



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 8 February 22, 2022

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

## 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.

## Spring Quarter

### Defending the Faith

Beginning Sunday March 6th we will begin a study of Apologetics with the teenagers at SFA. I Peter 3:15 gives command to “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” That idea of “defense” is where we get the idea of “apologetics”. Every Christian at a certain level ought to be able to give a reason as to what tipped the scales in their own mind to know why they became a Christian. There are many in the atheistic world who desire to destroy any and every form of faith especially in the younger generations. The aim of this study will be 1) studying to know what the Bible says, 2) examine the truthfulness of its claims, 3) defend its truthfulness from those who would ask a reason for why we hold those things to be true. Please make plans to be here and encourage your teens to be ready for a challenging quarter to stretch their critical thinking skills and hopefully put more tools in the the belt to be better able to defend the faith.

### The Book of Acts

Beginning Wednesday March 9th we will begin a series of studies from the book of Acts in the fellowship hall. The class will be available for high schoolers and adults. The book gives a critical look into establishment and expansion of the church in the first century AD. For us today it gives us examples of how the first church operated, what challenges they faced, and how they flourished in every part of the known world. Christians revolutionized their world without violence and united diverse people groups in the face of persecution from Jews and Romans. We are greatly indebted to the account recorded by Luke, guided by the Holy Spirit, and preserved by God. A good way to study or think about a book of the Bible is to imagine what we would be missing if the book had not been preserved. As we try to be pleasing to God it is right for us to study and model ourselves as prescribed in the Scripture. A study of the book of Acts is essential. I am excited for the study and pray that you will consider attending as well.

### Bible Basics

Each Sunday morning starting in March, we’re going to begin a study of “Bible Basics.” This course will be designed to help us better understand how to study the Bible, and how to properly help our friends come to know Jesus as well. We often hear the word “basic,” and think it means elementary. This is going to be an in-depth study of the entire bible. One of the first things we’re going to establish is our relationship with God. God is the center of everything. Many do not understand theology because they do not understand God. Notice what Jesus says in his prayer; “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who thou hast sent” (Jn. 17:1-3). It is our desire in this class for you to know God, have a relationship with God, and gain the confidence to share this truth with others.

### Genesis

Each Wednesday, starting in March, we are going to study the Book of Genesis. The Book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It establishes God’s love for us in creation, his love for us when we sin, and ultimately his redemption plan to send His Son to save us (Gen. 3:15). The book begins by introducing us to God. Before the beginning had a beginning, there was God. His love for us is immediately noticed from the first page of the Bible.

Moses records “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). The Bible begins with what God did for man. The Book of Genesis will teach us about the sinfulness of man (Gen. 3), and ultimately how the relationship between God and man would ever be changed. Yet, God loves us so much he would send his son to save us (Jn. 3:16). This is going to be a great study that will ultimately increase our faith and draw us closer to God.

## Marriage and the Family

“As the home goes, so goes society” is an axiom that even the world recognizes. The basic unit of society is the home. When families are morally strong, society generally will be morally strong. When homes are broken, however, society also generally will be broken. The moral degradation of American society can be directly tracked by the degradation of the home. Back in the “Leave It to Beaver Days” (1950s), when the typical American family consisted of mom, dad, and the kids, basic morals in society were much more biblical and stable. Something happened, though, between then and now, as we are being asked to accept as good such things as same sex marriages, more than two genders, and people being allowed to change genders (as if such were actually possible). While there are many factors that have contributed to this decline over the decades, one factor stands obvious throughout; namely, a decline in the strength and stability of the family.

God created the family on the sixth day of creation, when “the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life” (Gen. 2:7). Then, later that day, “the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam...and He took one of his ribs, and...the rib which the Lord God had taken...He made into a woman” (Gen. 2:20-21). This creation was so special that it necessitated a special relationship: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). This special relationship is called marriage. God created us, understands us, and knows what is best for our homes. Because the subjects of marriage and the family “pertain to life and godliness,” everything we need to know and apply about them is found in God’s written (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Thus, this class on Sunday mornings will examine what the Bible teaches on marriage (including its teaching on divorce and remarriage) and the family (roles of husband, wife, and children). Practical insights and valuable lessons will also be given, especially as much of the practical part of class is intended to involve discussion. We welcome your input! All families, even single parent homes, will thrive when God’s word is known and applied!

### Have You Packed for Evangelism?

Recently, I spoke to a brother in the hospital who got there because his primary care physician told him to check himself in through the emergency room so his symptoms could be stabilized and a specialist could see him. This brother, who made it a point to pray with his doctors and nurses, had already passed out business card-sized invitations to the local church’s services and was equipped with a few sets of Back to the Bible personal evangelism booklets, just in case people at the hospital accepted his invitation to a Bible study. This brother revealed in the conversation that his usual overnight bag consists of personal evangelism tools because, “You never know when you’ll need them to teach people the Gospel.” Here is a brother who was packed for evangelism. What a great example!

The apostle Paul stated, “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also” (Rom. 1:14-15). Paul reveals two tremendous attitudes that are necessary for personal evangelism. First, he felt an obligation to all people (Rom. 1:14). The word translated “debtor” refers to someone who is “under obligation” (ESV). Although this particular verse does not identify why Paul felt the obligation, an examination of his life suggests that at least part of it was that he himself was forgiven so great a debt of sin that he saw the need (obligation) to let as many people know that they too could receive the same forgiveness (1 Tim. 1:12-17). Second, Paul was “ready [eager, ESV],” which is translated from a word that refers to willingness; eagerness. It is used in only two other places, where Jesus said, “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mt. 26:41; Mk. 14:38).

When we realize the forgiveness God has given us, feel indebted to let as many people know forgiveness is also available to them, and are willing to bring that good news to others, we will make sure our daily lives are “packed for evangelism,” for we never know when the opportunity will come to engage in a Bible study with someone else! ♥ Brian

### Helping Others Overcome Barriers to Christ *Luke 5:17-26*

**Y** Luke recorded a story about a paralyzed man who came to Jesus to be healed. He overcame 1) a physical health barrier (v. 18), 2) a crowd barrier (v.17,19), and 3) a roof barrier (v. 19). The key to overcoming those barriers was the help of others. Without their help, he would not have been healed. He could not walk, so he had to be carried on a bed (v. 18). They could not get close to Jesus because of the large crowd (v. 19). They had to tear up a roof to lower the man down (v. 19). While we do not know the names of the men who helped the man, their example is one we can learn from. There are many reasons why people have not been to Jesus for the healing He gives, but whether we are 9 or 90, we can encourage others to come to Christ. Be aware, if they have not yet come to Christ, there may very well be barriers for them. When you talk with them, help to 1) identify what those barriers are, 2) help brainstorm solutions, 3) see it through to the end to bring them to Jesus. You may be the difference that friend or neighbor needs to help overcome those barriers and come to Christ.

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

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

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Bernetta Green - health & strength  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Brenda Mask - inner-ear problems  
 Carol Eason - sick  
 Toney Wilson - sick  
 David Anderson - surgery

John & Linda McShane - moving  
 Jim Turner - health, tests  
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - health  
 Anita Shearer - health  
 Bill Long - rehab & covid  
 Glenda Beebe - Parkinson's

(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

*"I was in prison and you came to me"*  
 Matthews 25:36

## Updates & Prayer requests

**Glenda Fontaine Beebe** is in the hospital due to complications of Parkinson's. No visitors right now.

**David Anderson** had surgery on Monday morning. He is home and resting.

**Annett Phillip** is home sick. She would love calls.

*"I was sick and you visited me"*  
 Matthews 25:36

## Help needed

One of our SFA families is in need. If you did not get the email that sent Monday with details, please contact the office. The table to leave the items is in the classroom hall.

*"I was naked and you clothed me"*  
 Matthew 25:36

## THANK YOU FOR VISITING

Chester & Angela Johnson Sabrina Jones  
 Steven Tydings Gordon Bockert

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm - Pew packers in auditorium

Mondays at 7:00 pm - Epistles class - Romans

Wednesdays at 10:00 am - Ladies' class  
 (beginning March 16)

Thursdays at 7:00 pm - Ladies Bible class

## PRAYER LIST

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### February

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Announcements ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... David Williams  
 Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Josh Potvin

### Sunday, February 27, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Joshua Cantrell  
 "Where Is Your Treasure?"  
 Matthew 6:19-21

6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Joshua Cantrell  
 "The Wise Man"  
 Matthew 7:24-25

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Fife  
 Greeters ..... Waldon  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Allen Grimes  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer ..... Kyle Bingle  
 Greeters ..... E&C Smith

### Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... David Williams  
 Devo ..... John McShane  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

## Upcoming Events

### February

25-27 - YES Weekend

26 - Ladies Day  
 Port Charlotte

27 - Fellowship  
 in-service

27- 3/3 - Gospel Mtg  
 N. Lakeland

### March

2 - Quarterly challenge

5 - Teachers' Workshop  
 13 - Daylight Savings

19 - Secret Sister  
 Reveal

19 - Men's breakfast

22 - Ladies' Night, 6pm

27-30 - Spring Gospel  
 Meeting

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Feb 6 ..... \$8,296.00

Feb 13 ..... \$6,282.00

Feb 20 ..... \$6,082.00

Contribution Average ..... \$6,620.38

Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43

**Remember!**

I recently saw a sign in a local business that read, "Be a fountain, not a drain."  
It made me wonder, "Which am I?"

As Christians, we definitely should be known as fountains. Scriptures tell us in **Proverbs 10:11**, "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life..." and "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life..."

**Proverbs 13:14**. When others are around us, they should leave us feeling refreshed with the words we speak. We should encourage and lift up each other with our words (**1 Thessalonians 5:11**) and share the life-giving water with those who are thirsty (**John 4:13-14**).

A drain allows water to run out, leaving the vessel empty and dry.

As Christians, our goal is to share the water, not drain it from others.

**Proverbs 17:14** states, "The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out."

**Romans 16:17** says, "watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles."

We all know the feeling of being around those who drain us of peace by their negativity and depressing words. Let us, as Christians, never leave those we meet feeling drained, but rather, let us leave them feeling refreshed by the Living Water found only in the fountain of life (**John 7:38**).

## You are invited to our Spring Gospel Meeting March 27 – 30, 2022

### GROWING TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY



Teach the next generation to know God

### Saturday workshop for Bible class teachers

March 5, 2022

Please RSVP to [sfa.church@gmail.com](mailto:sfa.church@gmail.com)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

or call 863-682-4702

## BIBLE CLASS WORKSHOP

[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

"I, Jesus...  
am the root and  
the descendant of  
David, the bright  
morning star."

Revelation 22:16



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