



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 23 June 14, 2022

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## 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)

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

## MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia  
Don Iverson.....India  
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa  
Graham McDonald..Scotland  
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.  
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands  
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

## **CONFIDENCE IN OUR PRAYERS**

*Joshua Cantrell*

One of the greatest benefits of being a Christian is the privilege of prayer. Prayer is often treated as the “break-in case of emergency” box on the wall. Often we only resort to prayer when things are out of control. I heard a preacher say long ago, “If the only time you pray is when you’re in trouble, you’re in trouble.” Prayer should not be the last resort, but the first thing we do. When Jehoshaphat was challenged with a difficult task the first thing he did was talk to God about it (2 Chron. 20:1-8). When the people saw him praying to God they followed his example.

During the Patriarchal dispensation, the father acted as a priest on behalf of his entire family. During the Mosaic dispensation, the High Priest was tasked with that responsibility. Today, we are priests (1 Pet. 2:9), and we have the privilege of going to God in prayer ourselves. While it is good to pray for others and have them pray for us (Psa. 17:6; 1 These. 5:16-18; Jam. 5:16), we also can pray for ourselves (Mt. 7:7).

Prayer is often talked about but hardly practiced. When prayer is done correctly the inner man is strengthened. Paul writes to the Church in Ephesus, “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of whom the whole family heaven and earth is named. That he would grant, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.” (Eph. 3:14-16). Prayer is not about what we can get out of God, but what God can get out of us. We give it to God (1 Pet. 5:6-7), and he gives us comfort and peace (Phil. 4:6- 7).

### **P = PATIENCE**

Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. We read about the call of Abram in Genesis 12. God told him he was going to have a son. Abraham waited 25 years before he would meet that son. We often think because we ask God, he should immediately give us what we ask for. God does not move when we tell him to move. He moves according to his time and will work out his will for our lives. James records, “knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (Jam. 1:3-4).

### **R = REASONABLE**

Reasonable is defined as having sound judgment, fair and sensible. I can recall many times in school preparing to take a test and the anticipation that came over me. Many would pray to God and did not study beforehand. Our prayers should be practical and by God’s will. Is it wrong to pray for a new car? What about a new home? A new job? Asking for those is not necessarily wrong, but what is our motive behind asking for those things. James records, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (Jam. 4:3).

### **A = ACTIVE**

Prayer should be a daily routine for the Christian. Often people only pray when it is time to eat. While that is appropriate, that should not be the deciding factor in our prayers. Prayer should be second nature for us. When you read the Psalms (most of which are written by David), you see just how prayerful he was. David knew the only way for him to be strengthened was by talking to God. David often cried his heart out to God in prayer (Psa. 3; Psa. 14; Psa. 23; Psa. 46). King Darius made a decree in Babylon that no one should pray to any other God. Daniel opened his windows toward Babylon and prayed exactly as he did all the days before that (Dan. 6:10).

Even today our world will continue to make laws that are not by God's will. We must carry the attitude of Daniel with us and make sure we are pleasing God (Acts. 5:29).

### **Y = YIELD**

When praying to God we need to yield to his will. Yield means to give way to demands or pressure, give possession of. God wants us to follow him and serve him, but the choice is ultimately up to us. We are free moral agents in the sense that God is not going to physically come down to Earth and personally do for us what we can for ourselves. Jesus would say, "if ye love me, keep my commandments." (Jn. 14:15). When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, he prayed three times for God to remove the cup from him (Mt. 26:36). Jesus knew this was the Father's plan from the very beginning. In his darkest hour, he found the strength to yield to God's will. Matthew records "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Mt. 26:39). Yielding to God is not a sign of weakness. It is showing God that we are willing to trust in him (Pro. 3:5; Rom. 10:17).

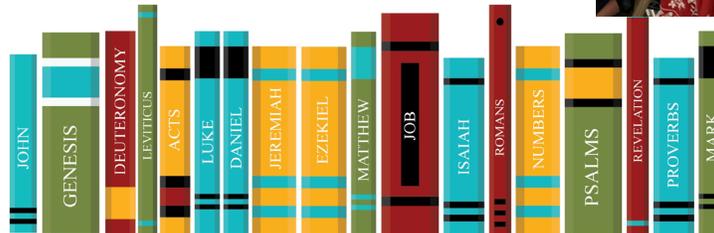
### **E = EARNEST**

Our prayers have to be earnest in the sense we are showing sense and intense conviction. When we are zealous in

our prayers they will be meaningful not only to us but to God. When we read Philippians 3, Paul shows us that we can have a zeal for the world. He gave all of that to win Christ (Phil. 3:8). Christ and his church were his only interests in life. Paul prayed sincerely for others so that they could see and understand their true calling (Eph. 1:18). Earnestness is the opposite of spiritual laziness and complacency. Paul exhorts not to be slothful in zeal (Rom. 12:11). There is a constant attack from Satan for us to be dull in our Christianity. When we are earnest in our prayers, they will draw us closer to the heart of God.

### **R = READY**

When prayer is done properly, we can have the peace that passeth all understanding (Phil. 4:6-8). That does not mean the thoughts of what we have prayed for will go away. It means that whatever God's will is for my life, I'm going to be ready to accept that. He knows what I need better than what I think I need for my life. He created me and we have to be ready to accept his will. Paul writes, "And we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28). After I pray to God (Rom. 8:26), I have to be ready to accept and his will and live out that will in my life. As we go throughout this week, let us strive daily to be more diligent in our prayers.



# the B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me

**SFA VBS 2022**



# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16*

## Our Members:

## PRAYER LIST

Bob Pratt - health	Ron & Judy Ford - health
Jim Turner - health	Bernetta Green - health & strength
Brian Smith - heart health	Bobby Simpson - health
Debbie Bush - struggles	Margaret Coone
Sharon M. Washington - health	Annett Phillip - health
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	Vanessa Palmer - health
Janie Wise - health	Bill Long - health
Wayne Shearer - health/test results	George Davis - eye procedure
Virginia Walker - lung infection	Jimmy Sweeney - shoulder rehab
Bobby Sheumaker - health	
Olivia & Sophia Smith - mission trip to Memphis, TN	
Several members - mission trip to Huron, SD	

**(Please update the office of any changes)**

The **EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board. Please let the office know if someone's status on that list needs to be updated or if a person needs to be removed from the list

### Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage Carol Eason

### Updates & Prayer requests

Let's be sure to pray for  
Mission trips to Huron, SD and Memphis, TN  
WWCC and CFBC Bible Camps  
Members traveling for summer vacations



**Sundays at 5:45 pm**  
Prayer time for evangelism efforts

**Sundays at 5:45 pm**  
Pew packers in auditorium

### ADDITIONAL INFO

Mark your calendar - **Annual Summer Cook-out** is July 16.  
More details soon.

**Fellowship In-service** has been changed to July 3.

We need others to be trained in operating our **sound booth**. This is a great opportunity to serve the Lord in a VERY meaningful way, especially for those who do not want to be in front of the public. We need your help! See Stacey Paulin or Brian Kenyon.



Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### June

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

### Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Announcements ..... David Anderson  
Song Leader/prayer ..... Frank Hamby  
Devo ..... Ian Enamorado  
Closing Prayer ..... Phil Fife

### Sunday, June 19, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Paul's Call at Corinth ..... Joshua Cantrell  
1 Cor. 1:13-17

#### 6:00 P.M.

Do All Of It But In Love ... Zach Jones  
Revelation 2:1-7

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Brian Kenyon  
Greeters ..... Paulin  
Song/prayer before class ..... Stacey Paulin  
Announcements ..... Tyler Anderson  
A.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer  
Lord's Table ..... Kyle Faneuf  
Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

#### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader ..... Vince Daugherty  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
Lord's Table ..... Kyle Faneuf  
Closing Prayer ..... David Deal  
Greeters ..... Nona Williams

### Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Announcements ..... Tyler Anderson  
Song Leader/Prayer ..... Andre Medley  
Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
Closing Prayer ..... Allen Grimes

### Upcoming Events

#### June

11-18 - Mission trip, SD  
12-18 - WWCC camp  
15 - Ladies' class begins  
18 - Men's breakfast,  
Haines City  
19 - FATHER'S DAY  
21 - SFA Men's breakfast,  
8:30 at Fred's  
26 - CFBC begins

#### July

3 - Fellowship In-service  
4 - Independence Day  
16 - Summer cookout  
21-23 - WWCC K-5  
24 - Fellowship in-service



### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

May 29 .....	(building fund) .....	\$7,709.00
Jun 5 .....		\$6,909.00
Jun 12 .....		\$5,427.00
Contribution Average .....		\$6,395.86
Weekly budget .....		\$7,663.43

Having trouble sleeping at night? Counting sheep may help, but I prefer to talk to the Shepherd and count my blessings. Let me share a few of them with you:

**Bible** - the Bible is such a blessing to the Christian! It guides us and lights are way and comforts us (Psalms 119:105)

**Love** - God loves us so much that He gave His only Son to die for our sins (John 3:16)

**Eternal life** is a wonderful blessing & promise to those who believe on Jesus and who obey His commands (1 John 5:13)

**Salvation** - Salvation is such a beautiful blessing that God has given to those who believe on His word and put Christ on in baptism and who continue to live faithfully (Eph. 2:8, I Jn 1:9, I Pet. 3:21).

**Spiritual blessings** - Ephesians 1:3 tells us that all spiritual blessings in heavenly places are in Christ.

Those who have been baptized into Christ, therefore, have access to all spiritual blessings.

**Inheritance** - The Bible tells us we have an inheritance as God's children (Eph. 1:11). We have the power to become the sons of God if we believe on His name according to John 1:12.

**New name** - we have been given a new name! We are Christians which means we belong to Christ! (Isaiah 62:2)

**God's grace** has saved us! II Tim 1:9 tells us that nothing we could ever do could purchase our salvation; it is only by God's grace that we can be saved!

**Servanthood** - God has blessed us so that we can bless others (Eph 2:10)! Just as Christ came to serve others (Mark 10:45), we, too, are blessed so that we may serve others and show them Christ by our words and deeds!

## ***But I say to you...***

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- **Jesus** (Matthew 5:38-48)

[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.



*And this is eternal life,  
that they know you,  
the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ  
whom you have sent*

John 17:3

**South Florida Avenue  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested



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