



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 33 August 23, 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

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

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Missionary - Huron, SD

Casey & Emily Paulin

MISSION FIELDS

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

THE TEMPLE

Vince Daugherty

From the beginning, God created us so that we might have fellowship with Him. Sin has strained the relationship between humanity and God. But God has also provided avenues by which humanity can overcome the strain. One such provision God has made is the temple. Weaving through the Old Testament and into the New it is an interesting study to see how God has used the temple as a means of making His presence known to humanity.

PROTO-TEMPLE

While at Mt. Sinai the Israelites were instructed to construct a special tabernacle (Exo. 25,26). In Exodus 25:8 God says He wants them to make a “sanctuary” (or sacred place). This building structure was to be set up in the middle of Israel’s camp as they traveled out of Egypt on their way to Canaan. When the tabernacle was inaugurated the people came before the Lord in the manner in which He prescribed offering sacrifices and consecrating the people. Leviticus 9:23,24 records, “And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.” (Interestingly in the next chapter, when the Israelites approach God in the wrong way fire comes out from the Lord and consumes the offenders instead).

THE 1ST TEMPLE

The Israelites used the tabernacle as God’s mobile home til the time of David and Solomon. At David’s high point he decided He wanted to build a more permanent place for the ark (God’s presence) to dwell. “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains” (II Sam. 7:2). While God forbade David from constructing His house, David made sure his son Solomon had all the materials (I Chron. 22). At the dedication of the temple II Chronicles 7:1 states, “When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. While Israel remained faithful to God His presence was assured to them in the symbol of the temple. However, as we learn from the time of Ezekiel the Israelites had polluted the temple with idolatry and Ezekiel sees the presence of the Lord leave the temple (Eze. 1-11). With God’s divine presence removed the temple was destroyed and the things and people were taken into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians BC 586 (II Kings 25).

THE 2ND TEMPLE

When Israel’s exile was completed, the temple and the city were rebuilt under the supervision of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah (see Ezra/Nehemiah. Ezra records that when the temple foundations were laid that people came together to praise God and gave a great shout. “But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes” (Ezra 4:12).

The older people who lived through the exile had seen the glory and splendor of Solomon's temple. The second temple was much more modest in size and glory. Additionally, when the temple was completed the Lord did not make His presence known as with the dedication of the tabernacle or the first temple. However, a prophet in their day said, "I will fill this temple with glory, says the Lord... The glory of the latter temple shall be greater than the former" (Hag. 2:7,9). The glory the second temple had was the presence of Jesus, God in the flesh, being present in it. Jesus was dedicated as a child, was found there when he was 12 years old as recorded in Luke, and came to the temple during His earthly ministry. By the time of Jesus's day, it was not a place desirous of God. He drove out those selling and money changers. He said they had caused it to become a den of thieves. He called out the scribes and Pharisees for their arrogance and hypocrisy. Though the limestones of the temple were polished Jesus called them, "whitewashed tombs in which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness" (Matt. 23:27). They had corrupted the temple so much that Jesus said they murdered a man "Berechiah" "between the temple and the altar" (Matt. 23:35). Jesus said, "See! Your house is left to you desolate" (v. 38). Note that Jesus put separation between God and Jews. In the very next scene Matthew 24:1 Jesus departed from the temple. Just like God's presence leaving out of the first temple, God in the flesh, left the second temple. The divine protection had been lifted from the temple and Jerusalem itself. The second temple was destroyed by the Roman armies in 70 AD.

GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

The temple was a sign of God's presence, yet it is hard to pin God down because 1) God is a spirit and 2) God is infinite. When Stephen was accused of speaking against the temple he responded with a quote from Isaiah, "the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says, Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool" (Acts 7:49). God can be mobile, moving with His people through the desert or God can be a stable dwelling in a city and a temple, but it is not the geographic location or the significance of the building. God has always desired to be with His people. When God's presence departed from the temple (1st or 2nd) He went out of those places to be closer to where His faithful remained. In the Old Testament, it was to be with the exiles in Babylon, in the New Testament it was the continuing dwelling place in the church. I Corinthians 3:16,17 says individual Christians are "the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Ephesians 2:20-22 says that we as the church are part of a "holy temple" built upon Christ. Peter calls Christians, "living stones" and "precious" and building a "spiritual house" (I Pet. 2:4,5). On this side of eternity, God has made provisions that He can be near to us, but we wait for the day when we can go to Him. "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (II Cor. 5:1)

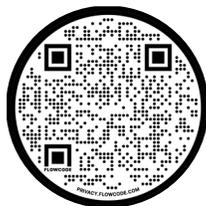
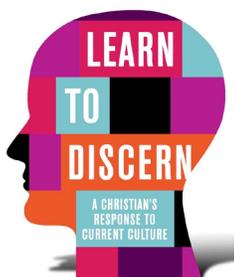
Kahoot Bible Trivia

Thursday night at 7:00 pm

YOUTH SEMINAR

September 16-18, 2022

- Friday, 7:00 pm *"Current State of Affairs"*
- Saturday 9:30 am *"Absolute Truth"*
- "Moral Relativism"*
- "Importance of One's World View"*
- Sunday, 9:30 am *"The Family"*
- Sunday, 10:30 am *"The Church"*



Register on our website or use the QR code.

FINANCIAL PEACE

University

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This nine-lesson class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! You can sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1113469. Class starts Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

Never worry about money again with Financial Peace University! It's the proven plan to help you master budgeting, beat debt, and live the life of your dreams. Through nine lessons rooted in biblical wisdom, you'll learn from Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health
 Jim Turner - health
 Brian Smith - heart health
 Debbie Bush - struggles
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health
 Janie Wise - health
 Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery
 Brenda Mask - health
 Bitsy Thomas - injury

Ron & Judy Ford - health
 Bernetta Green - health & strength
 Bobby Simpson - health
 Annett Phillip - health
 Vanessa Palmer - health
 Wayne Shearer - health
 Bill Long - cancer treatments
 Geny Johnson - health
 Olivia Smith - tests

(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

Invitation Respose

Barbara Jones repents of her sins and asks for prayers for strength.

Prayer requests & Updates

Annett Phillip is still having health problems.

Memorial Service for **Virginia Walker** will be

Sunday, September 4, 2022 at 1:00 pm

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to
Mount Dora Children's Home or
 to the **Florida School of Preaching**

(service team 3 will assist with family meal)

welcome

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

Please welcome **Danette Lockwood** to the Lord's family. Danette obeyed the gospel of Christ on Sunday, August 21, 2022 after evening worship service.

thank you

There are thank you cards on the board from
 Darlene Thompson
 Janis Waldon

We still need workers in the sound booth. If you are interested in serving, please contact Jason Hendrix. He will arrange your training.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

AUGUST

Designated Elder - David Anderson

Wednesday, August 24 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Bobby Shuemaker
 Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Sunday, August 28, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Have You Learned Christ? ... Joshua Cantrell
Ephesians 4:17-20

6:00 P.M.

Overcoming Discouragement ... Joshua Cantrell
Jeremiah 20:9

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
 Announcements Frank Hamby
 A.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
 Lord's Table Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Josh Potvin
 Open/Close bldg (both) Hendrix
 Greeters Fife
 Attendance cards (both) Cam'ron/Caelen

6:00 P.M..

P.M. Song Leader Vince Daugherty
 Scripture reading/Prayer Paul Sweeney
 Lord's Table Rick Kenyon
 Closing Prayer Josh Estridge
 Greeters E & C Smith

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/Prayer Andre Medley
 Devo Josh Potvin
 Closing Prayer David Deal

Upcoming Events

August

25 - Kahoot Challenge
 27 - Ice cream social
 28 - Teachers' meeting, 5p
 28 - Fellowship in-service
 (service team 2)
 31 - Quarterly challenge

September

7 - Ladies' class, 10am
 13 - FSOP ladies class
 16-18 - Youth Seminar
 17 lunch- (team 4)
 18 - Potluck Meal
 (team 1)
 23 - Fiesta Friday
 25 - Cantrell Bridal Shower

September

5 - Labor Day
 6 - Ladies' class, 7pm

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 7 \$7,302.00
 Aug 14 \$6,064.00
 Aug 21 \$4,324.00
 Contribution Average \$6,366.56
 Weekly budget \$7,663.43

But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

1 Samuel 17:34-36

When a threat came near the flock, David's dedication in caring for his father's sheep caused him to take action in protecting the sheep. He went after the threat and saved the sheep from being devoured. If the threat came after David, he killed it without hesitation. He understood the magnitude of his role and responsibility of protecting his father's sheep.

Our true Shepherd protects and loves His sheep. His love & dedication caused Him to take action (John 10:14-15), killing the enemy of the sheep without hesitation (1 Cor. 15:26). He understood the magnitude of His responsibility (John 17; Luke 19:10).

The shepherds who are in charge until the Shepherd returns will give a report of their work (Heb. 13:17). Let's be diligent in our part that we bring joy and not groaning in their report (1 Pet. 5:5-8). May we always keep our elders in prayer to understand the magnitude of actively protecting the Father's sheep, the armies of the living God (1 Pet. 5:1-4)!

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." Ephesians 6:13

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
 Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
 you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 what is man that you are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
 and crowned him with glory and honor.
 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
 you have put all things under his feet, sheep and oxen,
 and also the beasts of the field,
 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
 whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

*O Lord, rebuke me not in
 your anger,
 nor discipline me in
 your wrath!*

Psalm 38:1



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