



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 29 July 18, 2023

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
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)

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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  
Ted Wheeler ..... Ghana, W.A.

## “Our God, He Is Alive”

Brian R. Kenyon

One of the most beloved songs of a few generations ago among churches of Christ in the USA was “Our God, He Is Alive,” known affectionately by some as 728b. This song was written by Aaron Wesley Dicus (1888-1978), a brother in Christ. He was born in Missouri and reared in Indiana. He obeyed the Gospel in 1908 and began preaching in 1913. He mostly taught in high schools and universities, and in 1950 moved to Temple Terrace to teach at Florida Christian College. He was a scientist-inventor-type who loved to preach. He held thousands of patents and invented technology involving automobile turn signals and cruise control, an electric pencil sharpener, and a skill saw. According to Irvin Himmel, when Dicus was in “his old age, somewhat as a hobby, he took up song writing” and produced about thirty hymns (*Truth Magazine* 22.43 [1978]: 697-698). “Our God, He Is Alive” is actually a defense of the biblical God. In this article, we will note the biblical principles behind the song. Hopefully, this will remind us of the God we serve and help us in teaching the biblical God to others.

## Our God, He Is Creator

Before anything was created, there was only God! Then, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). This verse and the next are best taken as a summary of creation, the details of which are given in Genesis 1:3-31. Those who take Genesis 1:1-2 as part of the first day, disrupt the beautiful pattern of the creation account. If, for example, these first two verses belong to the first day, then that day becomes the only day that did not begin with “Then God said ...” (cf. Gen. 1:6, 9, 14, 20, 24).

Our culture has been desensitized concerning God. For years academia has done its best to get rid of God. They have succeeded in the minds of too many, but those people should reconsider. It is impossible for something to come from nothing without an intelligent, all-powerful, uncaused cause! There is more design in a blade of grass than in the most advanced technology invented by man! Surrounding the great throne of God in Revelation 4:11, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders praised God, “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” No wonder brother Dicus exclaimed in the first stanza, “There is, beyond the azure blue, a God concealed from human sight, He tinted skies with heav’nly hue and framed the worlds with His great might.”

## Our God, He Is Revealer

John declared that “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 Jn. 1:5). While there is a moral element in this declaration, there is also a truth about the revealing nature of God. Light cannot help but to reveal itself. Everyone who

can see knows when the light is on, even a lit match in a completely dark stadium (cf. Jn. 1:5). Like light, God cannot help but to reveal Himself. He has done this through His creation. “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Ps. 19:1). The psalmist went on to use the sun God created as an illustration (Ps. 19:2-6). Like clock-work, it precisely rises and sets every day. From creation, we can “clearly” see God’s “invisible attributes,” knowing “His eternal power and Godhead” (Rom. 1:20).

Although nature can teach much about God, only through His written revelation, the Bible, can we know about our need for salvation. Thus, the psalmist declared the importance of the “law of the Lord” (and its synonyms) immediately after his statements about knowing God through nature. God’s written revelation “is perfect, converting the soul” (Ps. 19:7-9). Paul also confirmed, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). No wonder brother Dicus exclaimed in the second stanza, “There was, a long, long time ago, A God whose voice the prophets heard, He is the God that we should know, Who speaks from His inspired Word.”

## Our God, He Is **Sustainer**

God not only created this world, but He also sustains it! As mentioned earlier, the One who sat upon the throne in John’s vision was praised, “For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created” (Rev. 4:11). Even from a human standpoint, it is one thing to make something, but quite another to sustain it! God’s awesome power not only brought everything (except Himself) into being, but also His will and wisdom sustain everything He created. Throughout the Book of Job, the patriarch wanted to meet God face-to-face to prove his innocence (cf. Job 9:1-35 cf. Job 19:23-24). God never met Job in a formal, legal setting, but He did speak to him from “the whirlwind” (Job 38:1). The only thing God did was ask Job about creation (Job 38:4–41:34). Job could not answer. All he could finally do was confess, “I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know” (Job 42:3)!

Paul gave further insight by adding, “All things were created through Him and for Him” (Col. 1:16). This universe was created to serve God’s purpose in redemption! Paul proclaimed that “God ... made the world and everything in it ...and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:24-27). From that blade of grass to everything we see in this world, creation by God is the *only* rational explanation! Any explanation short of God is foolishness (Ps. 14:1)! No wonder brother Dicus exclaimed in the third stanza, “Secure, is life from mortal mind, God holds the germ within His hands, Tho’ men may search, they cannot find, For God alone does understand.”

## Our God, He Is **Redeemer**

God loved us to the amazing point that “He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). “God is love” (1 Jn. 4:8), and, like light, sacrificial love cannot help but to reveal itself. “Redeem” means to buy back, or pay the price to regain possession of something by paying a price. The price paid for our salvation was not worldly valuable commodities such as “silver or gold ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Thanks be to God that Jesus, “with His own blood ... entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12). Because of this, the redeemed will sing “a new song before the throne” of God forever (Rev. 14:3-4).

Not only does God redeem the lost, but even when the saved sin (1 Jn. 1:8, 10), God has a plan to make them whole again. When the new Christian, Simon, known as “the sorcerer,” sinned, he was not told to be re-baptized but to “Repent ... and pray” to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). Christians are assured, “if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:7, 9). God not only wants people saved, whether they are outside of Christ or in Christ (1 Tim. 2:4), but He has also done everything on His end to make that possible (Rom. 8:29-39)! No wonder brother Dicus exclaimed in the fourth stanza, “Our God, whose Son upon a tree, A life was willing there to give, That He from sin might set man free, And ever more with Him could live.”

## PRAYER LIST

**Current:** Jim Turner's pacemaker insertion has been postponed til a later date. Marissa Estridge had surgery on her knee on July 13

**Continual:** Wayne Shearer (health); 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**

**Rick Kenyon** resigned from being a deacon, acknowledging that he was not a good fit at this time. We appreciate the good work he has done as a deacon, and, consistent with what he said, we look forward to continuing working with him as an active member of the congregation.

### 5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be **July 30, 2023.**

If you would like to give additional funds at other times, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the building fund. It will be collected by the elders.

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUG. 6, WE WILL MODIFY THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN DOING THE LORD'S SUPPER. WE WILL START PASSING AGAIN THE COMMUNION PLATES WITH THE PRE-PACKAGED ELEMENTS. WE WILL ALSO PASS THE CONTRIBUTION PLATES. THOSE WHO STILL PREFER TO PICK-UP THEIR OWN PACKETS MAY DO SO.**

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, phone calls, and beautiful cards. All of this makes it much easier to recover from my heart problems. We love the South Florida Avenue church, and are thankful we are here.  
**In Christian love, Gene & Brenda Boles**

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



### 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/pkSTwZfRw5x2YPhU9>

If you have any questions, please contact Vince Daugherty (740) 801-1106 or email [vdaughero81013@gmail.com](mailto:vdaughero81013@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

**July** Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Announcements.....David Anderson  
Song Leader/prayer.....Stacey Paulin  
Devotional .....Terrance Dindy  
Prayer .....Kyle Bingle

### Sunday, July 23, 2023

**10:30 A.M.**

Sermon.....Brian Kenyon  
The Message of the Cross (1 Cor. 1:18)

**6:00 P.M.**

Singing Service

### Those to Serve

**10:30 A.M.**

Song/Prayer before class.....Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader (**both services**).....Kyle Faneuf  
Announcements(**both**) .....David Anderson  
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Josh Estridge  
Lord's Table (**both**).....George Beals  
Closing Prayer.....David Deal  
Open/Close bldg (**both**).....Bobby Sheumaker  
Greeters.....Rogers  
Attendance cards (**both**).....Caelen/Peyton  
Sound Booth (**both**).....Brian Williams

**6:00 P.M.**

P.M. Song Leader ..... Kyle Faneuf  
Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
Closing Prayer ..... Wesley Brunson  
Greeters PM..... Olivia/ Ingrid

### Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Announcements.....Tyler Anderson  
Song Leader/prayer.....Vince Daugherty  
Devotional .....B. Sheumaker  
Prayer .....Mike Van Allen

### Upcoming Events 2023

#### July

29 Orange St VBS 9:00 am-?  
30 Fellowship In Service

#### 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 ~

July 02.....\$6,019.00  
July 09.....\$8,488.00  
July 16.....\$6,001.00  
Contribution Average.....\$7,070.58  
Weekly budget ..... \$7,410.00

## Seeing Eutychus in a Positive Light

In Acts 20:7-12 (ESV) we read about a moment in life of a young man named Eutychus. By the inspiration of God, this moment was recorded by Luke so that generations to come would remember this young man. After reading the verses over and over, I came to see Eutychus in a positive light.

Paul is preaching late into the night. The young man, Eutychus was sitting at the window and eventually fell asleep as "Paul talked still longer." Here are some thoughts that came to mind:

1. The young man was present to hear Paul's preaching. (What a joy it must have been to sit at the feet of Paul?)
2. He may have fallen asleep while sitting by the window, but he was IN worship service. (The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.)
3. He may have been sitting by the window because that was the only place left for him to sit.
4. He may have gone to sit by the window to get some fresh air trying to stay awake.
4. When Paul revived him, he did not rebuke him for sitting by the window or falling asleep.
6. He set an example for me, the willingness to be present for worship even if it is from morning until midnight. Isn't that how heaven will be?
7. Eutychus being raised from the dead by Paul, gave the people an opportunity to rejoice and glorify God.

### Lesson's from II Timothy

Correcting those who oppose (II Timothy 2:22-26)

It can be hard when there are people you disagree with, but as a servant of the Lord there is instruction for how one ought to deal with those who are opposed to you as a Christian.

1. Avoid Ignorant disputes. Some arguments are not worth having. Some people just want to argue, which causes more strife. Paul told his son in the faith, avoid those disputes. He also said, do not quarrel but be gentle.
2. Be a teacher. Sometimes arguments arise from a lack of knowledge. Do not use the knowledge you have as a weapon but in humility correct those in opposition with the truth.
3. A soul winner. Always remember it is not about winning an argument but about winning a soul who is caught in the snare of the devil. Those who repent from their opposition to God and come to their senses is not a victory for you, but a victory for them.

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  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*...My grace is sufficient for thee,  
for My strength is made perfect in  
weakness."*

*11 Corinthians 12:9*



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