



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 20 May 14, 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

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
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Roberson Louissaint Graduating FSOP May 19, 2024, @ 6:00 pm



Roberson is originally from Leoane, Haiti, a town in the western region of that island nation. He came to the USA in June 2022, and has been very active with the Key West church of Christ since that time. Even while a student, he has filled-in to preach for that congregation and has spent time evangelizing while there during holidays and breaks. In 2010, he was baptized into Christ. While in Haiti, he continued his education and was certified in English Language at Lope de Vega Institute in Port-au-Prince. This qualified him to teach elementary and high school English, which he did until he came to America. He knew Ted Wheeler from mission work Ted did in Haiti over a decade ago. Rod Aleandre was *very instrumental* in God's bringing Roberson to FSOP. Roberson has proven himself to be a faithful servant throughout his time at FSOP. Immediately upon graduating, he will work with the Key West church of Christ, seeking the lost and edifying the church.

Philip: An Exemplary Preacher/Evangelist

Brian R. Kenyon

Although Timothy was called upon to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5), Philip is the only person in the Bible to be explicitly called “the evangelist” (Acts 21:8). Philip is first mentioned in Acts 6:5 and is last referenced in Acts 21:8. Between those verses remains the record of an exemplary preacher! What made him a great example, not just for preachers, but for us all?

Available Worker

Philip made himself available for kingdom work. First, Philip prepared himself. When the Jerusalem church was faced with the challenge of taking care of neglected widows, the apostles instructed, “seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:3). Philip was among the seven men the congregation chose (Acts 6:5). The qualifications he met (“good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”) were not attained overnight. Rather, these attributes in Philip were a way of life. Philip was was humble enough even to “serve tables” (cf. Acts 6:2). While in today’s American culture, being a “server” in a restaurant is often a desirable, money-making job, this was not the case in the first century Greco-Roman world. A table-waiter was usually the job of a lowly slave. In fact, the word “deacon” (*diakonos*, δῆκονς) has this meaning.

Second, Philip's availability is seen in his willingness to go where God directed. He "went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them" (Acts 8:5). He obeyed when told to "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," and then to "Go near and overtake this chariot" (Acts 8:26, 29). When the "Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away ... Philip was found at Azotus. And ... he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:39-40). These aspects of being available (prepared in attitude and willingness to go where God directs) are needed today by all members of Christ's body! Our whole life should be constant preparation for greater service in God's kingdom. We do this by prayerfully and humbly cultivating spiritual characteristics (cf. Matthew 5:3-10; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-10) and by being "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). Our proper spiritual growth prepares us for greater service, as Jesus confirmed, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10). Are you prepared, ready, and available for more work in the kingdom?

Approachable Teacher

As mentioned earlier, Philip is the only preacher in the Bible explicitly referred to as "the evangelist" (Acts 21:8). Two aspects of Philip made him approachable. First, he taught the good news. As a result, "the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6). When "they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized," and even a sorcerer, "Simon ... believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip" (Acts 8:12-13). Philip's readiness was genuine (cf. Romans 1:15), his message was unadulterated (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2); and his being among the people showed he cared (cf. Ezekiel 3:15). Second, his availability with the gospel and humble, servant attitude caused people to approach him and it allowed him to approach them. For example, when Philip finally caught up with the eunuch, he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?," to which the eunuch responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?," and then "he asked Philip to come up and sit with him" (Acts 8:30-31). The rest is history: Philip "preached Jesus" and the eunuch was baptized into Christ (Acts 8:35-38). Part of what made this conversion happen was the approachability of Philip. Christians today must also be approachable. Our influence must be such that people will see God in us (Matthew 5:13-16), and want to know more about Him and His word (1 Peter 3:15). If our peers had Bible questions, would they be confident we would have knowledge to give an answer? Would they feel comfortable approaching us with those questions?

Approved Home Life

Philip's home was also available and approachable, for when Paul and his coworkers came to Caesarea, they stayed in "the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven" (Acts 21:8). This was a major indicator of Philip's Christ-likeness. Some years back, Philip's fellow servant, Stephen, was murdered by Paul's approval (cf. Acts 7:54-60; 9:1). Philip did not hold a grudge against Paul for that (cf. James 5:9), but still extended Christian hospitality (Romans 12:13; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9). Philip's having "four virgin daughters who prophesied" is also an indication that Philip's home life, even as a parent, would meet God's approval (Acts 21:9). His daughters being sexually pure (i.e., "virgins") and faithfully serving God by prophesying indicates he brought "them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Sometimes, preachers and evangelists can be so busy saving the world, they lose their own families! Not so with Philip. He obviously invested time, teaching, and being a role model in rearing his daughters (cf. Proverbs 4:20-27; 23:26). Even though his daughters prophesied, there is no reason to assume they violated God's role for women (cf. 1 Timothy 2:9-15). How is our home life? Do we show Christian hospitality in our homes? Are we neglecting our family by putting selfish pursuits in first place?

Conclusion

Every local church of Christ could use more Christians like "Philip the evangelist." We do not have to be preachers to make ourselves available workers, approachable evangelists, and approved servants of God. Are you willing and "ready for every good work" (Titus 3:1)? If not, why not? Do you love the Lord (John 13:35; 14:15)? Do you think living Christianity is someone else's job? Are you approachable if someone "asks you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). If not, why not? Do your peers know you are a Christian (Matthew 5:15)? May the Lord help us follow Philip and others as they follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

PRAYER LIST

Current: Jim Turner is in the Bear Creek Nursing Center, 8401 St. Rd 52, Hudson, FL. 34669. He is in room #10. Phil Fife's shoulder surgery went well. He is at home, but still in alot of pain. Ron Cox and family were home sick this last week. Jeff Bingle is still awaiting medical tests results. Joseph Faulk's sister, Kellie, has mental health problems. Chip Bolding, first surgery went well, will have another surgery to put new metal back in when the infection is gone.

Continual: Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family) Fran Gabaldon (health), Stacey Wilson (health) Debbie Bush (struggles); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (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, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy, Nellie Anderson

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

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)

Men's Breakfast is Saturday May 18 at the North Lakeland church of Christ beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Paul Harris, a former member here. He is also the grandfather of Keely Cooper. If you would like to send a card to Martha and the family, we have the address in the office.

Door Knocking Evangelism Campaign

May 13-18, 2024

Please make plans to join us in this local mission work.

"God is not necessarily looking for ability, He is looking for availability"

Please join us on Sunday May 26th, following the morning service for a farewell potluck lunch for the Rick and Stephanie Kenyon family.

Team 2 will be the team in charge of kitchen duties. (See Rachel if you would like to donate to a money tree for them)



WEDDING SHOWER

for

TUCKER SWEENEY & ANNA CLAIR ROSS

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

@5:00 PM

PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO THEY WILL KNOW

HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE!

THEY ARE REGISTERED AT AMAZON

THERE WILL ALSO BE A MONEY TREE

-SEE RENE' OR TONYA if you would like TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT.

Scheduled to Serve in May

Designated Elder	Bobby Sheumaker
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	
Announcements	Rick Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Kyle Faneuf
Devotional / Invitation	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Allen Grimes
Sunday, May 19, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Roberson Louissaint
"A Man Attested By God" (Ats 2:22-33)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Brian Kenyon
"Who is a Faithful Servant? (Matt. 24:45-51)	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Stacey and Michelle
Song/Pray before class	Frank Hamby
Announcements (both)	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader (both)	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Tyler Anderson
Lord's Table (both)	Nigel St Bernard
Closing Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	Declan
Sound Booth (both)	Jason
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Mccarters
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer	David Williams
Wednesday, May 22, 2024	
Announcements	Frank Hamby
Song Leader / Prayer	Landan Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcut
How We Are Giving	
April 28	\$5,640.00
May 5	\$10,999.00
May 12	\$5,852.56
Contribution Average	\$7,157.00
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!

LORD HEAR MY PRAYER

Lord, you know my heart, my deepest thoughts, and fears.
 You know my prior life and the sins I have committed.
 I cannot hide from you; my soul is bare, and you know it all.
 How I feel, the words I speak and my actions.
 Heal me, Lord!
 Take my innermost thoughts and cleanse me from evil and bitterness.
 Give me strength to overcome temptation.
 Lead me in the straight path to eternal life.
 Use me to your glory!
 Let me shine when I would rather be dim and dull.
 Give me sincere love when I would rather harbor resentment.
 Help me to be gracious and kind when jealousy and envy fill my heart.
 Cleanse me, and mold me into what you created me to be.
 You are the God of creation and there is none like you.
 May my eyes see the beauty in each person I encounter.
 Let me never be ashamed of you or cause you to be ashamed of me.
 Hear my humble plea O God!
 I am your servant daughter and need you every moment.
 Thank you, Father, for your love, mercy, patience, and longsuffering.
 My hope is in you Lord!
 Amen.

Inspired by Psalm 139, especially verses 23-24,
 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

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

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.

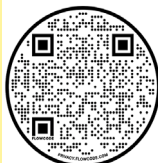


"And He said to them Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. "
Mark 16-15

South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested



Happy Graduation



The Florida School of Preaching
 Invites you to celebrate the
 Spring Class of 2024

Roberson Louissaint

Graduation Ceremony
 Sunday May 19, 2024 at 6pm

**Our congregation is providing food for the graduation reception. Please bring food to the kitchen before evening worship, enough for your family and guests
 THANK YOU!**



Spring Corn Roast
 Saturday, May 18, 3:00-6:00pm



4:30 - 6:00pm
(Food Served)
 \$15 Adults
 \$10 Kids <12 yrs.

3:00 - 5:00pm
 Hayrides, Zip Line,
 Laser Tag & Axe Throwing

3:00 - 6:00pm
 Disc Golf, Gaga Ball, Carpetball,
 Corn Hole, Ping Pong, Basketball,
 Volleyball & 9-Square-in-the-Air

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