



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 18 May 2, 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](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)

### 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.

## Trevor Dees to Graduate May 14, 2023



Trevor came to the Florida School of Preaching from the St. Augustine church of Christ. Before coming to preaching school, he attended Saint Johns River State College for one semester and was working for Saint Johns County. A few years earlier, he met his wife, Bri, while they both worked for Publix Supermarkets. He has been on mission trips to Scotland and to several countries in Central and South America. As a student, Trevor (along with Bri) has always gone the “second mile.” He has accepted a full-time work with the

Waurika church of Christ in Oklahoma, where he will be preaching and evangelizing the community. May God bless Trevor and Bri! FSOP’s ability to graduate students as we have since that first class started in 1969 would not be possible without the SFA church of Christ and many other supporters! Thanks for your help in training men to preach! Services @ 6:00 pm.



## Elements in a Faithful Servant’s Blessing

Brian R. Kenyon

In Matthew 24:3, the disciples asked Jesus two questions that involved three parts. “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered the first part dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem (“these things” cf. Matthew 23:37-39) in Matthew 24:4-35. Jesus answered the third part and what the disciples partially meant in the second part of their question in Matthew 24:36-51. Jesus concluded the direct part of His answer by stating, “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44). Then, the Master Teacher said, “Who then is a faithful and wise servant ... ? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing” (Matthew 24:45-46). From this context, let us examine three elements involved in a faithful servant’s reward.

### A Servant Who Is Looking

There are two servants in this context. One is faithful (Matthew 24:45-47), and one is not (Matthew 24:48-51). To be a servant of Jesus is to voluntarily submit to His will (Romans 6:16-18). Initially submitting to His will makes a person a “new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). A once faithful servant can cease serving Christ and

become unfaithful (Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14 cf. 2 Timothy 4:10). Jesus pronounced a blessing on the faithful servant (Matthew 24:46a). This servant became ruler of the household in his master's absence. Again, he could either exercise his stewardship well (cf. Mt. 24:45-47) or poorly (cf. Mt. 24:48-51). This steward was "blessed" because the returning lord found him "so doing" (Matthew 24:46). Paul lists a number of qualities a "servant of the Lord" must possess, including being gentle, humble, patient, and the ability to teach (2 Timothy 2:24-26). A faithful servant will live as if the Lord were to return any moment. That is, a faithful servant will stay ready to keep from having to get ready! Paul declared, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait [look, KJV] for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). The Hebrews writer confirmed, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait [look, KJV] for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Heb. 9:27-28).

## A Savior Who Is Coming

Jesus said that "the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matthew 24:44)! The illustration Jesus gave also mentioned the "master, when he comes" (Matthew 24:46). Jesus came the first time to save us from sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17). When He comes again, it will be to separate the righteous (those who have done His will) into "eternal life" from the wicked (those who have not done His will) into "the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels ... into everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:41-46). When Jesus comes, it will be too late to serve Him (cf. Revelation 20:11-15)! We must follow Jesus' example of serving, as He said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). Greater reward awaits the servant who faithfully works during the Master's absence (Matthew 24:47 cf. Matthew 25:21, 23, 34-40).

## A Standard That Is Abiding

The statement, "will find so doing" (Matthew 24:46c), implies a standard by which the faithful servant could be judged and awarded. Unpreparedness in the unfaithful servant consisted of selfish exploitation of others (Matthew 24:48-49). This unfaithful servant must have thought, "A long time is going to elapse before my master returns. In the mean time, I'm going to do my own thing" (cf. 2 Peter 3:3-4). This servant was characterized by carelessness (says "in his heart," contrasted with "so doing" in the faithful servant); cruelty (begins to beat his fellow servants ... until the Lord comes); and carousing (i.e., hanging out with drunkards). The Master will come unexpectedly, and this unfaithful servant will share the same fate as the hypocrite because he did not do what his professed position demanded (Matthew 24:50-51 cf. Matthew 23:3-4). The standard by which all servants will be judged and awarded or punished is God's will — not what we think is God's will, but God's true will! Listen to Jesus, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:21-23).

## Conclusion

A major point in Jesus' teaching about the end of time is that no one knows when it will come (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; 2 Peter 2:9-10). Not even Jesus was authorized to reveal that (cf. Mark 13:32). Interpreting apocalyptic symbols, counting days, or recognizing the "signs of the time" will not result in figuring out when Jesus will come. The best way to be prepared for the end of time is to always be doing the Master's will (Heb. 5:9)! Stay ready to keep from having to get ready! We are prepared only when we are serving the Master in the work He has entrusted to us (cf. Romans 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58). "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing" (Matthew 24:46)!

# Congratulations,

# Marissa!

**Teacher  
of the Year  
Lake Gibson  
Middle  
School**

Keep up the good  
work! We love you!



## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Virginia Rupert (Mother of Debra Pavlovic) is in the hospital

**Continual:** Brenda Mask (blood pressure issues); Debbie Bush (struggles); Brian Smith (heart health); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Geny Johnson (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & 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), Melody Baxter (health),

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

**Extended family and Friend are Emailed Weekly** Please contact the office to update this list or add additional names to it

### 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!**

VBS Work Day on May 13!

See Vince if you will be available to teach or to help in any capacity for this great event.

**Phoebe**  
ROMANS 16:1-2  
GROUP

**basket auction & brunch**

\$10- adults  
\$5- kids age 4-12  
kids 3 and under: free

*Saturday*  
May 27, 2023  
10:30 A.M.

1807 S. Florida Ave · Lakeland FL · 33803

Join us for brunch & a silent auction of baskets to support the Florida School of Preaching!  
Please RSVP to FSOP by May 20th

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING  
LAKELAND, FL  
EST. 1969

### Graduation Celebration

Join us on May 21, 2023 as we celebrate our High School Graduates with a Drop in Reception in the Fellowship Hall between 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

Our graduates this year are Paul Sweeney (son of Jimmy and Kathy Sweeney) and Mitchell "Mac" McClamma (son Keely Cooper).

Please plan to come and help us celebrate these young men and this great accomplishment!

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### May

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Announcements.....Bobby Sheumaker  
 Song Leader/prayer.....Andre Medley  
 Devotional .....Vince Daugherty  
 Prayer .....David Deal

### Sunday, May 7, 2023

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Trevor Dees  
 By Any Means (Philippians 3:7-11)

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Rick Kenyon  
 Seven Steps to Self Examination (James 1:22-25)

### Those to Serve

#### 10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Kyle Bingle  
 Song Leader (**both services**).....Kyle Faneuf  
 Announcements(**both**) .....Stacey Paulin  
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Jarred Spivey  
 Lord'sTable (**both**).....Nigel St Bernard  
 Closing Prayer.....Matt Willcut  
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Deal  
 Greeters .....Mccarters  
 Attendance cards (**both**).....Colby/Klark  
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Jason Hendrix

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader .....Kyle Faneuf  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Joseph Faulk  
 Closing Prayer .....Tucker Sweeney  
 Greeters PM.....David & Nicole Dix

### Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson  
 Song Leader/prayer.....Landon Willcut  
 Devotional .....Vince Daugherty  
 Prayer .....Jimmy Sweeney

### Upcoming Events 2023

### May

5-7 WWCC Youth Retreat  
 9 FSOP Ladies Class  
 13 VBS Work day  
 14 Elders/deacons meeting  
 14 FSOP Graduation  
 19-21 Youth Retreat CFBC  
 20 Mens's Breakfast North Lakeland  
 21 Graduation Celebration  
 21 Day of prayer for CFBC

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 16..... \$5,660.00  
 Apr. 23..... \$6,730.00  
 Apr. 30..... \$7,930.00  
 Contribution Average..... \$7,120.48  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,410.00

**"Love will cover a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8)**

# Take a Moment to Make a Moment

Ingrid Stewart

Moment is defined as a brief period of time--it can be few seconds, few minutes, an hour or maybe a day. Take a moment to open a door for someone in a wheelchair, smiling or saying hello to someone you don't know, shaking hands with a visitor after worship service, cooking a meal for a neighbor, or maybe spending time comforting someone who is bereaved or facing the trials of life.

In Luke 10:30-37, we read the parable of a man who fell among thieves, who was stripped of his clothing, wounded and left for dead. After a priest and a Levite ignored the needs of the man, along came a Samaritan who took a moment to make a moment. Beginning at verse 33--"But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So, he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

We find another example of someone taking a moment to make a moment in John 4:28-29 --"The woman then left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

Step out on faith and take a moment to make a moment in someone's life.

## YOUTH SECTION

V. Daugherty

### Lessons From I Timothy

#### Final Instructions from a Father to Son (I Timothy 6:11-16)

What are you pursuing? As young people grow their aims in this life vary. They may explore various interests, seeking out various relationships, and various career opportunities. Wherever life may take you, be sure that there is an overarching aim that all others can fall into alignment with our obedience to Christ. Paul challenged Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (v. 12). Be ambitious, be driven, have a clear aim and strive for it with all that you have. There are too many young people in our world who have no idea who they are, where they come from, and least of all where they are going. But you, my son flee from mediocrity and laziness. Paul called his son Timothy a "man of God", and a man of God pursues "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness" (v. 11). This aim begins with the top of the pyramid, confessing Jesus as Lord of your life. Keeping Christ in His proper place helps all the other things fall into their proper places. Jesus put it this way, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY



Taught by Susan Stearsman

## Astonished

The grand finale to our study of The Sermon on the Mount



May 9, 2023  
7:00 PM



All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or on Facebook. Live stream through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.

If you have questions please contact us (853) 683-4043 • fsop@fscp.net



Future Class Dates:  
June 13, 2023  
July 11, 2023  
August 8, 2023

[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

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."  
Psalm 51:10*



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