



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 14 April 2, 2024

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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.....6:30 p.m.

## WEB PAGE

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

Find us on  
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## HOME OF

*Florida School of Preaching*  
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD  
*Casey & Emily Paulin*

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill ..... Russia  
Don Iverson ..... India  
Marc Veary ..... Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald ..... Scotland  
J. Paguaga ..... Honduras  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## The Precious Value of Children

Brian R. Kenyon

Last weekend was very encouraging for those who attended the Lads to Leaders (L2L) meeting in Orlando. SFA had seven children participating (see next page). Events like this remind us of the value God places on children. A glimpse into this value can be seen from Psalm 127:3-5, and applications can be made to the church, the family of God (1 Tim. 3:15).

First, children are a blessing. “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward” (Ps. 127:3). The parallelism with “heritage [gift, NAS95]” and “reward” shows that children are a reward, not according to a duty-bound, forced demand but according to their cooperative free-will, which implies proper training (Eph. 6:1-4). While true in the physical family, the church is also blessed by God with scripturally trained children in its assemblies, especially when those young people are also in God’s book of life (Phil. 4:3). Thank you, parents and children, who follow God’s plan (Col. 3:20-21). You are a blessing!

Second, children are strength. “Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth” (Ps. 127:4). In an era where each village or city had to defend itself against enemies, the more “arrows in ... hand,” the greater a stand could be taken. “Children of one’s youth” refers to children born while parents are young. These children will be old enough to provide strength and security when the parents are old (which illustrates another aspect of why the prodigal son’s leaving his father was tragic, Lk. 15:11-13). While children provide strength to the physical family, they also make the local church stronger by their good example and encouragement (Mt. 18:3-4; 1 Tim. 4:12). Thank you, children, for the strength you contribute to this congregation!

Third, children bring happiness. “Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate” (Ps. 127:5). With a “quiver full” of children, the happiness is twofold: (1) the father would not be ashamed; and (2) the father would be defended. The plurals “they ... their” (singulars in ESV) still speak of the father but in general terms to include all fathers. “Enemies in the gate” refer to adversaries in a legal [Continued on page 3]



The 2024 SFA Lads 2 Leaders Group

# Lads 2 Leaders

Teaching students to do "Bible things in Bible ways"

From the L2L website: Since our foundation in 1968, the mission of Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes (L2L) has been to develop youth into Christian leaders. From a group of eight boys in that first year to more than 20,000 today, our mission has remained the same.

L2L is the oldest and largest leadership training program used by the churches of Christ today. It is a tool churches of Christ can use to help prepare their youth and adults for service in the Kingdom of God and help develop their overall leadership potential. L2L is more than just attending a youth rally or participating in a Bible Bowl. We offer a variety of Bible-based class materials and events for preschoolers through adults.

The goal of L2L is to provide churches of Christ with effective, year-round leadership training tools that can be adapted to individual congregational needs and help local congregations instill the Word of God into youth and adults to ensure they stand firm in the faith.

## SFA's Involvement 2024

**Bible Bowl**, for the first time in several years, SFA had a Bible Bowl team consisting of **Landan**, **Peyton**, **Hannah**, and **June**. The rules require the team to compete at the level of the oldest child on the team. Thus, middle-schoolers, **Hannah** and **June**, competed against high-schoolers ... and they held their own! Great job, team!

**Special Recognition:** **Landan** received recognition for being awarded the Jack Zorn Bible scholarship for Faulkner University. He was one of only two who received such recognition in Orlando. Great job, **Landan**!

**Bible Reading** is for children K-2. Participants, grouped in rooms according to gender, read a passage of Scripture and are critiqued on their reading ability, eye contact, proper inflection, etc. This definitely helps them deal with "stage fright" in all areas of life. **Hailee** and **Maddox** participated in this.

**Art Says It** contains several categories of art where participants can express the "I Am Not Ashamed" theme through drawings, photographs, scrapbooks, etc. **Maddox** participated. **Hannah** placed third in drawing. **June** was a finalist in drawing and placed third in posters.

**Songs of Praise** is song leading for girls in assemblies where only females are present (except for nursing baby boys and mom-dependent male toddlers). In the K-2 category (which is not judged), **Hailee** participated. **June** placed third in her very large age-group.

**Song Leading** is for boys. **Peyton** participated in this.

**Winner's Circle Song Leading** is for boys who in previous years placed first in their age group. **Landan**, who placed first last year in eleventh grade, participated in the 10th – 12th grade winner's circle bracket.

**Girls Speech** is done in assemblies where only females are present (with the exception of boy babies and toddlers, if necessitated). **Hannah** participated. **June** placed third in her very large age-group.

**Boys Speech** are sermons that are 4-6 minutes in length. **Landan** and **Peyton** participated in this, and if it weren't for nervousness that cut his lesson way short, one of these young men may have placed in the top three.

**Keepers** is a year-around program for girls where they learn to become adept at filling their scriptural role, develop confidence, and leadership skills. **Hannah** and **June** participated in this.



## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Fran Gabaldon will be having further testing and surgery in upcoming weeks, Jeff Bingle had a PET scan last week, will be having more tests in the near future. Patty Van Allen is not feeling well. Stacey Wilson is in LRH for high blood pressure and AFIB. Terry, a relative of the Long's had a kidney transplant and now has an infection.

**Continual:** Debbie Bush (struggles); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Jim Turner (health)

**Shut-ins:** Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

**Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.**

Scheduled to Serve in April	
Designated Elder	David Anderson
<b>Wednesday, April 3, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Kyle Faneuf
Devotional / Invitation	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Joseph Faulk
<b>Sunday, April 7, 2024</b>	
10:30 am Sermon	Rick Kenyon
6:00 pm Sermon	Jarred Spivey
"Have the Mind of Christ" Phil. 2:5-8	
<b>Those to Serve 10:30 am</b>	
Greeters	Nona/Janis
Song/Pray before class	Stacey Paulin
Announcements (both)	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Jimmy Sweeney
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	N/A
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
<b>Those to Serve 6:00 pm</b>	
Greeters	Fifes
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Roberson Louissaint
Closing Prayer	Tim Croson
<b>Wednesday, April 10, 2024</b>	
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Roberson Louissaint
Closing Prayer	Allen Grimes
<b>How We Are Giving</b>	
March 17	\$6,368.00
March 24	\$4,882.00
March 31	\$9,625.00
Contribution Average	\$6,994.64
Weekly Budget	<b>\$7,410.00</b>

**If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!**

GOSPEL MEETING:  
APRIL 24-24  
EAGLE LAKE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**JIMMY CLARK** - SPEAKER  
THEME: STRENGTHENING THE INNER MAN

863.632.9752 griffinroad.churchofchrist.info/

Griffin Rd Church of Christ | Annual Lectureship  
The Biblical Value of a Woman.



The Biblical Value of a Daughter  
9:10 AM - 9:50 AM  
Kevin Patterson  
Sebring, FL



The Biblical Value of a Wife  
9:55 AM - 10:35 AM  
Jacques Phanor  
Turks and Caicos Island



The Biblical Value of a Sister  
10:50 AM - 11:30 AM  
Ben Radford  
Poinciana, FL



The Biblical Value of a Mother  
11:35 AM - 12:20 AM  
Rick Kenyon  
Lakeland, FL

APRIL 27, 2024  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM  
Lunch provided at 12:30pm  
2401 FINGER LANE BARTOW, FL 33830  
If you have any questions please call  
Bro. Frederick Hicher at 863-712-0909

## SINGLES' SATURDAY

A FUN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP

We will have lessons, fun activities, dinner, s'mores, and singing by the fire.

RSVP by text to 407-920-9263.  
Please let us know if you need lodging.

South Seminole Church of Christ - Winter Park, FL

### SAT, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 1 - 7 PM



Thank you:  
We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the prayers, cards, food, etc that came our way during Stacey's pain and sickness. We are so blessed to have such a loving Christian family. We couldn't have made it without you all!  
*Love, Stacey and Michelle Paulin*

**The Precious Value of Children (continued)** dispute (cf. Ruth 4:1-2; Job 29:7-17). The more grown sons a man had in his defense, the more likely he would win the dispute. While this happiness is true in the physical family, the local church is also happier with a "quiver full" of children who mature to the point of defending the faith and perpetuating a strong, unashamed congregation (Ps. 119:46; 1 Pet. 3:15). Thank you, children, for the hope you instill for the future (cf. Jer. 31:17)! ♥ *Brian*

Women of the Word

*Rene'Bingle*

## SUNSET

As day comes to an end  
And the sun sets each night,  
I'm always amazed  
At it's beautiful sight.  
(Psalm 65:8)

It reminds me that endings  
Don't have to be sad,  
Because God and His promises  
Give us reasons to be glad.  
(Isaiah 41:10)

Each morning He has promised  
His mercies will be new,  
And that no matter what we face  
He'll carry us through.  
(Lamentations 3:23)

He cares for the birds  
And the flowers each one,  
And because He loves us,  
He gave us his Son.  
(Matthew 6:25-27)

So tonight as the sun  
Paints a mural from east to west,  
Give your worries to God  
And He will give you sweet rest.  
(Ps.127:2)

## Ladies Day Events

April 6, 2024 "*Recipe for Peace*"  
Kissimmee church of Christ  
9:30 am-1:00 pm  
Speakers: *Stephanie Kenyon*  
*Unita Orr*

April 20, 2024 "*Living in the World,  
but not Like the World*"  
Eagle Lake church of Christ  
8:30 am - 11:30 am  
Speaker: *Pamela Clark*

*Please RSVP to the office if you are going!*



registration now open!

# COCHE SOUTH

church of Christ home educators' retreat

April 26th-27, 2024  
Orange St. church of Christ  
Auburndale, Florida

scan qr code to register  
please register by April 5th

If you have any questions please contact  
Stephanie Kenyon (386.972.9615) or Sabrina Tagtow (863.286.5811)

[south.cocheretreat.com](http://south.cocheretreat.com)



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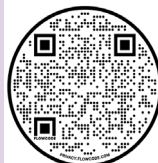
## South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

" Let the words of my mouth and the  
meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my  
strength and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19:14



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.