



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
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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Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

Missionary - Huron, SD
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J. Paguaga Honduras
Ted Wheeler Ghana, W.A.

Preaching: A View from the Pew

Vince Daugherty

Last month in Germany over three hundred people took time out of their Friday evening to attend the first ever A. I. (artificial intelligence) generated church service. The 40-minute message was delivered through ChatGPT, which also produced a personified avatar of a man's profile to offer a more personal feel. It feels weird to live in our time when I consider: should I be worried about A. I. coming for my job as a preacher? Maybe we ought to take a moment and think critically about the question of what does preaching entail? Can anyone (or any robot) with the gift of gab and a microphone stand in the pulpit? What ought people sitting in the pew to expect when they listen to a sermon? What is God's purpose and design for preachers? This is especially true for the congregation at SFA. What ought we look for in the individuals who stand in the pulpit

Preaching Defined

Preaching is the proclamation of God's word. God, however, did not miraculously drop tape recorders from heaven for us to hear His message. Preaching involves human agency. It is God's message delivered through human personality. The preacher is one who gathers attention to the message God desires to deliver. In Greek, the term is *kérussó* (κηρύσσω). The term means to proclaim, herald, or preach. In the Greek and Roman world, meetings could be called for civic purposes and a runner would announce to the people of the city to gather. God's messenger and message are taken from the same root word. Another term we ought to be familiar with is *euaggelizó* (εὐαγγελίζω). The term means to announce the good news. In our Bibles, it is often translated "preach the gospel." Notice both words are used in Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach [from *kérussó*] unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim [from *euaggelizó*] peace, who bring the gospel [or good news, from *euaggelizó*] of good things!'" Paul was fired-up to come to Rome to preach the gospel, for he knew in it, the gospel, was the power of God to offer salvation to both Jews and Greeks (Rom. 1:15-17).

Why is preaching so important? Jesus was God's Son, He was a preacher, and He said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32). He also said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). In a world that would settle for attempting to invent truth, God is *The Truth* (John 14:6). In our world people will call things that are less than true, true and hope that nobody will notice. It is noticeable when the obvious reality does not match their definitions. We as God-fearers must have a hunger and thirst for God's word. It is the only hope we can have of properly navigating through this life and the next. First Peter 3:15 states, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is within

you with meekness and fear.” If God’s word is life-giving truth that one must use as a defense of their mode of being, what is it that we ought to expect from the individual who stands in the pulpit?

Expectations from the Pew

1. Give Me Christ Exalted! Jesus told Nicodemus; the Son of Man must be lifted up (John 3:13). Again, He said in John 12:32, “I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” Primarily, the preacher ought to glorify Jesus Christ. Further, he must glory in the cross of Christ. The gospel message may seem strange in the beginning, but it must be taught over and over. Without God coming in the flesh (John 1:1-14), living a perfect sinless life (I Cor. 5:21), and giving His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45), we could not have an eternal hope in heaven with Him (I Pet. 1:3). So, when Paul came to a place to evangelize, he said, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (I Cor. 2:1, 2). Jesus is not just some moral teacher, one among other prophets, He was the promised Messiah, the suffering Servant, the ascended King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

2. Give Me God's Word! Preaching is not just having the ability to stand and speak in front of a crowd for 30 minutes. Preaching is not a stand-up comedic routine. Preaching is not story time. Preaching is not entertainment. It is the glorification of God and His word. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (I Pet. 4:11). Peter is saying the preacher is just a conduit, or a mouthpiece, of God. Sure, it is good when a preacher is dynamic and lets his personality shine, but he is not to be the one glorified. God alone is! One preacher said good preaching ought to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. Good preaching must challenge sin in people’s lives that have become too comfortable. Good preaching helps individuals to recall those Biblical examples who endured hardship and overcame through faith. The presentation of God’s word must also be balanced. Paul said to the Ephesian elders, “I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). A preacher must not ride a hobby horse that sounds more like political propaganda. God’s word must be balanced between milk and meat for young and mature (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14). Preaching must balance deep theological truths and practical everyday help. Not everyone can stand in the pulpit. Some are very zealous to be leaders, teachers, and preachers but lack the proper knowledge to lead (I Tim. 1:7). Also, some would seek to try to impress with fancy words and scholarly jargon. Brian often describes a sweet spot that is where both the mature and the calves can get it.

3. Give Me Explanation! When the walls were rebuilt in Nehemiah’s day, they asked the scribe Ezra to read from the law in the open square (Neh. 8). Ezra, “stood on a platform of wood” (v. 4) specially made for the occasion and had assistants helping him teach the people. “They read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave them the sense and helped them to understand the reading” (v. 8). James taught from his letter to not only be hearers of the word but doers as well (James 1:22-27). Preaching is more than academic. It should have a “so what” element to the lesson. How does this apply to my life? How is it to be embodied in the present world? How should my thoughts, feelings, and/or actions change because of this truth that is received? Too, God’s word must be explained because it cannot devolve into religious dogmatism. One is being dogmatic when he demands some form of obedience without question. We are to reason from Scripture (Isa. 1:18), not proof text. Sometimes when folks are dogmatic, they can be correct in the truth, yet they cannot explain why. Sometimes a preacher is wrong because his dogmatic preaching/teaching does not align with truth in the natural world or God’s word. We must study to show ourselves approved (II Tim. 2:15) but also be humble enough to say when we do not know something. To take a stance on something that has not been fully revealed or fully studied sets one up for failure when he becomes dogmatic.

Conclusion

Preaching is a cooperative effort. It should originate from the mind of God; it should flow through the pulpit; and come to rest in the hearts and minds of those who sit in the pew to be taken in, understood, and applied to our lives. Then, we are to preach that to the watching world. The glory of preaching is a great and high calling. Those in the pew ought to demand that God’s spokesman do what God has called him to do.

PRAYER LIST

Current: Jim Turner's pacemaker insertion has been postponed til a later date. Gene Bole's procedure went well, Marissa Estridge will be having surgery on her knee on July 13.

Continual: Wayne Shearer has started Chemotherapy; Melissa Craft (health); Declan Potvin (eye); 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

"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

WELCOME Rachel Zapata placed membership here with us last Sunday. Let us welcome her to the family and make her feel loved at SFA! To God be the Glory!

Ron and Debbie Lynn came forward last Sunday evening confessing sin and asking for prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and encourage them in any way we can.



Thank you to all who helped with the cookout and game day last Saturday! We all enjoyed a great time of fun, food and fellowship despite the rain! A special thank you to Vince for coordinating the event, to the cooks and kitchen helpers and all those who provided the delicious food!

VBS
ORANGE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
JULY 29TH
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.
LUNCH PROVIDED
GOD'S ETERNAL HOME
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

IRL
TEEN RECHARGE
WWCC 2023

Investigating the reality of the resurrection
It really happened In Real Life!
August 4-6
For ages 12-18
Register before July 20 to guarantee a t-shirt
Register at <https://forms.gle/pkSTwZfRw5x2YPPhU9>
If you have any questions, please contact Vince Daugherty (740) 801-1106 or email vdaughero81013@gamil.com

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Announcements.....Tyler Anderson
Song Leader/prayer.....Frank Hamby
DevotionalTucker Sweeney
PrayerWadi Khoury

Sunday, July 16, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty
There is a Redeemer (Ruth)

6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Lemuel Medley

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....David Williams
Song Leader (**both services**).....Andre Medley
Announcements(**both**)Jimmy Sweeney
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (**both**).....Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer.....Tyler Anderson
Open/Close bldg (**both**).....Jason Hendrix
Greeters.....Sweeney's
Attendance cards (**both**).....Camron/Landon
Sound Booth (**both**).....Jason Hendrix
6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song LeaderAndre Medley
Scripture reading/PrayerLandon Willcut
Closing PrayerRick Kenyon
Greeters PM.....Stacey/Michelle Paulin

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson
Song Leader/prayer.....Stacey Paulin
DevotionalTerrance Dindy
PrayerKyle Bingle

Upcoming Events 2023

July

29 Orange St VBS 9:00 am-?

August

4-6 Teen Recharge Retreat WWCC
5 VBS North Lakeland 9:30 am
5 Baby Shower for Heidi (Bingle) Rhymes
5 VBS Pinecastle church of Christ
13 Elders/Deacons Meeting
19 Men's breakfast Haines City
27 Fellowship in Service

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 25.....\$5,501.00
July 02.....\$6,019.00
July 09.....\$8,488.00
Contribution Average.....\$7,111.72
Weekly budget \$7,410.00

The Elders

- E** ~ Esteem them highly (1 Thes. 5:12-13)
- L** ~ Love them as our church leaders (1 Thes. 4:9; Heb. 13:7)
- D** ~ Don't make their work harder (Heb. 13:17)
- E** ~ Encourage them (Heb.3:13)
- R** ~ Remember to keep them in our prayers (1 Tim. 2:1)
- S** ~ Support them as they work with us (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

The work of an elder is not an easy job—getting to know the flock and the different personalities. "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood"(Acts 20:28).

The elders are responsible for watching out for their souls, their families' souls, and the souls of the congregation. "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

If they are faithful followers of God's word, then we ought to submit to them even when we don't agree with their decisions. "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct (Heb. 13:77)."

May they do the work that the Lord has entrusted to them with a sincere heart and to the Glory of God.
(1 Peter 5:1-4)

Youth Section

Lesson's from Second Timothy

Flee youthful lusts (II Timothy 2:22)

My dad told me a story one time. He said he read comic books when he was a kid. His favorite was Spiderman. He said one day when he was a senior in high school, he took a box of all his old comics and threw them into the fire. He thought he was a man and needed to get rid of childish things. Only he did not realize that he was burning first-edition copies of comics that would be collectibles one day. Most adults look back on certain things they did when they were young, shake their heads, and say, "Man, I wish I knew when I was younger what I know now!" Spiritually speaking, there are things we must grow out of. Paul told Timothy, "Flee youthful lusts." When you are young you think you want fame, fortune, power, and influence, but that is rarely attained. It is better to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." Those things never go out of style. With those things, we can avoid many of life's heartaches, dangers, pitfalls, and worse. Who needs to hear "It's time to grow up and leave behind childish things"? Maybe it's you. Maybe it's someone you love. -VD

Please let
Stephanie
Kenyon know if
you would like
to help with
food for the
baby shower for
Heidi Rhymes!
And RSVP to
the office if you
are coming!



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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
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Return Service Requested

*"For this God is our God for ever
and ever: He will be our guide even
unto death."
Psalm 48:14*



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