



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 46 November 16, 2021

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

## OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

## EMAIL

[SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

## 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.

## WEB PAGE

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

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

## 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.

## PUTTING OUR FULL FAITH IN GOD

James 1:6-7

Joshua Cantrell

As we walk with God and commune with God, there is nothing more important than our faith. James, in his book, forces us to focus on the importance of "Putting our full faith in God." The inspired writer would say, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let him not think that he shall receive anything from the Lord." (Jam. 1:6-7). Contextually, James is addressing the churches generally, rather than a particular church, or individuals. The "twelve tribes" would be Jewish Christians who had been scattered aboard among the various nations. We can note the difference between James' concern for the Jewish Christians and Paul's emphasis upon the Gentiles.

The Bible makes it clear that we have to trust God and believe Him at His word. The Bible has much emphasis on faith, what it is, why it needs to be applied, and how it can grow. We walk by faith (2 For. 5:7), and we are justified by faith (Rom. 5:1). The Hebrews writer says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6). Our very existence is based upon our faith in God. Our faith need not waver. It needs to be courageous, and it needs to be fireproof. From our previous articles, remember the words of Job, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 23:10).

The reality is sometimes our faith is not where it should be. Because of trials and tribulations in life, our faith is often tested. It is often shaken from without and within. Our faith needs to weather the storms of life and be fully dependent on God. Often, Jesus put His disciples through tests in life, not to make them feel bad but to strengthen their faith. A faith not tested is a faith not worth having. We are blessed today to have the word of God. We can go to the source and know what faith is and how it can become stronger. There can be no doubt that after people become a Christians, they must understand they are to hold faithfully in living the Christian life unto the end of their earthly journey.

The New Testament is full of exhortation and encouragement to children of God who endure and press on in living the faithful life (Phil. 3:13-15). Our eternal salvation is directly dependent on our faithfulness. The Apostle John would say to the church at Smyrna, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10). Faith is a five-letter word that is easy to say but often hard to live. Having an enduring faith is essential for our salvation. It is also significant in seeing us through the trials ahead. Faith is a deep abiding confidence in God rather than oneself. Faith is trust, the assurance that God will deliver His promises to us. God's promises are eternal - He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2).

## PUTTING OUR FULL FAITH IN GOD BEGINS WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

In the world today, many put their faith in things that will not sustain them unto the end. The Bible gives us hope and confidence so faith's foundation can be firm. The word of God will endure forever (1 Pet. 1:25). James would encourage us as well, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25). The Bible is the only book

that gives us a reason to live, and it is the only book that gives us hope for dying. It's the only revelation we have of God, and it is the only revelation we have from God. It was written by forty different writers, over 1500 years, different languages, different cultures. Many were dead before the others started writing. Yet, it sounds as if it was written by one author. There are many misconceptions about faith and the word of God today. Many put their faith in miracles and signs, personal experience, faith of a loved one. Many even put their faith in the elders or preachers at their congregations. True faith can only be produced by the word of God. Paul would say, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed, from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). Paul would also say, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Faith is the foundation for which everything connects in our Christianity.

The word of God must have first place in our lives. Jesus stated, "Know that ye are Abraham's seed, but ye seek to kill me because my word hath no place in you" (John 8:37). He would go on to say in the same chapter and context, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). A faith that endures is a faith that has as its foundation the word of God.

## PUTTING OUR FULL FAITH IN GOD BEING COMMITTED TO GOD

After putting our full faith in the word of God, our next step should be in our commitment to God. The church at Laodicea had many problems with their faith beginning to waver. We understand through scripture that when you are faithful to God, He will take care of you. Christ would say, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16). God encourages us to be faithful to Him always. Jesus would say, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22). Paul would say to Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7-8). Commitment goes beyond coming to worship services on Sunday and Bible class on Wednesday. Our lives have to be committed to doing the will of the Father in our everyday lives. His walk should be our walk - His love should be our love (1 John. 1:7).

*"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Jesus*

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

#### Perception vs. Reality, pt. 2

When we are first introduced to Jacob's favorite son Joseph he is given dreams of greatness (Genesis 37). He dreamed that he was in the field with his brothers binding sheaves of grain. As they were working, his sheave stood up straight as his brother's sheaves bowed before his. His brothers hated him for his dreams. One day when Joseph went to check on his brothers, they took him, stripped him of his coat of many colors, and threw him in a pit. While in the pit I wonder if Joseph thought back to the dreams he had? It did not seem like any of the things he saw would turn out like his dream. Little did he know, his brother's mistreatment would be used by God to eventually place Joseph as ruler over all Egypt. While ruler, Joseph's brothers, unknowingly bowed their faces before Joseph to beg and barter for food to keep their family from starvation. Joseph's brother's meant it for evil against him, but God meant it for good (Genesis 50:20). Keep the faith even when you find yourself thrown in a pit.

### SENIOR SAINTS

by John McShane

This week we look at "make no graven images." Here is the definition of a graven image: "A graven image is an idol—an object or image, such as a statue, that is worshiped as the representation of a deity or god." The word graven means "carved" or "sculpted." Graven image refers to some kind of object or image that has been made to represent a god." Having been brought up in the Catholic church, I know that they have many statues of "patron saints" that people pray to for different reasons. There are many grottoes or religious shrines throughout the world that people make pilgrimages to offer prayers and hope for a miraculous outcome to their prayer requests. Another example is the Muslim holy city of Mecca where devout followers of that religion are expected to go at least once in their lifetime. In Acts 17: 29 we read, "**For as much then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.**" The meaning is clear: those who worship the Lord should not make or adopt any other object to worship because no aspect of the creation could adequately stand in for God.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Carol Edmonson - health  
 Bernetta Green - health  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Kathy Nester - eye surgery  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Flo Duffy - eye problems  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack  
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg  
 Katrina Greene - knee replacement  
 Virginia Walker - sprained muscles

### Recent requests:

Davion Chisholm - not feeling well

**(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

Joyce Burbage      Carol Eason      Ellen Shearer

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

## Updates & Prayer requests

**Vanessa & Jessica Palmer** asks for prayers about Vanessa's health and her recovery.

The elders and deacons are requesting that each family complete the survey for the Building Project. They can be found on the foyer table or can be emailed to you.

## "Spiritual Questions with Scriptural Answers"

We now have a new Q&A page on our website. You are invited to submit spiritually related questions to have scripturally answered. A new question & answer will be posted weekly then archived for later study.

*Thank you for visiting*



Cherry, Solomon, Desiree & Brianna Green  
 Leah Lobban      Brandi Brown  
 Albert Bess



### Pantry item request:

#### BOTTLED WATER

To be used for a service project in December:  
 handing out water to participants of



**Walk Out of Darkness 5K - Suicide Prevention & Awareness**  
 If you'd like to help, please see Rick Kenyon

## PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane  
 Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Jim Turner - health, tests  
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annette Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Darlene Thompson - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - home recovering  
 Stacey Wilson - knee replacement

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Devo ..... David Williams  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer

### Sunday, November 21, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Vince Daugherty  
 "We Are Not of Those Who Draw Back"  
 Hebrews 10:39

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Jonny Singh  
 "We Are More Than Conquerors"  
 Romans 8:37

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... David Deal  
 Greeter ..... Bingle  
 Song/prayer before class ..... David Williams  
 Announcements ..... David Anderson  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Lou Van Allen  
 Lord's Table ..... Andre Medley  
 Closing Prayer ..... Josh Potvin

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Olivia Smith  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Matt Webb  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Lord's Table ..... Andre Medley  
 Closing Prayer ..... Zach Jones

### Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Announcements ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Devo ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

## Upcoming Events

### November

14-17 Fall gospel mtg  
 16 - FSOP Ladies class, 7p  
 17 - Senior Saints trip  
 19 - Thankful meal, 6pm  
 20 - Men's breakfast at SFA, 9am  
 21 - Teachers' meeting, 4:30

### December

1 - Quarterly challenge  
 4 - Youth group caroling & parties  
 5 - Service project  
 12 - L2L workday  
 18 - Wreaths Across America



## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 31 ..... \$8,024.00  
 Nov 7 ..... \$6,818.00  
 Nov 14 ..... \$6,542.00  
 Contribution Average ..... \$6,933.89

"Words are like bees - some create honey and others leave a sting." What do your words leave behind? As Christians, our words should always be "with grace, seasoned with salt" (Col. 4:6). As we learned at our recent ladies day, "kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body" (Prov. 16:24). A person's words can be life-giving water or they can turn a person away from ever wanting to hear about God and His blessings. Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth my brothers and sisters these things should not be (James 3:10). Ephesians 4:29 sums it up by saying "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

As I read this quote, I realized though that to an unbeliever, a Christian's words might leave them a sting even though they spoke in a kind fashion. In Psalm 38, we see that knowledge of sin can cause pain when one realizes that they are in an unsaved condition. Hopefully, as with a bee sting, we immediately seek relief from the pain. They too will seek relief from the sting of sin and turn to Christ by obeying His commands (Luke 11:28) and being immersed in the refreshing, healing, life-giving waters of baptism (Mark 16:16), then to rise to live a life free of the burden and pain of sin (Rom. 8:1-4).

Yes! Our words are powerful - choose yours wisely!

## Christ's Church and Salvation

## South Florida Ave. church of Christ

invites you to our

## Fall Gospel Meeting

# November 14 - 17, 2021

Each lesson of the gospel meeting is live-streamed and can be accessed on our website or YouTube channel



**Robby Eversole**

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

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

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



### South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE STRONG, AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE; WAIT FOR THE LORD!"**

*Psalm 27:14*