



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 10 March 5, 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

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

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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.

YOU'RE INVITED

MARCH 22-24, 2024

GOSPEL MEETING



Join us
for a weekend
of studying
God's word
and enjoying
fellowship



STEVEN FORD
PREACHING

MEETING TOPICS:

Friday March 22

@ 7:00pm Existence of God *

Saturday, March 23

@ 7:00pm Three Portraits of Faith *

Sunday, March 24

@ 9:30am A Christ Centered Life

@ 10:30am The Love of the Father

@ 6:00pm Serving from an Empty Cup *

***Please stay for refreshments & fellowship
following each evening service.**

INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, & NEIGHBORS!

TWO WAYS TO A SLAVE'S FREEDOM

Brian R. Kenyon

The practice of slavery in America's history was a very tragic time, especially for those who were enslaved. Slaves were often violently mistreated and, at the very least, taken advantage of. Even with those who were treated better, there was the constant threat and often reality of families, at a moment's notice, being forever separated, even babies being torn from their mothers. Many "plantation hymns" of the day, such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Go Down, Moses" depicted and/or looked forward to freedom, either through death or through the "underground railroad." In this type of slavery, there were only two permanent ways to be free. First, freedom could be purchased, but that was only as good as the master who allowed it and/or the purchaser who promised it. Second, death was a sure way, for no earthly master can touch a slave in the afterlife. In spiritual slavery to sin, there are still only these two ways of being free!

REDEMPTION

Sin captivates (cf. Romans 7:23), enslaves (John 8:34; Romans 6:19-20), and spiritually kills by separating souls from God (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6-8; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23). To redeem means to purchase, or to buy back. Human souls, made in the "image" and "likeness" of God (Genesis 1:26-27), are the most valuable part of God's creation (Matthew 16:26). As such, the human soul's redemption requires the highest price! That price was the very blood of Jesus, who is God (John 1:1-3, 14). Peter wrote to Christians, "you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19). The Hebrews writer confirmed, "Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come ... Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:11-12). Those surrounding God's throne in the vision John saw from Patmos sang, "You [the Lamb] were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood" (Revelation 5:9). Jesus' blood redeemed us from sin so that we are justified (Romans 3:24) and forgiven (Ephesians 1:7). Also, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:13). Although none of us were ever under the law of Moses, the principle is still the same. Christ redeemed us from the curse of sin, and any other system beside the Gospel cannot take away the curse (cf. Romans 10:1-4)!

DEATH

As long as we walk in sin, sin lives in us, and we are separated from God (cf. 1 John 1:6). In order to be free from sin's bondage, we must die to sin (2 Peter 2:24) and crucify the "old man" with Christ (Romans 6:6 cf. Galatians 2:20; 2 Timothy 2:11). This is done through biblical baptism, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death" (Romans 6:3-4). After baptism, the "old man" becomes a "new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18 cf. Romans 6:4; Galatians 6:15). When we die with Christ, we are free from the world and its ordinances (Colossians 2:20-23). Christians' lives are also hidden with Christ so that when God looks upon them, He sees them through the filter Christ's blood (Colossians 3:3 cf. Revelation 1:5).

CONCLUSION

All of us are either slaves of sin or slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:16). There is no middle ground! Paul declared to the Romans that there was only one way to change the status from being a slave to sin and becoming a slave of righteousness, "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). That "form of doctrine" includes the baptism mentioned in Romans 6:3-5. Who is our master?

PRAYER LIST

Current: Stacey Paulin is home but still in extreme pain, awaiting surgery. Fran Gabaldon is awaiting an appointment at Moffit. Jeff Bingle will be having a PET scan next week.

Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Linda Simpson (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

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

Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.

Ladies Weekly Classes

Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am

Also, we have a ladies Facebook page, if you'd like to join see Rene!

Rachel Grime's grandmother passed away last week in Oklahoma. Please pray for the family and for Rachel and Allen as they travel to and from Oklahoma for the funeral.



EGG HUNT

Sunday March 24, 2024

2:00 PM

at the Sheumaker's home.

1621 Yorkshire Trail

Lakeland, FL



The Elders would like to meet with each SFA family to hear your ideas, concerns and questions.

They will be at the building on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please call the office or set up a time and day that works best for your family.

There will be a **Gospel Meeting** at Alachua Church of Christ
March 20-22 @ 7:00 PM

Bob Bauer will be the Guest Speaker each night.

Wed- "The Urgency of Evangelism"

Thurs- "Embracing the Responsibilities of an Older Christian"

Fri- "An Everliving Hope"

Scheduled to Serve in March

Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
Wednesday, March 6, 2024	
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer	Steve Tydings
Sunday, March 10, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Kevin Patterson
"When the Faithful Die" (Phil. 1:21-23)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Joseph Faulk
"A Beautiful Belonging and Purpose"	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Olivia/Ingrid
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader (both)	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (both)	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Roberson Louissaint
Open/Close Building	David Anderson
Attendance Cards	Landon/Payton
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Mccarter's
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader	Tucker Sweeney
Prayer / Bible reading	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Jarred Spivey
Wednesday, March 13, 2024	
Announcements	Bobby Sheumaker
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	Wadi Khoury
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcut
How We Are Giving	
February 18	\$4,726.00
February 25	\$5,816.00
March 3	\$8,225.00
Contribution Average	\$7,271.38
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

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!

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

I do not like dusting!! That was my least favorite chore growing up. Mama had so many knickknacks and I dreaded having to dust each one. Now thorough dusting is limited to when I am in the mood—which may be two or three times a year. On those occasions I end up sneezing, itching and my arms end up with whelps on them. Crazy though the cycle is repeated because I refuse to change!

However, when it comes to my spiritual life, I can't afford to allow sin to accumulate in my life the way dust builds up around my house. When I commit sin; I need to acknowledge it, repent and ask God to forgive me. If I refuse to repent, it can lead to me being comfortable in my sins. (Hebrews 3:13 NKJV - "but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today." lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.")

Like David, I need to be humble and ready to beg for God's mercy and forgiveness. Psalm 51:1-3 (NKJV) "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." I can also pray, Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." A change is necessary!

Annual Meeting (for civil law requirement)

To comply with state regulations, nominations must be made and a vote taken for corporate officers each year. This business will be taken care of March 10, 2024. The following nominations have been made: David Anderson, chairman; Brian Kenyon, vice-chairman; David Deal, secretary; Bobby Sheumaker, treasurer. Nominations may be made from the floor if the nominee's willingness to accept the nomination is presented in writing to the chairman prior to the election.



Ladies Day

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RECIPE FOR PEACE

SPEAKERS:

"Stock Your Spiritual Pantry"
"Putting It All Together"

Stephanie Kenyon
Unita Orr

Registration: 9:30 A.M.
Continental Breakfast

Program Begins: 10:30 A.M.
Lunch Provided: 12:00 NOON

KISSIMMEE CHURCH OF CHRIST
921 WEST VINE STREET
KISSIMMEE, FL 34741

R.S.V.P - no later than March. 25th

Please contact Karen Kirkendall at 407-973-4058 or email at karenkirkendall@aol.com with names of attendees so name tags can be made ahead of time.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com
Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



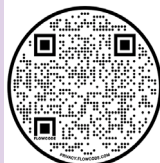
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24



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