the true gospel due to the influence of false teachers (Gal. 1:6-9). Paul asked them who bewitched them (Gal. 3:1). He wanted to know if they received the Spirit by the hearing of faith or by the works of the law (Gal. 3:2). Paul asked them how they began in the Spirit and now were trying to be made perfect through the Law of Moses (Gal. 3:3). Through these questions, Paul was hoping to get these Christians to see their inconsistency.

We might ask similar questions concerning some issues that come up in our own day. Who told you that you can drink as long as you don’t get drunk (Eph. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)? Who told you that one church was as good as another (Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 4:4)? Who told you that evening worship and Wednesday night services were optional (Heb. 10:25)? Who told you that as long as your heart is in it, God doesn’t care how you worship (Matt. 15:7-9; John 4:23-24)? There are many more questions that we could ask here. Nevertheless, the point is we should consult the Word of God and not the words of men.

## Have You Disobeyed God?

God asked Adam if he had eaten of the tree that He told him not to eat from (Gen. 3:11, cf. Gen. 2:16-17). God simply asked Eve, “What have you done?” (Gen. 3:13). God is doing all that he can to get Adam and Eve to admit their wrongdoing, but they fail to do so. They shift the blame toward one another and eventually to the serpent. God knows that they have disobeyed, and he lays out their punishment. The world is forever changed because of their disobedience (Rom. 5:12). They are kicked out of the garden, and they will die (Gen. 3:22-24, 5:5). All of this happened because they disobeyed God.

While every hardship in our lives is not a direct correlation to our disobedience, sometimes we suffer because we are disobeying God. Saul learned the hard way that to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22). Our love of God is seen in our keeping his commandments (1 John 2:3-5, 5:3). When we are in uncomfortable circumstances, we should ask if the reason we are in the particular position is because we have disobeyed God. Every act of disobedience comes with our price tag. We will not be sinless but we can make wiser decisions. We need to look inwardly and be sure that our disobedience has not complicated our lives.

## Where Is Your Brother?

Cain kills his brother Abel because his works were evil and his brother’s works were righteous (Gen. 4:1-7; cf. 1 John 3:12). God appears to Cain and asks him, “Where is your brother?” (Gen. 4:9). Cain avoids the question and shirking his responsibility to his brother. Abel’s blood was crying from the ground, and Cain’s nonchalant attitude could not silence it (Gen. 4:10).

Where is our brother? Where is our sister? We should be sure that if they have strayed from the Lord we are working to bring them back (James 5:19-20). If they are struggling and overtaken in a fault, we should be helping them to overcome (Gal. 6:1-2). If they are rejoicing, we should rejoice as well (Rom. 12:15). If our brother or sister is suffering, we should experience their suffering with them (1 Cor. 12:26). God wants us to be our brother’s keeper and to be concerned about where they stand. This was true for the first set of brothers, and it is also true for us today. (*continued on bottom of page 4*)

**Save the Date  
Jan. 20-24, 2020  
FSOP Lectureship  
The Promise  
Of Redemption  
Make Plans To  
Attend This Study!**

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Cierra Edwards is having further testing done. Ginny Hamby, Staci Smith, Ellen Shearer, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Denise Gulizia, Chuck (hand surgery) & Evelyn Wyatt, Sharon Mathis-Washington, Debbie Bush and Ginny Johnson.

**Shut In Members:** Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Tanya Irizarry, Corey Perry (friend of Stacey Paulin) and Peggy Nabors cancer has returned (Kim Faneuf's mother)

## Upcoming Events

**Friday November 15th:** Youth Group Thankful Meal at Rick & Stephanie Kenyon's at 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 16th:** Youth group progressive dinner at Venice church of Christ Nov. 15th-17th: Griffin Road church of Christ Ladies Retreat in Brooksville, FL.

**Sunday, November 17:** Teacher Workshop at 4:00 p.m. in library

**Saturday, November 23:** Parents meeting, 9:30 a.m. in fellowship hall.

**Sunday, November 24:** Men's Training class, 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, November 24:** Lads2Leaders Work Day, 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 30:** Youth group yard work day. See Vince for details.

## Christmas Stockings

We will be making Christmas stockings for the Women's Abuse Shelter again this year. Please see Rene' Bingle if you would like to help with this project. A list of suggested items will be on the bulletin board.

## Congratulations

Josh, Marissa and Big Sister, Maddox, welcomed Tanner Jade on Sunday, November 10, 2019. She was 6 lbs, 6 ozs and 19.5 in. long. Marissa and Tanner are doing well. Congratulations to the Estridge and Paulin families!

## Thank You Notes

Thank you for your calls, visits, and prayers. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.  
Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt

I want to thank everyone for cards and calls while I was in the hospital for my heart surgery. I am doing great. Bruce & Dolores Longfellow

Dear church family, Thanks to all for the cards, calls, and prayers during our recent health problems. Thank you also to those who brought the wonderful meals. We are so blessed to be a part of this family at South Florida Ave.

In Christian love, Scott & Staci Smith family.

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, calls, and food during my hospital stay and my recovery at home. We are grateful for our Christian family.

In Christian love, Bob & Bea Pratt

## Placed Membership

Annette Phillip has met with our elders and has placed membership with us here. Please introduce yourself to Annette and let's welcome her into the South Florida Ave. family.

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Johnny Davidson, Brownlow-Dindy family, T. Jean Tomlinson, Mary Moore, Tiffany, Megan & Sam Hash, Margaret Khoury, Charles Brown, Albert Bess, David & Carole Wy, Antoine & Marcell Swain.

### Communion to Shut-Ins

Nov. 17th .....	Van Allen
Nov. 24th .....	Van Allen
Dec. 1st .....	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 8th .....	Youth Group

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Charles Paulin

David Williams..... Table ..... Fred Strickland

Gavin Williams ..... Assist ..... Matt Willcut

**Sunday, November 17, 2019**

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Paul Romine

Prayer..... John McShane

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife

Announcements..... Wayne Shearer

Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix

Opening Prayer..... Ken Walker

Sermon..... Hiram Kemp

Closing Prayer..... Kyle Faneuf

Greeters..... Walker/Kenyon

Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty

Opening Prayer..... Rick Kenyon

Sermon..... Hiram Kemp

Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

Song Leader..... Paul Romine

Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby

Closing Prayer..... John McShane

### November Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

**Sunday, November 24, 2019**

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class ..... Tucker Sweeney

Prayer..... Edward Atkins

Sound Booth..... Tucker Sweeney

Announcements..... Wayne Shearer

Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix

Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle

Sermon..... Hiram Kemp

Closing Prayer..... David Anderson

Greeters..... Pratt/Smith

Cards..... Longfellow/Anderson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty

Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby

Sermon..... Hiram Kemp

Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

**Wednesday, November 27, 2019**

Song Leader ..... Steve Hunley

Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle

Closing Prayer..... David Deal

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct. 20 .....	\$5,838.50
Oct. 27 .....	\$6,254.46
Nov. 03 .....	\$8,476.66
Nov. 10 .....	\$6,139.25
Contribution Average .....	\$6,551.95

## New Member Spotlight

# Dawn Ellison



Dawn was born in Prineville, Oregon, and also lived in California, Washington, Iowa, and Kentucky. As a child, she wanted to be a nurse/care giver. Her first job was at a dry cleaners. She has visited Canada and Mexico. Her favorite season is Fall. In her free time, she likes to sew, crochet, go shopping, visit with friends, and put together puzzles. She is good at helping people. Her most satisfying accomplishment is getting her high school diploma. The best advice she's been given is "Do unto others as you expect them to do unto you." Welcome, Dawn!

## Member Spotlight

# Nona Williams



Nona was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, and also lived in Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. As a child, she wanted to be a social worker and track runner. Her first job was as a clerk at Spiegel Catalog Company in Chicago. She is retired and a widow. In her free time, she likes to do daily Bible verse word search puzzles. She is good at helping others. Her most satisfying accomplishment is being baptized into Christ. The best advice she's been given is "Be kind to one another." She has 1 son, 4 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

## Questions From The Beginning (continued) Conclusion

The Book of Genesis gives us a lot of answers. The first few chapters have eternal questions that the rest of the Bible helps us answer. God often teaches through questions, if we read his Word closely enough. The Bible is a book of answers, and it is also a book of questions.

### God's Plan of Salvation

**Hear God's word (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)**

**Believe in Jesus as God's Son (Jn. 8:24)**

**Repent of Past Sins (Lk. 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31)**

**Confess Faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10)**

**Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins (Acts 2:38)**

**Live Faithfully by God's Word (Rom. 12:1-2)**



### THE DOCTOR JOHN G. LESTER HOUSE ESTABLISHED 1920

The house is on the National Register of Historic Homes

In 2019 this house was completely renovated and brought up to existing building codes thru the generosity of Mr. Gregory Fancelli.

The work was done by craftsmen from Albert Moore Construction

Rededicated in October of 2019

by the Elders and Congregation of the

South Florida Avenue Church of Christ.

David Anderson, George French, Bobby Sheumaker Elders

Pictured to the left are Brian (FSOP director, upper right) and the first three students to live in the renovated house: Quentin, Gavin, and Edward. Again, we thank the Lord, our eldership, and the South Florida Avenue church members for making this possible! Please continue praying for this transition!