



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 35, August 27, 2024

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Stacey Paulin

## MINISTER

Steven Ford

## ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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.....6:30 p.m.

## WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Find us on  
YouTube & Facebook

## 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.

## Precious Christian Fellowship

Brian R. Kenyon

One of the greatest blessings of obeying the Gospel (Romans 6:16-18) and being added by God to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47) is fellowship with God and His people. Of this fellowship, John wrote, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But 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” (1 John 1:6-7).


### Meaning of “Fellowship”

The term “fellowship” is translated from the Greek word, *koinonia* (κοινωνία), which is found twenty times in the New Testament. *Koinonia* is also translated “contribution” (Romans 15:26); “communion [sharing, NAS; participation, ESV]” (1 Corinthians 10:16); and “sharing [distribution, KJV; contribution, ESV]” (2 Corinthians 9:13). *Koinonia* carries the idea of community, communion, joint participation, interaction. The verb form, *koinoneo* (κοινωνέω), occurs eight times in the New Testament. It is translated “distributing [contributing, NAS; contribute to, ESV]” (Romans 12:13); “have been made partakers [have shared, NAS; have come to share, ESV]” (Romans 15:27); and “share [communicate, KJV]” (Galatians 6:6). The verb may be defined as to share, have a share in something. Participation in the deeds of others means to be equally responsible for them (see Philippians 1:5, “your fellowship [participation, NAS; partnership, ESV] in the gospel;” and 2 John 11, “shares [is partaker, KJV; participates, NAS; takes part, ESV].”

### True Foundation and Objects Of Fellowship

True fellowship with God and His people can be based only on the proper application of God’s revealed will, the Bible (John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3-6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Faithful Christians may fellowship with all those who are Christians. Biblically speaking, a Christian is a person who has been born again (John 3:3, 5), been added to the Lord’s church—not a man-made denomination (Acts 2:41, 47), been obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7), and obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered (Romans 6:17-18). We must receive in fellowship all of those who have been truly received by Christ. Paul wrote, “Now may the God of patience and

Whatever  
Happened  
to the  
Labor Day  
Lectureship?  
see page 2

comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:5-7). Faithful Christians may fellowship those who continue to be faithful Christians. However, a Christian such as Demas can at one point be a valuable coworker (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24), but turn away from the faith and become apostate (2 Timothy 4:10). Christian fellowship must be determined by faith, not by flesh or church politics (Matthew 12:46-50; 1 John 1:6-7). Christian fellowship must be established and maintained upon the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42). Sometimes, when brethren live in immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1-13) and/or “walk disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us [the apostles]” (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15), fellowship must be withdrawn, so that the “spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Corinthians 5:5). 

## Whatever Happened to the Labor Day Lectureship? (A Reminder of the Tragic Loss of Fellowship)

Since the early 1990s, members of Polk County (and beyond) churches of Christ converged in Lakeland to participate in the Annual Labor Day Lectureship, hosted by the Sixth Street church of Christ. This lectureship was a feast of fellowship. Local preachers along with those from other parts of the country spoke on a particular theme. The lessons by themselves were worth the trip to Lakeland. However, the day also consisted of great worship to God in singing and prayer, and concluded with a wonderful “soul food” meal where plenty of sweet Christian fellowship took place. Indeed, it was a wonderful, spiritual event that came every Labor Day ... but what happened?

The reason why we do not hear of Sixth Street’s Labor Day lectureship anymore is because the sweet fellowship that once existed between the Sixth Street church of Christ and the South Florida Avenue church of Christ (and a host of other sound congregations) has been broken since late 2019, when the Sixth Street eldership split that congregation and divided the brotherhood by holding to a (previously unheard by many) doctrine that teaches Jesus did not shed a drop of blood until the soldier pierced His side, after He was already dead (John 19:34). It is one thing for a person to privately hold such a ridiculous doctrine, but when an eldership fires their preacher (who was also an FSOP instructor) for being a false teacher because he taught that Jesus shed blood during His scourging, crown of thorns, and nails piercing His hands and feet, they prove they “cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine” of Christ (Romans 16:17). After several efforts to study the Bible and resolve the issue with the Sixth Street eldership, they doubled down on their insistence that Jesus did not shed a drop of blood until after he died. The eldership of the South Florida Avenue church of Christ notified their withdrawal of fellowship from the Sixth Street elders and those who support them in this doctrine by a letter dated December 19, 2020.

Since that time, there have been at least two meetings between the Sixth Street and the South Florida Avenue churches of Christ elderships, the last of which occurred on September 5, 2023. In that meeting, the Sixth Street eldership, after almost four years, said the whole thing was a misunderstanding and denied firing their preacher for holding what they considered the “false doctrine” of teaching Jesus bled during His scourging, crown of thorns, and nails piercing His hands and feet. They were supposed to write a letter explaining their position. This letter was going to be discussed by both elderships to see if both sides could agree that it accurately reflected the truth. As of this time, the Sixth Street eldership has not written such a letter. Someone else could write a letter on behalf of the Sixth Street eldership for them to sign-off on, but such would not constitute true repentance and/or an accurate explanation of how the issue has been misunderstood.

It is still our desire the Sixth Street eldership will repent based upon what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus’ bleeding on the cross, concerning the nature of false doctrine, concerning slandering a sound gospel preacher by calling him a “false teacher,” and concerning fellowship with God and one another. Please continue to pray that this precious fellowship will be restored. ♥ *Brian*

## PRAYER LIST

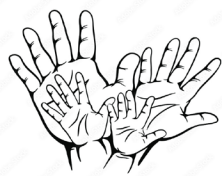
**Current:** George Davis's eye surgery went well, Rachel Zapata and Fran Gabaldon are both home and doing better, Pat Nanna's husband is having some medical problems and she is not able to leave him at this time to come to worship, Annett Phillip is in LRH

**Continual:** Jim Turner (cancer) Sharon Mathis Washington (Health & family); Stacey Wilson (health); Debbie Bush (struggles); Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health).

**Shut-ins:** Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, Bettye Bolding, Nellie Anderson, Cheryl Barker

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

[Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.](#)



### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY:

We are happy to announce that the **EPPERSON** family has placed membership here with us at SFA. Let's welcome Josh, Kelly, Caroline and Annabelle into our family as they join hands with us in serving the Lord.

**PRAYER REQUEST-** Brother Jeff Stewart has asked for prayers for forgiveness for sin in his life. Let's remember him and encourage him for his desire to be right with the Lord.

### FREE CLOTHES/ETC

Please share with you friends and neighbors that we are having a free giveaway day! Anyone is invited!!

If you can join us that day to help in any way let the office know!

Saturday, September 7

9:00 am- 1:00 pm

Pray that we will be able to reach some lost souls through this event!

**This Wednesday, August 28, we will resume the "quarterly challenge" with our children's and teen's classes. However, it will take place in the fellowship room. For those interested, we will continue our study of the Book of Revelation in the auditorium.**

**FSOP needs help moving some book shelves. Contact Rachel or Jagie if you can help with this.**

### Scheduled to Serve in August

Designated Elder	David Anderson
<b>Wednesday, August 28, 2024</b>	
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Stacey Paulin
Devotional / Invitation	Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer	Paul Sweeney

### Sunday, September 1, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Steven Ford
"The Whole Armor of God" (Eph. 6:10-18)	
6:00 pm Sermon	Steven Ford
"The Body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12-14)	

### Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	Bingle's
Song/Pray before class	Khalil Pope
Announcements (both)	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader (both)	Brian Kenyon
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Lord's Table (both)	Nigel St Bernard
Closing Prayer	Paul Sweeney
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	Sawyer
Sound Booth (both)	Jason

### Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Brenda Mask
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader	Brian Kenyon
Prayer / Bible reading	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Lou Van Allen

### Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Frank Hamby
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Jarred Spivey

### How We Are Giving

August 11	\$8,502.59
August 18	\$4,752.56
August 25	\$5,318.16
Contribution Average	\$6,762.32
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

**If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!**

### Finding Peace in the Busy Times of Life

In the midst of our bustling lives, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and disconnected from God's peace. Yet, the Bible reassures us that God's presence is a constant source of calm, even when our schedules are not.

Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As women, we often juggle multiple roles and responsibilities, from work to family, and everything in between. It's in these moments that we need to remember to pause and seek God's peace.

Take a few moments each day to breathe, pray, and reflect on God's promises. Incorporate small acts of devotion into your daily routine: a morning prayer, a verse on your desk, or a worship song during your commute. These moments of connection with God can transform your perspective and bring a sense of peace and order to your day.

Remember, God's peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God in the midst of it. Let His peace guard your heart and mind, providing you with strength and serenity as you navigate through life's demands.

"He who covers his sins will not prosper,  
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."  
Proverbs 28:16

If you would like to send a card or some happy mail to **Landan Willcut**, his address is posted on the bulletin board.

2024 Orange St Church of Christ Ladies' Day ✨



## STEPPING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Improving your faith and courage to become a living sacrifice for Christ.

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**  
9:00AM-12:00PM

Speaker: *Erin Allan*

310 Orange Street Auburndale, FL  
863-967-1757

Registration begins at 8:30am  
Lunch to follow




## SING

Friday, August 30, 2024  
Orange Street church of Christ  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
Join us in singing praises to God!  
All are invited

[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.



### South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"Cast your burden on the Lord,  
And He shall sustain you;  
He shall never permit the righteous to be moved"  
Psalm 55:22



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