



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST *MESSENGER*



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 75 No. 36 September 13, 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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Florida School of Preaching
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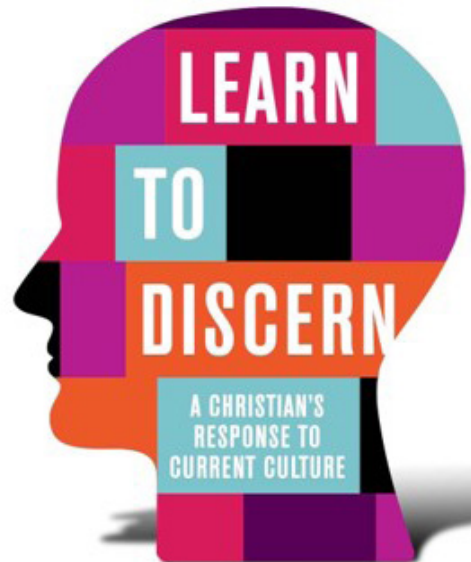
Missionary - Huron, SD
Casey & Emily Paulin

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.

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"*



Joe Wells



Pre-register on our website
www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com



South Florida Ave. church of Christ
1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland 863-682-4702

Make Plans to Attend!

A Carrot Cake to Remember

Brian Kenyon

Duane and Gloria Nelson, long-time members with the SFA church of Christ, moved from this area several years ago. Duane passed away years back. News reached us that Gloria Nelson recently passed away as well. Whenever I would think of Gloria Nelson, among my top three memories was her delicious carrot cake. Even people who normally did not like carrot cake would eat hers. It was delicious! Many reading this never knew or even heard of Gloria Nelson. Whether you knew her, she still had influence among those who did, and influence is the point of this article.

Influence Lives: Good or Bad

The Bible speaks of influence, whether good or bad, as living long after people have passed from this life. Of righteous Able, the Bible teaches that though he died as a result of his faith, he “still speaks” (Heb. 11:4). Everyone who studies the Bible can know of Abel and be influenced by his sacrifice that was acceptable to God but angered his brother, Cain (Genesis 4:1-15, 24-25; Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12; Jude 11). Furthermore, God declared Antipas, a Christian known by the church in Pergamos, “My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells” (Revelation 2:13). None of us would know anything about Antipas except that he is mentioned in God-breathed scripture! Jesus held him as an example of what it means to “be faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10), for he was willing to give his life “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (cf. Revelation 1:9; 6:9; 20:4). It does not matter how well we are known among our contemporaries or the historians who come after our time, God intimately knows each one of us (cf. John 1:48; 2:24-25; 16:30). He also recognizes the good, made possible by His grace and mercy, that people do (cf. Matthew 12:35; Luke 12:8; John 5:28-29).

Evil influence also continues long after people have passed away. For example, Jeroboam invented a false system of worship shortly after the death of Solomon when the Northern and Southern Kingdoms divided. Jeroboam invented a religion of convenience and similarity to God’s authorized pattern (1 Kings 12:25-33). This system was based on what “Jeroboam said” and “devised in his own heart” (1 Kings 12:26, 33). Thus, in the eyes of God, “this thing became a sin” (1 Kings 12:30). Jeroboam’s system of idolatry was the downfall of the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings 17:7-23). The succeeding rulers of that kingdom never departed from the sins of Jeroboam. Reference after reference, the statement is made of a certain king that he “walked in the way of Jeroboam, and ... made My people Israel sin, to provoke Me to anger with their sins” (1 Kings 16:2, 19, 26; 2 Kings 3:3; 10:29-31; 13:2). While it is true that only when people follow the sins of others are the others said to cause them to sin (cf. 2 Kings 10:29-31), if Jeroboam had never established that false system of worship, these kings would have never “walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin” (2 Kings 16:26)!

Conclusion

We cannot avoid having influence. People observe our ways and see or do not see Christ living in us. Gloria’s carrot cake is a great memory because she was a faithful Christian, and those carrot cakes usually came at times of fellowship. What influence of ours will live on after we “go the way of all the earth” (1 Kings 2:2)? Will people be more encouraged to be a “living sacrifice” for God because they knew we were? Will they be turned off by Christianity because we displayed worldliness, though we professed to be Christians (cf. Romans 2:21-22, 24)? Will people even know we were Christians after we are gone from this world? Let us take our influence seriously, even if it is only through a “carrot cake to remember.”



Our deepest sympathies

are extended to the family and friends of Gloria Nelson who passed away at the age of 92 on Saturday, September 10th. She was a beloved sister in Christ and former member at South Florida Avenue. She will be dearly missed!

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health	Ron & Judy Ford - health
Jim Turner - health	Bernetta Green - health & strength
Brian Smith - heart health	Bobby Simpson - health
Debbie Bush - struggles	Annett Phillip - health
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	Vanessa Palmer - health
Janie Wise - health	Wayne Shearer - health
Dorothea Lauther - surgery recovery	Bill Long - cancer treatments
Brenda Mask - health	Geny Johnson - health
Bitsy Thomas - injury	Olivia Smith - tests
Kathy Nester- surgery recovery	Sharon Mathis-Washington- back pains

(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

Brothers, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

There will be a potluck wedding shower for Josh & Daniela Cantrell on Sunday, Sept. 25th after evening worship. They are registered on Amazon and we will be collecting money for a money tree, as well. Please give your money to one of the elders' wives by Sept. 23rd.



Sundays at 5:45 pm
Prayer time for evangelism efforts

Sundays at 5:45 pm
Pew packers in auditorium

Help Needed!

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to bring cookies and drinks for the upcoming youth seminar. We no longer need chips. Please bring items in by this Friday, Sept. 15th.

Barbara Ann Jones came forward on Sunday, September 11th asking for prayers that she will deal with others more properly. Let's remember to pray for her!

Scrapbooking Ladies Night



Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 pm fellowship hall. See Jagie for details.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

SEPTEMBER

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
Song Leader/Prayer..... Terrance Dindy Jr.
Devo Josh Cantrell
Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Sunday, September 18, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Church... Joe Wells

6:00 P.M.

Milk and Meat ... Vince Daugherty
Hebrews 5:12-6:12

10:30 A.M.

Song/prayer before class Stacey Paulin
Announcements Brian Kenyon
A.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy Jr.
Scripture reading/Prayer Kyle Bingle
Lord's Table Nigel St. Bernard
Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson
Open/Close bldg (both) Bobby Sheumaker
Greeters Nona/ Janice
Attendance cards (both) Klark/ Colby

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Terrance Dindy Jr.
Scripture reading/Prayer Mike Van Allen
Lord's Table Nigel St. Bernard
Closing Prayer Paul Sweeney
Greeters Brunson

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Announcements Brian Kenyon
Song Leader/prayer Andre Medley
Devo Rick Kenyon
Closing Prayer George Davis

Upcoming Events

September

13 - FSOP ladies class
14 - Ladies' class, 10am
16-18 - Youth Seminar
17 lunch- (team 4)
18 - Potluck Meal
(team 1)

22 - Ladies' night out
24 - Ladies' day- Orange St

September

23 - Fiesta Friday
25 - Cantrell Wedding Shower potluck

October

1 - SFA Ladies' Day



~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Aug 28	\$6,572.00
Sep 4	\$8,831.00
Sep 11	\$4,375.00
Contribution Average	\$ 6,592.66
Weekly budget	\$7,663.43

Sometimes I wonder what the Hebrews writer would write about my Christian sisters if he were to add to Hebrews chapter 11 today.

Here is what I have observed:

By faith, one Christian sister stayed and submitted to an unbelieving husband, showing him Christ's love.

By faith, another Christian sister trusted God to carry her through the overwhelming loss of a child.

By faith, my Christian sister moved to a new place where she knew no one and became active in the Lord's Body there.

By faith, a Christian sister let her light shine in a toxic workplace, even though she was the only Christian present from day to day.

By faith, our Christian sister powered through numerous health issues to be at worship and available to her Christian family.

By faith, yet another Christian sister forgave her husband, and trusted the Lord to restore her marriage after infidelity.

By faith, my Christian sisters continue to encourage others around them and bear each other's burdens, fulfilling the law of Christ.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Proverbs 2:1-9

My son, if you receive my words,
 And treasure my commands within you,
 So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
 And apply your heart to understanding;
 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
 And lift up your voice for understanding,
 If you seek her as silver,
 And search for her as for hidden treasures;
 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
 And find the knowledge of God.
 For the Lord gives wisdom;
 From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
 He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
 He guards the paths of justice,
 And preserves the way of His saints.
 Then you will understand righteousness and justice,
 Equity and every good path.



Finding Contentment in the Chaos
 Saturday October 1st
 9:00 A.M.

lunch will be provided, please register ahead of time by calling the office at (863) 682-4702

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: 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

*You are of God, little children,
 and have overcome them,
 because He who is in you is
 greater than he who is in the
 world.*

1 John 4:4



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