



# 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

## 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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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.

## **MY FINAL THOUGHTS ON THE BOOK OF ACTS**

A study of the book of Acts is an invaluable investment for a Christian. Sometimes known as the hub of the Bible, it connects God's story between Old and New Testament. Luke at the outset lets his audience Theophilus know the purpose of his two-volume set telling of, "all that Jesus began to do and teach" (Acts 1:1 and see Gospel of Luke). Acts picks up where the Gospels left off. Jesus' ascension (Acts 1:9-11) did not end God's story, but it was only the turning of the page to the next chapter. In Acts 2, God's kingdom the church is ushered in. From there, Luke gives various snapshots of what that kingdom looked like, how it operated, and how it responded to challenges all empowered by the Holy Spirit.

From Luke's pen, we can easily remember the spread of the kingdom in three stages. "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). This then gives an outline of the book: First in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7), then Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12), and finally to the ends of the earth (Acts 13-28). Another way to help us get a handle on the book of Acts, the first half of the book is dominated by the apostle Peter, the apostle to the Jews (Acts 1-12), and then the apostle Paul in the second half, the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 13-28).

### **MAJOR THEMES:**

**I.** The Church: Christ's kingdom on Earth. Before Jesus began His earthly ministry He preached "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand", meaning that it had not arrived at the time of His speaking but that its coming was imminent. In His model prayer He prayed that the kingdom would come on earth (Matt. 6:10). Jesus said that He would build His church (Matt. 16:18). In the following verse He said that He would give the keys of the "kingdom" to Peter (Matt. 16:19) and repeated it to the other disciples (Matt. 18:18). Acts 1:9-11 describes the ascension of Christ back into heaven. At the time Jesus was welcomed into heaven, Daniel prophesied "the Son of Man... was given dominion and glory and a kingdom" (7:13,14). Christ reigning from heaven is also called the "head" of the church (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18). So, Luke records when the King was enthroned (Acts 1:9-11) and the inauguration of the kingdom (Acts 2), having come with the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) and the addition of the first three thousand subjects (Acts 2:41).

**II.** Universal offer of salvation. While the kingdom began primarily with the Jewish people, God's intention was always to offer the salvation of all of humanity in Jesus Christ: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 20:28); "Go into all the world and preach to every creature" (Mark 16:15); "repentance and remission of sins would be preached in His name to all nations" (Luke 24:47). As recorded by Luke in Acts 2 Peter preached first kingdom sermon on the day of Pentecost (v. 15-40) and threw open the doors of the kingdom to its first hearers. Peter preached by inspiration of the Spirit when he said that the promise of salvation was given, "to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). He did not fully understand at the time but that would include the offer of salvation to Gentiles. Jesus meant they would witness to the "ends of the earth". Just as the ripples of a pebble tossed into a pond, the borders of the kingdom spread as the disciples "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4)

Of note is the first Gentile convert Cornelius (Acts 10). While Peter was not entirely sure if he should be in the same house, God showed Gentiles were worthy of the kingdom when the Holy Spirit was poured out on them, just as the Jews in Acts 2. Peter said, "Who was I that I could withstand God?" (Acts 11:17) so Cornelius was baptized into Christ and added to the kingdom (Acts 10:48). While many Jews objected over the entry of Gentiles into the kingdom it was shown emphatically that "God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life" (Acts 11:18). Gentiles were not required to keep the law of Moses, they were not second-class proselytes, but full-blown sons of God through faith and obedience in Jesus Christ (for more see Acts 15).

**III.** A spiritual kingdom existing in the physical world. Pilate struggled with what to do with Jesus. He knew that He was innocent, yet if Jesus was a rival king to Caesar, Pilate could not let Him just go free. Pilate asked him about the nature of His kingdom. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Recorded in Luke, Jesus said, "The Kingdom does not come with observation; nor will they say 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you" (17:20,21). The nature of the spiritual kingdom will not operate like a physical kingdom. It does not have a flag, its citizens will not have a uniform, and its borders cannot be seen in the physical. When Jesus said the kingdom was within it comes when individuals submit to Christ's Lordship in their lives. The borders of the kingdom expanded like wildfire in the first century as individuals confessed Jesus as Lord and were baptized for the remission of sins. How the world was changed by the kingdom was paradoxical. In one way it disrupted the status quo. Some in opposition said, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6). Some who opposed were unbelieving Jews who were envious of the reception of the Gentiles to the Gospel (Acts 13:42-45; 17:5-9; 18:6; 22:21,22). Others were discontented because their way of life was being disrupted, especially financially (Acts 16:16-19; 19:25-27). However, Luke shows over and over that the citizens of the kingdom had done no wrong, and they were doing no things deserving persecution or civil punishment (Acts 16:37,38; 18:14-16; 19:37-40; 23:9, 29; 25:25; 26:31,32). At the conclusion of the book, Paul is preaching in the very same place as Caesar preaching and teaching about a different king and kingdom in his own rented house, no one forbidding him; with all confidence (Acts 28:30,31)

**IV.** An unstoppable kingdom. Christ said of the church which He would establish, "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). When they crucified Jesus; yet He did not see corruption (Acts 2:31), He raised three days later. His kingdom was not left without the ability to remain. Though He ascended, He empowered His kingdom by the coming of the Holy Spirit, which He promised His disciples (John 14 and Acts 1:8). Challenges came from within and from without, yet the church came through not only surviving but thriving (Acts 5:12-14). When His witnesses were detained, they seemed to not be able to be kept securely (Acts 4:19; 12:5-11; 16:26). Though the Jews tried to keep the story of Jesus and his disciples under wraps, it was clear, "they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). The disciples looked at those in opposition in light of Psalm 2, "why do the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered against the Lord and His Christ" (Acts 4:25,26). They did not pray for relief, but "grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak your Word" (Acts 4:29). Though threats and attacks came against the church from Jews, Romans, civil, and religious leaders the church was not hindered. Routinely the power of Christ triumphed over the fake and phony (Acts 12:20-24; 13:7-11). Truly the advice of Gamaliel should be heeded by those who stand opposed to God and His plans, "keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it--lest you even be found to fight against God" (Acts 5:38,39).

**V.** Accepting or rejecting the Gospel. When Peter preached on Pentecost it is recorded that three thousand responded (Acts 2:41). While some responded, others claimed the apostles were drunk (Acts 2:13-15). Scholars say that the population of Jerusalem was estimated to have been close to two million on the Jewish feast day. In reality, it was but a small portion of those who were willing to receive the word, most rejected. While even "a great many of the priests were obedient" (Acts 6:7) major portions of the Jewish population rejected the Word. The Lord's servant Stephen said, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you" (Acts 7:51). However, when Christians fled from Jerusalem they preached in Samaria (Acts 8:5). Acts 8:26-40 records the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. Paul's unlikely conversion is recorded three times (Acts 9,22,26). When Paul went to new cities it ends similarly, with some receiving and some rejecting the gospel (Acts 13:42-52; 14:1-7, 19-23; 17:1-9, 22-34; 18:1-17; Ch. 19) and those rejected typically followed with violence. Also recorded is the story of Lydia's conversion. She, through the hearing of the Word, "opened her heart to the things spoken" (Acts 16:14). Also, the dramatic conversion of the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:25-34). Luke called the Bereans "more noble-minded" because, "they received the Word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). When on trial Paul, uncaring for his physical well-being, preached to the Jewish mob (Acts 22), before the Sanhedrin (Acts 23), before Felix (Acts 24), before Festus (Acts 25) and before Agrippa (Acts 26), even willing to testify before Caesar (Acts 25:11,12). While under house arrest in Rome, Paul readily received all who would listen to the Gospel: "Some were persuaded by the things spoken, and some disbelieved" (Acts 28:24). - **V.Daugherty**

## PRAYER LIST

**Current** Marissa Estridge had surgery on her knee on July 13, Shirley Loudermilk (health), Melissa Craft is in Mexico receiving treatment  
**Continual:** Wayne Shearer (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**

### 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.**

Congratulations to  
 Vince and Tiffany Daugherty  
 on the birth of  
 their new daughter:  
 Scarlett Leona Daugherty  
 born on July 20, 2023  
 5 lbs and 13 ounces and 18 inches  
 All are doing fine! Brothers Ellis and  
 Judah are already obsessed with her!



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

**July** Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, July 26, 2023

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

### Sunday, July 30, 2023

**10:30 A.M.**

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty  
 "I Want To Know Christ" (Phil. 3:8)

**6:00 P.M.**

Youth Led Service

### Those to Serve

**10:30 A.M.**

Song/Prayer before class.....Kyle Bingle  
 Song Leader (**both services**).....Frank Hamby  
 Announcements(**both**) .....Tyler Anderson  
 Scripture reading/Prayer.....Joseph Faulk  
 Lord's Table (**both**).....Wayne Shearer  
 Closing Prayer.....Matt Willcut  
 Open/Close bldg (**both**).....David Deal  
 Greeters.....McCarters  
 Attendance cards (**both**).....Ellis/ Sawyer  
 Sound Booth (**both**).....Paul Sweeney

**6:00 P.M.**

P.M. Song Leader ..... Frank Hamby  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer .....Paul Sweeney  
 Greeters PM..... Brenda/ Darlene

### Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Announcements..... David Anderson  
 Song Leader/prayer.....Terrance Dindy  
 Devotional .....Vince Daugherty  
 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 09.....\$8,488.00  
 July 16.....\$6,001.00  
 July 23.....\$4,706.00  
 Contribution Average.....\$6,986.13  
 Weekly budget ..... \$7,410.00

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

# Lord, Help Us

*Shelter is in your presence*

*Make us anew*

*Precious Heavenly Father*

*We're nothing without you*

*Shepherd us in your way*

*Lord, lead our hearts*

*Keep us ever close*

*Please don't ever part*

*Your grace has sustained us*

*Your word is true*

*Thank you for your blessings*

*and all that you do*

*Thank you for allowing us to come to you again*

*In Jesus Christ's name we pray*

*Amen*

*Amen*

*Amen*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and He will direct your paths.*

## Lesson's from II Timothy

It can be difficult to live lives worthy of Christ. It is especially difficult when it often seems we are surrounded by bad influences. Paul said it would be difficult to live out our Christian lives when "men are lovers of themselves... rather than lovers of God" (II Tim. 3:2,4). Paul said there were multiple characteristics of individuals who were lovers of themselves. One such characteristic he said was those who were, "disobedient to parents" (v. 2). In our world it seems we have lost the instruction manual for raising kids. They seem to run wild with permissive parents. However it ought to be different of children raised in Christian homes. As a young person, if you are trying to show that you are different from the world, begin with being obedient to your parents and "honoring father and mother" (Eph. 6:1,2). That does not mean that other kids will magically treat their parents with respect. Paul said about those who are disrespectful to their parents and only lovers of themselves, "From such people turn away" (II Tim. 3:5).

*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

**"Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to  
the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds."**

**Psalm 36:5**



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