



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 6 February 7, 2023

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

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

Find us on
YouTube & Facebook

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

Jehovah, My Strength, And My Song

Joshua Cantrell

When reading the Old Testament we see the prophets had a tall task. Having to preach to people who were in captivity, or going into captivity, had to be a tall task. God used them to do great work. Many of His people listened, and it caused them to change. Isaiah was going to have to tell God's people what their future was going to be. Isaiah was ready and willing to accept this task, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8). In life, the success we have is in the amount of money we make, and all the awards that are named after us. God does not define success that way. These prophets were successful because they did what God told them. Success is getting ourselves and our families to heaven.

Isaiah 12 is a marvelous chapter. It is one we can read as children of God today and take great comfort and confidence in knowing that God will see us through. James reminds us, "The trying of your faith, works patience" (James 1:2-4). Isaiah's very name means, "Jehovah is my salvation." His name carried what he was going to preach to God's people in both the Northern and Southern Kingdom. Israel had many opportunities to make it right with God, but they turned their hearts to idols. Judah would follow their example and do the same as well. Isaiah had to bring out what they were doing wrong, which drove them to change. The preaching of the Gospel is designed to convict, correct, and encourage us (2 Tim. 4:2).

In each section of the Bible, we see how patient God was with his people. Yet, they chose not to listen and obey the words of God. Isaiah 12 is a song recorded by the prophet. It highlights the praise and serves as a prophecy for the coming Messiah. The words in this song would comfort them and allow them to look forward to a better day.

Behold, God Is My Salvation

The Prophet records, "Then you will say on that day, I will give thanks to you, Lord; for although you were angry with me, your anger is turned away, and you comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:1-3). When we look at victory and deliverance, we have to remember that God has secured that for us. Salvation from God is only made possible by what He has done on our behalf. We can look at Israel's situation with going into captivity, but it has God's grace all over it. God will not leave us to ourselves. He makes a way to come back to him and to have fellowship with him. Isaiah the Prophet says, "Jehovah is." God has been in the past; God has been in the present; and God will be in the future.

Peter records, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you. But to the degree, that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of his glory, and of God, rests upon you. Make sure that none

of you suffered as an evildoer or a troublesome meddler. But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name” (1 Peter 4:12-16). The Bible is full of exhortations that we should trust God to see us through the trials.

It is often difficult to see “the end of the tunnel” as things are going on in our lives. Even when the trial is over does not mean it will not still hurt. Isaiah is not trying to minimize what they are going through, but he is reminding them that they will get through it. The first stanza of this song praises God, for he has turned away his wrath and is now comforting his people. God's promise of a remnant being saved was going to be fulfilled. Despite their rebellion, God's grace was seen. God told them to take heed to and listen to his word, but they would not. God told them If they served he, he would bless them and take care of them. God is still offering that for us today. There will never come a time when we do not need our heavenly Father.

I Will Trust, and Not Be Afraid

The Prophet records, “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord, Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2). The word trust is found over a hundred times in the Bible. It is usually always associated with God, having trust, faith, and confidence in him. The enemy is great and oftentimes towers over us, but he cannot defeat us. The Bible gives us many great examples of the confidence God's people have had before entering into battles. On the other side, God also gives his people great comfort in trusting in him. God said to Joshua, “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I share unto the fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to the law” (Joshua 1:5-7). Moses had just died and Joshua was feeling defeated. Thus, God tells him to get up and keep going; keep fighting.

Before David went to fight Goliath, he reminded everyone about his God. David allowed his faith to overlook his fears, “David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee” (1 Samuel 17:37). When giants show up, tell them about the faith and trust we have in God. Isaiah the prophet wanted God's people to have this same confidence as well. David went on to say, “Thou comest to me with the sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou has defied” (1 Samuel 17:45). What do you do when you do not know what to do? You trust God. The Bible gives us great accounts of individual lives showing us they overcame. The point of this article is that we can too!

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.

Join Us for Bible Classes! Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45). It is impossible for our faith to outgrow our knowledge of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Come and grow spiritually with us!

Winter Quarter Schedule

Cradle Roll (behind tech booth)

Sundays: Nikki (Bible basics)

Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics)

Elementary (Room 17)

Sundays: Kyle (Life of Christ)

Wednesdays: Stephanie (Life of Christ)

2-3 Year-Old (Room 18)

Sundays: Nicole (Life of Christ)

Wednesdays: Nicole (Life of Christ)

Teenage (Room 19)

Sundays: Joshua (Life of Christ)

Wednesdays: Vince (Ezra/Nehemiah)

4-5 Year-Old (Room 7)

Sundays: Anita (Life of Christ)

Wednesdays: Tiffany (Life of Christ)

Adult (Auditorium)

Sundays: Vince (Book of Acts)

Wednesdays: Brian (Revelation)

“What shall we then say to those things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31

PRAYER LIST

Current: Kathy Nester is in Breezy Hills Rehab on Socrum Loop. The Faneufs have all been under the weather, David Anderson will have hand surgery on Monday **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).

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

Extended family and Friends: prayer requests are emailed each week and posted on the bulletin board. **Please help us keep these lists updated**



The SFA church directory is now available on the **Instant Church Directory App**. Privacy and safety is an absolute factor! To access the app, your email address **must** be registered with the office to verify identity. If the office does not have your email, access to the directory will be **denied**. If you need assistance or more information about it, please see Rick Kenyon.

Men's Breakfast

will be hosted by SFA on February 18th at 9:00 am. Please see Phil Fife is you can help in the kitchen.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON -Join us on Sunday, Feb. 26th after morning worship as we fellowship together. We will be honoring the Cantrell family as they will be leaving us to begin their new work in Georgia. Please bring enough food for your family and some to share! **Team 3** will be the team that helps in the kitchen.

There are lots of dishes in the utility room that need to be picked up! Please check and see if they belong to you!

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.

Save the Date:
March 12-15, 2023
Spring Gospel Meeting
Speaker:
Victor Eskew
Theme:
God's Spiritual Family

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

AnnouncementsBrian Kenyon
Song Leader/prayerAndre Medley
DevoJosh Cantrell
Closing PrayerWayne Shear-

Sunday, February 12, 2023

10:30 A.M.

One Voice, One Hope (11 Cor. 1:3-4)
Josh Cantrell

6:00 P.M.

The Value of Values (Prov. 1:5-7)- Josh C.

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before classStacey Paulin
AnnouncementsBobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song LeaderDavid Williams
Scripture reading/PrayerSteve Tydings
Lord's Table (both).....Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Phil Fife
Open/Close bldg (both).....David Anderson
GreetersThe Fifes
Attendance cards (both)Klark/Caelen
Sound Booth (both).....Rick Kenyon

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderPeyton Wilcutt
Scripture reading/PrayerTucker Sweeney
Closing PrayerBrian Williams
Greeters PM.....D&N Williams

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

AnnouncementsStacey Paulin
Song Leader/prayerV. Daugherty
Devo....Rick Kenyon
PrayerBrian Kenyon

Upcoming Events 2023

February

- 11 - Youth Group Valentines Party
- 12 - Elders, Deacons, Preachers Meeting
- 17-19 - Ladies Retreat (Weeki-Wachee)
- 18 Men's Breakfast at SFA @ 9:00 am
- 24-26 -Yes Weekend (Forrest Park)
- 26 -Fellowship in Service

March

- 12-16 Gospel Meeting at SFA with Victor Eskew

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan22.....	\$6,059.00
Jan 29.....	\$7,819.00
Feb 5.....	\$5,522.00
Contribution Average.....	\$7,377.62
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

A long Life, but Short Lived

The first 18 years of our lives seem to take forever. Then once you turn 18, life seems to go from 18-60 in a flash. Job said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope." (Job 7:6) and "Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey." (Job 9:25-26.) Sooner rather than later, we need to focus on how swiftly our life is passing. (James 4:14) "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." What have we done for the Lord during our time on earth? The New Year just began and it's already February. Begin today to make each day we have left on earth count. "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah" (Psalm 39:4-5.) Live with eternity in mind. A well known preacher once said, "If you want to hear, "Well Done!", get to doing!"

Youth Section

Lessons from I Timothy House Rules

Have you ever been to a friend's house that had no rules? At first you may be excited to witness so much freedom, but very soon you find, no one has taken out the trash in ages, no one has bothered to do any laundry, and they accidentally ran out of all snacks and drinks. When there is no order, direction, or rules it is actually chaotic and gross. When it comes to God's house, the church, there is a certain standard by which we are to abide. Paul told his son in the faith, Timothy, "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" (I Timothy 3:15). Think about some previous lessons: how are individuals to act? 1) we all are to pray individually (2:1,2). 2) men are to lead in public (2:8). 3) Women are to learn in silence and submission (2:11). 4) Elders are to be leaders (3:1). 5) Deacons are to be servants. In a fully functioning church, people know their roles, work their roles, and things run smoothly even if an apostle is not there to oversee them. What about you? Can you be trusted to know and fulfill your role, so the work can run smoothly? - VD

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

*"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for
you are God my Savior, and my hope is
in you all day long"*

Psalms 25:5



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