



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 19 May 9, 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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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.

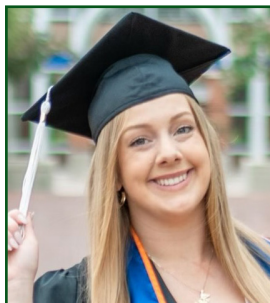
Congratulations Graduates!



Paul Sweeney, son of Jimmy and Kathy, will graduate from George Jenkins High School, Monday, May 22. Paul has loved and played baseball since he was three and in high school he also developed a love for golf, playing on the Jenkins team his senior year. He plays third base for the varsity baseball team (currently in regional playoffs) and was recently selected for the All County team. Paul is talking with several colleges about opportunities to play baseball at the next level and pursue a degree in business.



Mitchell "Mac" McClamma, son of Keely Cooper, will graduate from Simmons Career Center, Plant City, Saturday, May 27. He has been involved in baseball, playing short stop, throughout high school. He was also involved in FFA and showed his beef breed project in the County Fair and Strawberry Festival. (Her name is "Queso," so together they are Mac & Cheese.) After graduation, Mac will be going into the work force, taking time to find what direction he wants to move for the long term.



Morgan Simpson, granddaughter of Bobby and Linda, will graduate with honors from the University of Florida (BA in family, youth, and community science through the College of Agriculture). She served as philanthropy chair of Gamma Phi Beta sorority and also helped raise money for the patients at UF Shand's Children's Hospital. After graduating, she will return to Polk County to begin a career in human resources and receiving her SHRM certification.



Jordan Simpson, granddaughter of Bobby and Linda, will graduate with honors from both Polk State Collegiate High School Lakeland and Polk State College (AA). While in high school, she served as captain of the Bartow High School tennis team, secretary and vice president of the Future Builders of America, and a member of the National Honor Society. After graduating, she will study architecture and interior design at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

May God bless you & us by your influence!

A Royal Mother's Advice

Brian R. Kenyon

William Ross Wallace wrote the famous line, "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." A mother's words, when heeded, can change the world! May God send us more godly mothers! In Proverbs 31:1-9, we have "The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him" (Pr. 31:1). We know nothing of Lemuel or his mother except what we have here. Lemuel means "unto God," or "belonging to God." A queen mother was very influential in Bible times (1 Kgs. 1:11-13; 15:13; 2 Kgs. 9:22; 11:1). Although this is God-breathed Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17), there is no explicit "Thus saith the Lord." This obscurely known mother's advice made it into the pages of inspiration for good reason!

This mother's son mattered to her! "What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?" (Pr. 31:2). "What" has the force of "What shall I say?" The repetition of "son" in this introductory verse shows the seriousness of what is to follow. Emphasis is on the need for unbroken concentration, attentiveness, and receptivity. Lemuel was a son whom she had pledged to God (cf. 1 Sam. 1:11, 27). This royal mother gave her son two warnings and some instruction from which all of us can learn.

Warning Against Women

"Do not give your strength to women, Nor your ways to that which destroys kings" (Pr. 31:3). All women are not what is meant by this verse, but only those who can "destroy" (ruin) him (cf. Deut. 17:17; 1 Kgs. 11:1-2; Neh. 13:26). When a person is obsessed with lust, a person's senses are blurred and his or her judgment is gone. A king especially must keep his desires in check or else he will undermine the foundations of his authority and the principles of sound government (cf. King David, 2 Sam. 11:1-27). Every man must avoid women who lead to destruction (Pr. 2:16-19; 5:3-13; 6:24-26; 23:26-28), and the principle applies to all Christians (1 Pet. 2:11).

Warning Against Wine

He who would rule well over a nation must first rule well over himself. "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted" (Pr. 31:4-5). "Wine" does not always mean intoxicating (cf. Isa. 65:8 refers to the grapes), although, here it does, as the parallelism with "wine" and "strong drink" shows. Intoxicating wine is a natural ally of women seeking to harm a king and an equal threat to a king's ability to rule well (cf. Pr. 20:1; 23:29-35). The legal responsibility of the king is what is at stake. When drunk, kings are likely to forget the law, and thus be rendered unfit to try a case in righteousness (cf. Deut. 1:17; Pr. 24:23-26).

King Lemuel's mother does acknowledge legitimate medicinal uses of wine. "Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, And remember his misery no more" (Pr. 31:6-7). Timothy was told to "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities" (1 Tim. 5:23). Today, of course, we have much more effective (and some less addictive) medications, but alcohol is still used in medications (cf. Lk. 10:34). All must avoid intoxicating beverages (cf. Pr. 20:1; 21:17; 23:29-35). Drunkenness is condemned (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:10; 1 Pet. 2:11). Getting others drunk and/or approving of drunkenness is also condemned (Hab. 2:15 cf. Rom. 1:32).

Instruction to Defend the Weak

"Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy" (Pr. 31:8-9). The king is supposed to speak-up for those who could not speak for themselves (Ps. 29:14; 72:1-4 cf. 1 Sam. 19:4). The king is also to seek justice for those whom it would be easy to deny justice. God has always had a special place in His heart for the people who are often abused (cf. Ps. 10:14, 18; 68:4-5; 146:9). God's people are also to take up for those in need (Lk. 10:30-37 cf. Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27).

This world needs more moms with convictions like King Lemuel's mother and the courage to teach these convictions to their children! We love our mothers! You have blessed us! *Happy Mother's Day!*

PRAYER LIST

Current: Carlene Long broke her arm and is now in Highlands Lake Center, room 403B. Melissa Craft, Stephanie Kenyon and the Faneuf Family have all been sick lately.

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); 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

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@ 3:00 PM

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

THE Phoebe 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

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 10, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson
 Song Leader/prayer.....Landon Willcut
 DevotionalWayne Shearer
 PrayerJimmy Sweeney

Sunday, May 14, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty
 "She Did What She Could" (Mark 14:6-9)

6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Brian Kenyon
 "Philip: Exemplary Evangelist" (Acts 8:12)

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader (**both services**).....David Williams
 Announcements(**both**)Frank Hamby
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Paul Sweeney
 Lord'sTable (**both**).....Wayne Shearer
 Closing Prayer.....Jeff Stewart
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Anderson
 GreetersE& C Smith
 Attendance cards (**both**).....Sawyer/Ellis
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Brian Williams

6:00 P.M

P.M. Song LeaderDavid Williams
 Scripture reading/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
 Closing PrayerJoseph Faulk
 Greeters PM.....Bea P/Jeanelle T

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Announcements.....Brian Kenyon
 Song Leader/prayer.....Stacey Paulin
 DevotionalJeff Stewart
 PrayerWadi Khoury

Upcoming Events 2023

May

- 13 VBS Work day@ 3:00 PM
- 14 Elders/deacons meeting
- 14 FSOP Graduation/Reception (Team 1)
- 19-21 Youth Retreat CFBC
- 20 Mens's Breakfast North Lakeland
- 21 Graduation Celebration
- 21 Day of prayer for CFBC
- 27 Basket Auction to Benefit FSOP

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Apr. 23.....	\$6,730.00
Apr. 30.....	\$7,930.00
May 7.....	\$15,766.00
Contribution Average.....	\$7,930.00
Weekly budget	\$7,410.00

FSOP Graduation is this Sunday following the evening service. **Trevor Dees** will be the graduate this year! Remember to bring finger foods to share with our guests following the ceremony. Team 1 will be hosting this event.

How's your diet?

Rene' Bingle

Society today is consumed with the physical appearance of our bodies. The word diet is a very popular word in our vocabulary because we are bombarded by social media, encouraging us to focus on our outward appearance. The definition of diet is "the kinds of food a person habitually eats". While we do need to keep our physical bodies healthy so we will have the strength to do the Lord's work, we need to be most concerned with our spiritual diets! Are we habitually consuming "the bread of life" (John 6:51) or are we filling our bellies with those things that will eventually lead to our demise (Romans 7:4-5)?

Jesus tells us in John 6:35 that "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Our physical bodies are not going to last forever, but our spiritual bodies will so lets make sure we are feeding it with the nutrients necessary to live eternally with Christ. "For bodily exercise profiteth little but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

Our diet consists of more than what we consume with our mouths, it is also what we consume with our eyes, our ears, what we read and who we spend our time with. May we be more concerned with these areas of our diet and may this prayer be daily on our lips "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

YOUTH SECTION

V. Daugherty

Lessons from II Timothy Fathers & Sons (II Timothy 1:1-5)

Paul told his son in the faith, Timothy that he could have "grace, mercy and peace" from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord" (II Tim. 1:2). Paul said about himself that he served God "with a pure conscience" just as his forefathers did (v. 3). Paul greatly desired to pass on words of faith and encouragement to his son in the faith, Timothy that he had been taught by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (v. 5). Though Timothy may not have had a physical father that passed down his faith, Timothy had others to connect him to His heavenly Father. He had a spiritual father, excellent motherly figures, a perfect "Elder Brother" and was connected to great forefathers of faithful men who walked with God in times past. That is the legacy the church can offer young people. That is what I pray each and every one of our youth can have here. Tell me, what is your connection look like with the Father?

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."
(III John 1:4)*

All congregations & Christian families are asked to set aside...

A Day of Prayer for Central Florida Bible Camp

Sunday May 21

Please pray for...

- CFBC's Mission & Vision
- Campers' spiritual growth
- Volunteers' sacrificial spirits
- Staff's love & patience
- Board's wisdom & leadership
- God's will in all things

Spring Corn Roast

Saturday, May 20
3:00-6:00pm

Menu: Roasted Corn, Toppings, Smoked Pork, Desserts + Drinks.

Schedule of Activities

3:00-5:00 p.m. (FREE) Disc Golf, Gaga Ball, Carpetball, Corn Hole, Ping Pong, Basketball, Volleyball, and 9-Square-in-the-Air	5:00-6:00 p.m. Hurdles, 2000' Zip Line, Giant's Swing, Laser Tag + Axe Throwing (21+ Wristband Required)	6:30-8:00 p.m. Corn Roast \$12 Adult \$7 Kids <12 yrs.
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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

Happy Mother's Day

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well but you excel them all."

Proverbs 31:28-29



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