



# South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 41 October 10, 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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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.

## Some Things I've Learned Since "They" and "Them" Became "We" and "Us"

Jim Faughn

(Part 1)

[Editor's Note: Paul told the church at Thessalonica "to recognize" and "to esteem ... very highly in love" the elders, or shepherds, who labored among them (1 Thes. 5:12-13). One aspect of being able to do this is to realize the perspective shift that often takes place internally and externally when qualified men are added to the eldership. The article below is used by permission. Jim and I have known of each other over the years but did not meet in person long enough to talk until PTP 2023. I was assigned a two-part topic, "Seven Attitudes/Behaviors that Undermine Elders." After each session, Jim and I talked, and he mentioned this article. I thought it would be good to put this light-hearted, two-part article in our bulletin to show this interesting perspective to which I can relate in many aspects. – Brian]

There have been a lot of changes in my life. Few, however, rival the change that took place on December 21, 2003. After sitting in on elders' meetings and being with elders for well over twenty years, *I became one. "They" and "them" quickly became "we" and "us."*

I had been as close to being an elder as one could possibly be for all of those years without actually being one. As elderships in three different congregations had asked me to meet with them almost every time they met, I had seen godly men pray, plan, deliberate, discuss, question, rejoice, express sorrow, and do a host of other things "up close and personal."

As the work of the church in general and the work of elders in particular were discussed, I had listened to members of those congregations as they expressed support for or concerns about what "they" did. I had heard what the members liked and what they didn't like about "them." In fact, I had my own opinions about these matters. While I did my best to keep these opinions to myself, I still had them. I could see (or at least I thought I could see) all kinds of ways that the work of the Lord could be done better if "they" would handle their responsibilities differently.

Now that "they" is "us," I hope you will indulge me as I share some things I've learned first-hand. Hopefully, these thoughts will provide some insight into something that looks a whole lot less difficult on the outside than it does on the inside.

1. The term "elder" is not synonymous with the term "infallible." Nobody knows this better than the men who try to serve the Lord and a local congregation as elders. There are times when the judgment of elders could be better — sometimes a whole lot better. At those times, please be patient with us, communicate with us, and work with us. We are, after all, all on the same team. Please accept our "humanness" and realize that we are doing the best we can do. Most importantly;

please pray for us. Until and unless you've been here, you will never know how much we need your prayers.

2. It would help to be a trained juggler. While our primary concern is to please the Lord, elders constantly feel the pressure of trying to juggle the needs and desires of various age groups and people of various economic, educational and social levels. In addition to these factors (and many others), elders are constantly dealing with people who possess different levels of spiritual maturity. When it appears that a ball has been dropped, maybe, instead of pointing that out, it would be better to help pick it up. Better yet, how about helping us carry the load so that the ball is not dropped in the first place?

3. The Maytag repairman would have a heart attack in his first month as an elder. If the commercials are correct (and who would ever doubt the information in a commercial?), the fictional Maytag repairman doesn't have much repairing to do. I wonder what he'd do if he had to try to "fix" relationships, feelings, consequences of sin in people's lives, programs, budgets, etc. He might not look quite as relaxed as he normally does. In fact, we might be visiting him in the Cardiac Care Unit of one of the local hospitals.

4. When you've seen one, you have not seen 'em all. This one is a two-way street. Sadly, some members of a congregation think that everything is "settled" when they talk to only one of the elders. The responsibility is in the hands of an eldership, not just one elder. Please do not ask one of us to "carry the water" for you. We all want to hear what you have on your mind and we need to hear it from you. There does not need to be any misunderstanding. *[End of part 1.]*

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## Is a Dead Sacrifice a Sacrifice?

Brian R. Kenyon

Compared to animal sacrifices, the Hebrews writer declared, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb. 9:14). While I've read that passage many times, I was recently reminded of what that passage says about Jesus' bleeding on the cross. First, Jesus "offered Himself" (i.e., His blood), which means He had to be alive *before* being sacrificed. Second, like the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament, Jesus had to be without spot or blemish (Ex. 12:5; Lev. 5:18 cf. 1 Pet. 1:19), which means, among other things, He had to be alive before sacrificing Himself. A dead body is disqualified from being a spotless sacrifice because it was considered unclean (cf. Num. 19:13). Can you imagine a priest bringing a dead lamb to offer in sacrifice to God? Such is implied by those who say Jesus did not shed a drop of blood until the soldier pierced Him (John 19:34)! How could Jesus then "give His life a ransom" (Mark 10:45), if He were already dead when pierced, as if the spear-drawn blood were His sacrifice? Jesus truly bled as He offered His "own blood" on the cross (Heb. 9:12; 13:12)! A dead sacrifice is not a sacrifice!

### Join Us for Bible Classes!

Christianity is a taught religion (John 6:44-45). It is impossible for our faith to outgrow our knowledge of God's word (Rom. 10:17). Come and grow spiritually with us!

#### **Cradle Roll** (behind tech booth)

Sundays: Rene (Bible basics)

Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics)

#### **2-3 Year-Old** (Room 18)

Sundays: Tiffany (EHT)

Wednesdays: Nicole (EHT)

#### **4-5 Year-Old** (Room 7)

Sundays: Michelle (EHT)

Wednesdays: Marissa (EHT)

#### **Elementary** (Room 17)

Sundays: Kathy (EHT)

Wednesdays: Becky (EHT)

#### **Teenage** (Room 19)

Sundays: Josh (EHT)

Wednesdays: Vince (Ezra/Nehemiah)

#### **Adult** (Auditorium)

Sundays: SFA men (Prophecies of Christ)

Wednesday: Brian (Revelation)

#### **First Principles Class** (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)

Wednesdays: Rick

### "Pardon Our Dust" & Pray for Our Progress

As we are in full construction mode, let us be mindful of our safety in parking and entering/exiting the building. Let us also be mindful of those with mobility challenges, and help maximize their ability to come and worship God, even if it means offering them a ride to services. Let us also pray the work can be done by FSOP lectureship time, Jan. 15-18, 2024!

## PRAYER LIST

**Current** The Faneuf Family is home with flu symptoms, Andre Medley had a procedure and is recuperating at home, Kathy Nester is in Lkld Nursing and Rehab and would love visitors, Rm. 100

**Continual:** Wayne Shearer (heath); 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); Melody Baxter (health); Melissa Craft (health) Charles Paulin (health)

**Shut-ins:** Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French

### RESPONSES:

Ronny Lynn responded to the invitation last Sunday, requesting prayers and repenting of sin



Trunk or Treat: Following evening service on Sunday Oct 29 we will have our annual Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. Please change into costumes after services. All are invited to participate!



## Fall Fundraising Festival & BBQ

Saturday, Nov. 4  
3:00—6:00pm

**Open Games**  
3:00—6:00 p.m.  
Disc Golf, GaGa Ball, Carpetball, Corn Hole, Ping Pong, Basketball, Volleyball, 9-Square-in-the-Air, & Carnival Games

**Facilitated Activities**  
3:00—5:00 p.m.  
Hayrides, 1,000' Zip Line, Giant Swing, Axe-Throwing & Laser Tag (all free)

**Serving of BBQ**  
4:30—6:00 p.m.  
\$15 Adult  
\$10 Kids <12 yrs.  
Take-out available.



**FALL FAMILY CAMP**  
JOSHUA 24:15  
NOV. 10-12TH, 2023  
WEEKI WACHEE CHRISTIAN CAMP  
SPRING HILL, FL  
REGISTER BY NOV. 3  
\$35 PER PERSON/AGES 4 AND UNDER ARE FREE.  
SEE FLYER ON BULLETIN BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION!  
JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF PEACE AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

**Save the Date:**  
**November 12-15, 2023**  
**Fall Gospel Meeting at SFA**  
**Tommy Brooks- Speaker**

*a sweet little pumpkin is on the way*  
please help us honor  
**CHARLENE SMITH**  
with a sprinkling for baby girl Smith due to arrive November 3rd.  
Please place any cards and/or gifts on the designated table at the end of the foyer hall. Thank you!

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### October

Designated Elder.....Bobby Sheumaker

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

Announcements.....David Williams  
Song Leader/prayer.....Frank Hamby  
Devotional.....Kyle Faneuf  
Prayer.....Stacey Paulin

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Rick Kenyon  
Turning Weakness into Strength (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon.....Brian Kenyon  
Is "Israel" Still God's People" (Rom. 9:1-5)

### Those to Serve

### 10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Stacey Paulin  
Song Leader (both services).....Andre Medley  
Announcements(both).....Tyler Anderson  
Scripture reading/prayer.....Josh Estridge  
Lord's Table (both).....Brian Williams  
Closing Prayer .....David Williams  
Open/Close bldg (both).....Bobby Sheumaker-Greeters.....Brunson's  
Attendance cards (both).....Peyton/Landon  
Sound Booth (both).....Jason Hendrix

### 6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader .....Andre Medley  
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Ralph Rogers  
Closing Prayer.....Roberson L  
Greeters PM.....Estridges

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Announcements.....Bobby Sheumaker  
Song Leader/prayer.....Landon Willcut  
Devotional.....Joseph Faulk  
Prayer.....Paul Sweeney

### Upcoming Events 2023

#### October

20-22 Laura St church of Christ Gospel Mtg  
21 Men's breakfast Orange St church of Christ  
22 Fellowship in Service/ 5:00 PM  
29 Trunk or Treat

#### November

10-12 Fall Family Camp at Weeki Wachee Camp  
12-15 Fall Gospel Mtg at SFA- Tommy Brooks

### ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sep 24	.....\$5,444.50
Oct 01	.....\$7,471.50
Oct 08	.....\$6,699.00
Contribution Average	.....\$6,996.28
Weekly budget	.....\$7,410.00

**DO YOU HAVE THE PEACE THAT SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING?**

I have this cute (okay, not so cute) habit of ruminating on situations and working my mind into a big frazzled knot. My brain and my heart just will not let it go. It usually ends in tears and shame. I have struggled with this over the years at varying degrees. Unfortunately, I sympathize with Paul in Romans 7:15 where he said "For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate." It's all too easy to tell God about it, get temporary relief, but keep ahold of it, ya know... just in case. It boils down to a trust issue. Do I trust God with my pain? Do I trust Him to not make a mess of my life? (By the way...God doesn't make messes- he just cleans them up.) Do I trust him to give me peace despite my circumstances? Do I truly believe Philippians 4:6-7 or am I seeking to be my own peace? If so, I am seeking a counterfeit peace.

It will not last, it isn't reliable, and it relies on a very inconsistent source: myself. There is a need to continue to learn to meditate on the Word of God and rehearse it in our minds, instead of rehearsing anxiety and trying to unravel the uncertainty of our futures- something we have no control over. Who am I trusting to provide for my soul? Are we leaning on our own understanding or are we seeking His peace?

Jehovah Jireh.

We just need to let Him!

"Depart from evil and do good;

Seek peace and pursue it."

Psalm 34:14

Christian Apologetics

Change in the Apostles

When Jesus was arrested by the Jewish authorities, the Bible records that the apostles fled for their lives and went into hiding (Matt. 26:56). On the same night Jesus was arrested, Peter is recorded as vehemently denying Jesus three distinct times (Matt. 26:69-75) even though he said he would be loyal even if everyone else forsook. (\* Details about the apostles' failings actually help me have confidence that the Bible was not produced by men but inspired by God!) However, about 50 days after Jesus death on the cross, those same apostles who ran and cowered in fear, boldly proclaimed Jesus was the Christ (Acts 2:36). How do you account for the change in the life of the apostles? They proclaimed Jesus to the ones who shouted "Crucify Him!"; they boldly defended Jesus before the very Jewish leaders who had Jesus executed; they stayed in the city of Jerusalem when persecution broke out against the church (Acts 8:1); traditions from a time period later say that most of the apostles went to grisly deaths for the sake of their faith in Jesus Christ. How do you account for the change except the difference that the resurrection makes! Jesus had promised the disciples He would rise after three days, but I don't think they really believed it. That is until they witnessed seeing the risen Lord. After the resurrection the apostles were changed men. No longer hiding, no longer denying, but boldly proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. That is why the Gospel is so very precious and important. The apostles went from shifting sands to solid rock eyewitnesses who proclaimed the good news of Jesus victory over sin and death. We too can share and demonstrate the change in the apostles from Scriptures and ask others, how do you account for the dramatic change in the apostles?- VD

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**South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."**

Hebrews 10:23



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