

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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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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IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

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

How Senior Saints Bless the Church

Hiram Kemp

As long as God's people are alive, they have value to add to his kingdom. There is no such thing as retiring from the Lord's work. Even after Joshua had conquered much of Canaan and had done great work, there was much work left to be done in his later years (Josh. 13:1). Likewise, in the church, those known as "senior saints," or more mature members, add much value to the church. Many church programs are designed to target small children and young families, but we must be careful not to overlook the contribution made by older Christians. Paul told Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his youth, and he also wanted Timothy to respect his elders (1 Tim. 4:12; 5:1-2). I want to highlight a few ways the senior saints are a blessing to every congregation, especially here at South Florida Avenue.

Blessing Through Example

Christians are to mark those who are good examples and follow in their footsteps (Phil. 3:17; Heb. 6:12). When we look at the work done by others over a number of decades, it is encouraging to see their dedicated faithfulness. Many senior saints have dealt with health problems, life struggles, yet have remained committed to the cause of Christ (Phil. 2:25-30). As younger couples look at the marital faithfulness of older couples, it sets a pattern that they can follow in the future (1 Cor. 11:1).

Sometimes, all that some of the older members of the congregation can do is be present in the assembly. Some seniors will bemoan the fact that they are unable to be as physically involved as they once were. Yet, their physical presence alone helps to provoke others unto good works (Heb. 10:24-25). When other members of the church see their older brethren make the effort to come and worship God, it removes excuses and invigorates their faith (1 Thess. 3:8). Senior saints must never underestimate the example they set for those who are younger. Sound doctrine involves the younger generation learning from the older generation (Tit. 2:1-8). There are many ways that learning can take place, and example is one of those ways. Senior saints bless the church by showing everyone that how we finish matters just as much as how we start in Christ (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Blessing Through Energetic Service

The senior saints at SFA are among the busiest members of the church. Like the church in Jerusalem in the early stages of Christianity, they maximize opportunities to fellowship with each other (Acts 2:42). They are involved in putting "blessing

bags” together for those in need. Also, they go on trips together and have other opportunities where they seek to learn from each other and others. When Caleb was eighty-five years old, he claimed he possessed the same strength that he had when he was forty years old (Josh. 14:6-13). The senior saints accomplish much as they use their energy to serve others and let their lights shine for Christ (Mt. 5:16).

Christians are always to be abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). Every generation of the church should figure out the ways they can serve the Lord and make the most of it. Those who are older should not feel as if they have nothing to contribute and thus leave all the work to the younger Christians. While many of the older Christians have sacrificed much for Christ, there is still much work to be done (Josh. 13:1). Paul referred to himself as Paul “the aged” and he was still writing, encouraging, and serving the Lord (Philemon 9).

When older men stand to lead the congregation in prayer or serve on the Lord’s table for communion or collection, it shows that they desire to use their energy for God’s glory (1 Cor. 1:31). Other senior saints are involved in greeting visitors or caravanning to gospel meetings in the area. Christianity is for both young and old alike. As we evaluate ourselves, we realize that we all have something to contribute to the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-24). When we do not use our talents, energy, and ability, we rob the church of what it needs to operate at its full potential. Senior saints should be encouraged to continue serving because the church is blessed by their service.

Blessing Through Experience

There are few things that are as valuable as experience. While one can read books and benefit from other people’s knowledge, we cannot read and borrow other people’s wisdom. Wisdom comes from living day to day and putting knowledge into practice. Senior saints have done just that, as many of them have walked with the Lord for a considerable amount of time (Prov. 16:31; 20:29). We must not push senior saints to the back as we become excited about all that the younger generation is doing. We must wisely learn how to work together in harmony as God desires. The senior saints must not simply be tolerated, but they should be consulted and listened to as we glean from their years of experience in the faith. The old law called for the honoring of elders and the New Testament does the same (Lev. 19:32; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:5).

Seniors must not hoard all of their experiences. They should readily discuss with the younger generations the ways that God has kept his promises and how they have seen his providence in action (Rom. 8:28). They should warn the younger generation of pitfalls that they stumbled into in order to prevent them from doing the same (1 Cor. 10:12-13). The primary source of wisdom is scripture, but it is also wise to consult those who have spent time in scripture and have lived it. We can learn much from them (2 Tim. 3:16-17). As God blesses congregations with seniors, we must be good stewards of that blessing. Many speak of the “greying” of the church in a negative fashion. However, a congregation with seniors shows a legacy of faithfulness that should be respected and cherished. Paul spoke of honoring those who were in Christ before him, and we should do the same (Rom. 16:7).

Conclusion

I am thankful for the senior saints at SFA. I am encouraged by their example and dedication to the Lord and his cause. Every member in the Lord’s kingdom has value, and we need to remember this. Senior saints are valuable blessings to the congregation because their wisdom and experience helps God’s people avoid senseless errors (1 Kgs. 12:1-15). May we give honor to whom honor is due and encourage each other in continued faithfulness to our master (Rom. 13:7). Ω

Each Member of the Body of Christ Is as Important as All Other Members

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where were the body? ²⁰But now are they many members, yet but one body. ²¹And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. (1 Cor. 12:12-21)

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Joyce Burbage fell and broke her hip. She is at LRMC in room 524. Peyton Willcut, Woody Khoury, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford, Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr. (Neil Entwistle's father) and Peggy Nabors.

Upcoming Events

June 20th-22nd, Weeki Wachee K-5 Camp for ages 5yr thru 5th grade. Register online at wwcc.camp/k5-weekend. Contact the Tagtow's for any questions at 863-412-0022 or 863-286-5811.

June 30th-July 6th, Central Florida Bible Camp for ages 10-18. If you are interested in sending your child, please see Vince Daugherty.

Saturday, July 14th Celebrate Summer Fellowship Cookout with water games and fun for the whole family! More details coming soon:)

Comforted to Comfort Others

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Cor. 1:3,4)

Sympathy

We grieve with Joyce at the passing of her beloved husband, our brother in Christ, Dick Burbage on Monday, June 10th. The funeral was held Friday, June 14th at Lakeland Funeral Home. Please keep Joyce and family in your prayers.

Response

June Cooper came forward Sunday requesting prayer and asking forgiveness for missing worship when she could have been present. Let's encourage our sister.

Thank You

Thank you church family for the surprise graduation/birthday celebration on behalf of me and Brittani. We are thankful for the congregation here and appreciate the love and generosity we are shown. In Christian Love, Hiram & Brittani

Visitors

Mr. & Mrs. David Kelly, Denise Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Brown and children, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Childers, Mr. & Mrs. John Glass, Heather Glass, Margaret Khoury, Sherman Williams, Lucas Shearer, Johnny Davidson, and Stacey Wilson.

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

June 23rd.....David and Jim
June 30th.....Volunteers Needed

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

June

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Tim Croson

David Williams..... **Table** Charles Paulin
Fred Strickland..... **Assist** Matt Willcut

Sunday, June 23, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Tucker Sweeney
Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... David Anderson
Greeters..... Longfellow/Anderson
Cards..... Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Phil Fife

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Song Leader..... Steve Hunley
Opening Prayer..... Jeff Bingle
Closing Prayer..... David Deal

June- Clean-up Wayne Shearer (L-P)

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

Sunday, June 30, 2019

9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Faneuf
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Greeters..... Williams/Sweeney
Cards..... Willcut Boys

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Song Leader..... Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 26.....\$5,515.32
June 2.....\$8,170.90
June 9.....\$5,107.45
June 16.....\$4,857.11
Contribution Average.....\$6,516.21



Member Spotlight

Brenda Mask



Brenda was born in Plant City, and she has lived in this area most of her life, though she also lived in Potasi, Missouri. As a child, she wanted to be a hairdresser. Her first job was at a smoke shop in downtown Lakeland. She enjoys family time. Her most satisfying accomplishment is rearing the children with whom God blessed her. The best advice she's been given was by her dad: "A principle never changes — if it's wrong at 16, it's wrong at 60." She adores her 5 children (1 deceased), 11 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 7 great, great grandchildren.

Member Spotlight

Jeanelle Thrower



Jeanelle was born in Tennessee and also lived in Virginia before moving to Florida. As a child, she wanted to be a telephone operator. Her first job was as a sales lady at Woolworth. She is currently a homemaker. She has visited Scotland. In her free time, she likes to read, spend time with family, and shop. Her most satisfying accomplishment is seeing her husband, Myron, become a Christian. The best advice she's been given is "Remember what and who you are and try your best to live." She has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild.



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 . . .

Beginning this month, a designated elder will assist the preacher with invitation responses, pray for those responding, and extend a Wednesday night invitation that month. We love and appreciate our elders for wanting us to know them better as they shepherd the flock here and bring us closer to Jesus!



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE & APPRECIATION

These are some of those we are helping in the social assistance housing in Russia as Dub Hill reports every year. Pictured are book markers our youth group made for them. They say, "Thank You!" May God be glorified as we shine the light!



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

We are **A MISSION-MINDED CHURCH!**

In addition to the large-group mission trip to Peru, several of the members here are going on other campaigns. **Dee & Alex** are in the Philippines. Keep up with their progress on www.ParramoresInPI.blogspot.com. **Casey** will also be going to Panama, Lord willing, June 21-29. Let us continue to pray for their safety and the Gospel's free course into good and honest hearts!