



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 9 February 28, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

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

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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
Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

"ABOUNDING MORE AND MORE"

Throughout Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he commended them for their faith, love, and hope (1 Thes. 1:3), for their receiving God's word despite persecution (1 Thes. 1:2; 2:13-16), for their being examples by turning from idolatry to God (1 Thes. 1:7-10), and for their encouraging faith (1 Thes. 3:5-8). Yet, as Paul began to conclude this letter, he encouraged them to "abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God" (1 Thes. 4:1). This tells us that even though we may have commendable faith, we can never say, "I've arrived." Each of us must continue to grow, or "abound more and more," in our Christian walk! Below are three necessities for doing this.

First, we must examine ourselves to make sure our faith would be commended by God. Paul wrote, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?" (2 Cor. 13:5). A person who claims to be a Christian can live such a worldly life that it leaves people wondering whether that person was ever truly converted to Christ. While it is true that some, like Demas, can forsake the faith, "having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 2:10), others may have just went through the motions of being baptized but were never truly "circumcised" in heart (Col. 2:11-13 cf. Rom. 2:28-29). We cannot "abound more and more" if we were not faithful to begin with! Have we been truly converted?

Second, we must continue studying God's word. The God-breathed formula is still true: "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Our faith can never outrun our knowledge of God! This is why studying God's word is so important, no matter how old we are or how long we have been Christians (2 Tim. 2:15). This is also why attending church services is so important. There is no better way to "stir up love and good works" than by assembling together to worship God and to study His word, mutually encouraging one another from Bible precepts (Heb. 10:24-25 cf. Acts 2:46; 5:42). Peter's last exhortation was to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). Do we hunger and thirst for God's word?

Third, we must continue and increase our putting God's word into action. James put it plainly: "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves ... a doer of the work ... will be blessed in what he does" (Jas. 1:22-25). The only person who will reach heaven is the one who "does the will of My [Jesus'] Father in heaven" (Mt. 7:21). This is not only true for those outside of Christ but also for those in Christ (Lk. 12:47-48). We will be judged by how we used God's blessings (Mt. 25:14-30). The answer to Jesus' question still holds true: "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Are we letting our light shine so others may glorify God?

May each of us bring glory to God by constantly examining and improving our service to God, studying His word, and doing His word! ♥ Brian



South Florida Avenue Church of Christ

Invites You To Our

Gospel Meeting

March 12-15, 2023

with **Victor Eskew**

Sunday Services, March 12

9:30 am – A Spiritual Family's Importance

10:30 am – A Spiritual Family

after lesson – **Lunch provided (visitors welcome!)**

6:00 pm – A Spiritual Family That Loves

Monday–Wednesday Evening Services Begin at 7:00

Mon. – A Spiritual Family That Understands Mutual Responsibilities

Tues. – A Spiritual Family That Disciplines

Wed. – A Spiritual Family That Multiplies

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--- ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:14-21). "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband" (Ephesians 5:31-33). "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

All Are Welcome!

PRAYER LIST

Current: Beverly Adams (pneumonia), **Continual:** Bob Pratt (health); Brenda Mask (blood pressure issues); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (strength); Ron & Judy Ford (health); Bobby Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Charles Paulin (health); Jim Turner (health). Margaret Coone (health) Kathy Nester(health); David Anderson (hand surgery)

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, and Bob Pratt

Extended family and Friends: prayer requests are emailed each week. Please help us keep these lists updated by informing the office of known changes in status.

Our Quarterly Challenge will be this Wednesday, March 1! Are you prepared?

To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
 There are no words to fully convey to you how grateful we are for all your love and support over the last five months. We could not have done this alone, and I know that although the road ahead will continue to have ups and downs, your love and thoughtfulness as our Christian family will uplift us and carry us through.
 Much love to you all, the Smith Family

Senior Saints Meeting- Tues. Mar. 7 @10:00 a.m.
 This month we will meet in fellowship hall and will be viewing the film entitled "What is a Woman?" which addresses the gender deception in America. All are invited to attend.

Evangelism Seminar-March 23-24 @FSOP
Training the Saved to Teach the Lost
Rob Whitacre - Speaker
Classes are from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm- All are welcome!

Don't forget to check out the current Missionary reports on the bulletin board in the Back Hallway and continue to pray for them as they labor on the Mission fields.

Potluck Luncheon to kick off our Gospel Meeting, Sunday, March 12
Team 4 will be in charge of the kitchen! Please bring enough food and drinks for your family and some to share with visitors!

Polishing The Pulpit August 16-24.2023
 Some have expressed interest in chipping-in with other SFA members to rent a cottage in the area and attend. If you are interested, please let the office know so we can start a list.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

March

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

AnnouncementsRick Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Tucker Sweeney
 Devo....Vince Daugherty
 PrayerJoseph Faulk

Sunday, March 5, 2023

10:30 A.M

Increase Our Faith (Luke 17:5)
 Vince Daugherty

6:00 P.M.

S.F.A. (1 Cor. 12:12-26)- Brian Kenyon

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Frank Hamby
 Song Leader (both services).....Kyle Faneuf
 Announcements.....T. Anderson
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Rick Kenyon
 Lord'sTable (both).....Nigel St. Bernard
 Closing Prayer.....Jimmy Sweeney
 Open/Close bldg (both).....David Anderson
 GreetersSweeneys
 Attendance cards (both)Sawyer/Ellis
 Sound Booth (both).....Paul Sweeney

P.M. Song LeaderKyle Faneuf
 Scripture reading/PrayerSteve Tydings
 Closing PrayerKyle Bingle
 Greeters PM.....E&C Smith

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Announcements.....B. Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer...Landon Willcut
 Devo....Jarred Spivey
 PrayerDavid Deal

Upcoming Events 2023

March

- 3-5- Gospel Meeting @Pinellas Pk church of Christ
- 7- Senior Saints meeting
- 12- Elders/Deacons Meeting (4:00 pm)
- 12-15 Gospel Meeting with Victor Eskew at SFA
- 21- FSOP Ladies Class
- 23-24- Evangelism Seminar at FSOP
- 26- Fellowship in Service

April

- 1- Egg Hunt

~ **HOW ARE WE GIVING** ~

Feb. 12.....	\$5,522.00
Feb. 19.....	\$9,913.00
Feb. 26.....	\$5,148.00
Contribution Average.....	\$7,261.74
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

Preparation Is Important!

I remember the days as a single mom without a car. Each morning I would have to catch the city bus to drop off my kids to day care before heading to work. Nightly preparations determined if I would get to work on time the next day. If I was unprepared, I had to scurry to get myself and the kids to the bus stop on time. Most of the times the bus would whiz by as I was walking down the road.

For Christians the return of the Lord is not like the bus I had to catch. I knew exactly what time the bus was going to be at the stop. However, the return of the Lord is unknown. (2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.") For me to make it to the bus stop on time, I had to prepare in advance. Christians must prepare right now for the Day of Judgement. Prepare while the blood is still running warm in our veins, while we have health, strength, and sound mind. We cannot scramble around at the last minute trying to prepare ourselves. (Matthew 25:13 says, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.") We don't want to be like the foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. They were told in verse 12, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Youth Section

Lessons from 1 Timothy

"Bodily Exercise Profits a Little" (1 Timothy 4)

Paul shared a truth about the church with Timothy that some would leave the faith. As Jesus shared in the Parable of the Soils, some will spring up for a season but when the heat is turned up, they will wither. Timothy was to be watchful for these things, and "if you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister" (4:6). There is a benefit to carefully following the sound doctrine. He then makes a comparison, "bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (4:8). To function in this world we need a body that is in some manner of physical health. We know that over time the body will wear out. Eventually the healthiest and most fit physical specimen will deteriorate. Compared to the one who takes his spiritual workout seriously, it has benefits in the here and now, and Paul says in the life to come. You will never be disappointed in the spiritual gains that come from a life of Bible study, prayer, and good works in service for the Lord. -VD

Gospel Meeting

Eagle Lake Church of Christ

Speaker: Eddie Gilpin

April 16-19, 2023

Sun. 9:30, 10:30 and 1:30

Mon-Wed 7:00 pm

Ladies Day

Theme : Wash Day

Speaker: Jeanny Gilpin

Sat. Apr. 15, 2023

8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

rsvp by Sat Mar. 25th

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: 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

*"Even to your old age, I am He,
and even to gray hairs, I will carry you!*

I have made, and I will bear;

Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Isaiah 46:4



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