



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

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Marc Veary Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald Scotland
J. Paguaga Honduras
Joey Treat Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Six Steps for Minimizing Generational Friction

Rick Kenyon

Currently there are about six generations co-existing on earth. According to a January 2023 Beresford Research study (which includes references to the Pew Research Center and US Census Bureau), the following chart was created to offer guidance in defining the generations (<https://www.beresfordresearch.com/age-range-by-generation>):

Generations	Born	Ages Now
Gen Z	1997-2012	11-26
Millennials	1981-1996	27-42
Gen X	1965-1980	43-58
Boomers II (a.k.a. Gen Jones)	1955-1964	59-68
Boomers I	1946-1954	69-77
Post War [Silent Gen]	1925-1945	78-95
WW II	1922-927	96-101

These dates are best understood as guidelines and vary from researcher to researcher. Each of these generations have characteristics, worldviews, and values that define the generation. (For a deeper breakdown, see the University of South Florida's PDF, "Generational Differences Chart" [<https://www.usf.edu/hr-training/documents/lunch-bytes/generationaldifferenceschart.pdf>]).

Every person in the church belongs to a generational class. You may not identify with every characteristic of your class (or with what they say about other generations), but there is wisdom in recognizing the differences. During the time of King David, the men of Issachar were identified as "men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" (1 Chr. 12:32). As the church advances through time, leaderships and people change with each generation. The transition of one generation to another can cause friction. Friction can be harmful (rubbing your knees or elbows across carpet or concrete), or friction can be helpful (rubbing sandpaper across rough wood). Growth is often painful, but necessary for survival and development. As the body of Christ grows its multi-generational family, here are some considerations for minimizing negative generational friction.

Be Humble "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3, NASB). Jesus commanded, "truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:2-3). Humility seeks to demonstrate how others matter and are important. Every generation has strengths and weaknesses and there is no generation that should lift itself above others. Jesus transcends times and brings salvation to every generation. When we encounter older

or younger people within the church, remember to communicate and show one another why we are grateful for everyone in the church. No matter the age, every person bears the image of God, and we can always respect God's image.

Avoid Stereotypes “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (Jn. 7:24). It is easy (and unfair) to pass judgement on an individual when we know only what we have heard about “those people.” Generational stigmas exist within the church but should never be used to define individuals. Any attempt to define a person based solely on a birth year and “research data” will create more friction than facts. Phrases like, “your generation” or “my generation” are polarizing statements that automatically put people on the defensive. The devil is skilled in turning us against each other, but our Christ-like love for one another should prevent us from that entrapment. Jesus defied stereotypes of his day by talking to the Samaritan woman (Jn. 4), dining with tax collectors and sinners (Mt. 9:10-11), and healing a Canaanite's daughter (Mt. 15:21-28). When it comes to generation stereotypes, beware not to accuse someone of “being a typical [insert generation name].” Remember that we belong to Christ, and we are atypical in our treatment of each other and people—“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, of this is the Law and the Prophets” (Mt. 7:12).

Find Common Ground “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26). In the church, we all exist on the same spiritual plane—an undeniable need for a Savior. Our age does not affect that fact. Do not overlook similarities that can connect us. Our goals are often similar, but how we reach them may be different. Even the priorities of emphasis may differ from one generation to the next. “It is the Lord Christ whom you serve” (Col. 3:24), not us nor our friends. If our mind is unified (1 Cor. 1:10) and we all have the same goal of loving God, loving people, and living like Jesus, then our different approaches should not destroy us. They will not be stumbling blocks to tear us down, but stepping-stones to overcome.

Learn from One Another “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe” (1 Tim. 4:12). Older men and women in the church are to exhibit godly qualities to those who are younger, while the younger are to echo the same godly qualities (Titus 2:1-8). Experience is the most personal teacher one can encounter. God's wisdom dictates that those with the more experience should be able to share that with those who have less. Similarly, no matter the age of a person, one's experience is unique (despite age), and we as the body of Christ recognize that every member matters (cf. Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:16). Our job is not to “fix” the wrongs of other generations, but to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb. 10:24, ESV). Every generation has meaningful information and lessons to transfer.

Tailor Communication Style “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the young men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the young women as sisters, in all purity” (1 Tim. 5:1-2). Children are to communicate respect and honor to their parents (Eph. 6:1-2). Communication is already difficult among people who share our age, so trying to figure out how to communicate with different ages may require extra effort. Everyone has a default range of communication that allows us to connect easier with some over others. Generationally, there may be a breakdown due to word use or style. The goal is not to be “hip” or “cool” or “rad” or whatever generational word you want to use, the goal is to provide meaningful communication to encourage our brethren and strengthen our relationships. You may have to re-word or change your tone depending on who you are addressing. The hopeful news for Christians is that we all seek God. Most communication breakdowns have nothing to do with ears and tongues, but everything to do with the heart. Speak with love. Listen with love... and the result will always be love.

Be Flexible “I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some” (1 Cor. 9:22). Rigid movements are limited in their range and when forced beyond their framework will tear or break. When we refuse to adapt our communication or styles of work, it can tear and break relationships among individuals and even generations. Have we not seen or heard of congregations splitting between the “young” and the “old”? There is a delicate balance in bridging the generation gaps within the church. “I don't do technology” may be the prevailing voice of an older generation, but this should not prevent the church from advancing its communication methods to encourage the saved and reach the lost. Similarly, this should not embolden younger generations (in the name of divine progress) to trample the traditions of their seniors by disregarding their honed

(continued on page 3)

PRAYER LIST

Current : Dorotea Lauther is recovering from knee replacement surgery and would appreciate visits. Jimmy Sweeney is requesting prayers for upcoming medical tests. Carlene Long requests prayer for health and strength. Sebastian, who is the Tyding's neighbor's grandson is hospitalized and had surgery from swallowing a button battery. Melody Baxter had knee surgery this week. Barbara Jones has pneumonia.

Continual: 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

Extended family and Friend are Emailed: Please help us keep these lists updated by informing the office of known changes in status.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 A big "thank you" is in order from me to you. Your kindness, generosity, fellowship, and encouragement was deeply appreciated during our recent Gospel Meeting.
 My prayer is that some seeds were planted. Too, I pray that God will bless you with much increase.
 Thanks again for the opportunity to preach the good news. My prayers go with you!
 In Christian love, Victor Eskew

Save the Date:
June 4-7, 2023
Vacation Bible School
S. Florida Ave church of Christ
Theme: Give Me Oil in My Lamp



Classes for all ages!

Continued from page 2 practices and approaches of yesteryears. Flexibility permits each person and generation to move forward without damaging relationships and harming the Lord's body.

Whatever generation you are a part, let us live and work in such a way that Jesus will never call us a "generation of vipers" (Mt. 12:34). Rather, "be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Mt. 10:16, KJV). -Rick Kenyon

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Announcements.....B. Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer.....Andre Medley
 DevotionalKyle Faneuf
 PrayerDavid Deal

Sunday, April 16, 2023

10:30 A.M.

"There is a Habitation" (2 Cor. 5:1-8)
 Vince Daugherty

6:00 P.M.

The Christian Invitational Meet (Heb. 12:1)
 Andre Medley

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Kyle Bingle
 Song Leader (both services).....David Williams
 Announcements.....David Anderson
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Wayne Shearer
 Lord'sTable (both).....George Davis
 Closing Prayer.....Phil Fife
 Open/Close bldg (both).....David Anderson
 GreetersThe Daugherty's
 Attendance cards (both).....Klark/Caelen
 Sound Booth (both).....Tucker Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderDavid Williams
 Scripture reading/PrayerPaul Sweeney
 Closing PrayerJimmy Sweeney
 Greeters PM.....B. Mask/D. Thompson

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Announcements.....B Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Landon Willcut
 DevotionalRoberson Louissaint
 PrayerSteve Tydings

Upcoming Events 2023

- April**
 15 Youth Group Movie Night @ CMX Lakeside Village at 5:30 PM
 15 Ladies Day Beville Rd. church of Christ
 15 Ladies Day Eagle Lake church of Christ
 16 Elders/Deacons meeting @ 4:00 PM
 22 Young Adult Fellowship Night @Daugherty's house. 7:00 PM

May

- 2 Sr Saints Meeting
 5-7 WWCC Youth Retreat

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Mar. 26.....	\$5,942.00
Apr. 2.....	\$6,777.00
Apr. 9	\$9,377.00
Contribution Average.....	\$7,189.91
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

Women of the Word

Be Busy Being a Blessing By Ingrid Stewart

Be a blessing to someone today
Be a blessing with the kind words you say

Be a blessing spreading words of cheer
Be a blessing by calming someone's fear

Be a blessing to people you meet
Be a blessing sharing a smile so sweet

Be a blessing encouraging others along the way
Be a blessing so God will be glorified every day

Be a blessing to others no matter how small
Be a blessing by loving one and all

Be a blessing as you cheerfully give your time to others
"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another"

Like the worker bee, let's be busy doing the work of the Lord
Let us labor till the Master comes when we will receive our
heavenly reward

Proverbs 3:27-28

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is
in the power of your hand to do so.

Youth Section

Vince Daugherty

Lessons from 1 Timothy Bullet Points on Elders (1 Timothy 5:7-25)

- Elders who rule well (especially who labor in word and doctrine)=worthy of double honor
- Do not receive an accusation about an elder except from two to three witnesses
- Even an elder is not above a rebuke
- Do not show partiality (even to an elder)
- Sins cannot be hidden for long, be patient
- Good works cannot be hidden for long

Lads to Leader's Banquet **Wed. Apr. 26th** **5:45 PM**

**Please join us as we honor those
who participated in the Lads to**

Leaders program this year!

All are invited!!

**Please let the office know if you will
be attending.**

Food will be provided!

**"Rise up and Build..."
(Nehemiah 2:17-18)**

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

*"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as
to the Lord and not to men, knowing
that from the Lord you will receive the
reward of the inheritance; for you serve
the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24*



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