



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 42 October 17, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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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.

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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 2)

[Editor's note: At PTP 2023, I was on a panel discussion titled, "Insight into an Elder's Life: It's Not Easy but It's Worth It." A question was asked concerning the most surprising thing about being an elder. My answer was how quickly I became a "bad guy" in the eyes of some. Later in the week, I met Jim Faughn, who expressed a similar sentiment and mentioned the article below. In Part 1, he stated, "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," and then went on to discuss some misconceptions that involve expectations of an eldership. Here, he focuses more on the importance of an individual elder's part within the eldership. – *Brian*]

At the same time [while there are unrealistic expectations about the eldership], the eldership has not made a visit, expressed concern, spent time with somebody who needs to be encouraged, etc. when only one elder has done these things. All too often, one man becomes the "head elder" by default because he is the only one the members of the congregation see at hospitals, funeral homes, and at other times when they truly need a shepherd.

1. Shepherding is a wooly job. I've not been around many (make that any) shepherds, but, if I met one, I would not be surprised to find traces of wool on his clothing. Shepherds are in contact with the sheep. Effective shepherding cannot be done at arm's length. It is my firm opinion that the shepherds of God's people today should regularly read and faithfully seek to apply the information we read about the Good Shepherd in John 10.

2. Sheepdogs cannot do the job of shepherds. A corollary to the last point is that elders cannot hire a preacher to do their shepherding for them. All too often, the modern "system" looks like the one in which shepherds (elders) obtain the services of a sheepdog (preacher) to keep the flock safe and where they are supposed to be. I often wonder how much more evangelism an "evangelist" could do if he wasn't expected to be the sheepdog.

3. Board rooms are not as effective as living rooms, family rooms, or dining rooms. Decisions are made in board rooms. People's lives are touched in living rooms, family rooms, and dining rooms. I have some very strong opinions about what criteria the Lord will use to judge elders. Those strong opinions have absolutely nothing to do with most of what goes on in board rooms. They have to do with how well the shepherds know the flock and how important souls are. On the Day of Judgment I seriously doubt that there will be any "extra credit" given to those elders who had an impressive budget and who met it every month.

4. It is almost impossible to push a string. Whatever the elders' dream for a particular congregation is, we need to take the lead in that. We do not need to

be making assignments, checking flow charts, etc. If we want the church to be more evangelistic, we need to be more evangelistic. If we want the church to give sacrificially, we need to give sacrificially. Whatever it is that we would like to see the church doing, the members need to see us doing.

5. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. Are there verses or parts of verses in God's Word that trouble you? Here's the one at the top of my list since the day I became an elder: "...they watch for your souls, as those who must give account..." (Heb. 13:17). I live every day with the realization that I am accountable to the Lord for the souls of scores of people *and* that I can do nothing to force, coerce, cajole, threaten, or entice them in such a way that I can guarantee that their relationship with the Lord is as it should be. Try living with that one for a while and see how many sleepless nights you have.

6. She's not behind me; she's alongside me. While there is no particular order to these thoughts, I did save the best until last. The well-known saying is that "behind every successful man, there is a good woman." Elders' wives are not behind them. They walk alongside them and make the journey much easier by so doing.

While I do not believe that it is appropriate to put the elders' wives *behind* them, it is also wrong for her to walk *ahead* of him and "do the job" for him. Believe me; this is a real temptation. There are times when it would be *very* tempting to "pass the buck" or let somebody else "take the heat," but it is neither the loving thing for a husband to do nor is it scriptural. It is altogether appropriate for the wife of an elder to accompany him on any number of his visits, to assist him by having people into their home, and to find other ways to support him, but *he* needs to be the one doing the shepherding, not her.

While you are praying for elders, please do not forget to pray for their wives. Very often, their husbands cannot let them know what is troubling them because they would be betraying a confidence and/or causing her unnecessary pain. Often all that an elder's wife knows is that the man she loves is hurting or troubled in some way and she's doing all she knows how to do to help him. You might even consider putting your prayers into action and asking one or more of the godly women who serve "in the shadow" if they'd like to have lunch, go shopping, or "just talk." *You* might be an answer to *her* prayer.

So, there you have it — at least for now. I'm sure that, given enough time, my list will change somewhat. I just thought that it might be beneficial to read one person's thoughts about what he has learned in the past few years [of serving in the eldership]. I pray that I will keep learning and will be a more effective servant of the Lord in whatever capacity He and His people allow me to serve.

“According to the Flesh” Is Not Spiritual While reading Romans 9:1-5, the term, “according to the flesh,” caught my attention. It is used twice in those verses (Rom. 9:3, 5) to show in context that because a person's physical lineage goes back to Abraham does not mean he or she is a spiritual descendant of Abraham (cf. Matt. 3:9). Paul later wrote, “They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed” (Rom. 11:14). While there are many lessons here, an important one is that physical connections do not make people spiritual. Some act as if their parents' or grandparents' being “charter members” of the congregation automatically make them spiritual. Others may think that because they are physically present in spiritual settings (like Bible classes and worship services), that automatically makes them God's spiritual people. However, only when we obey the Gospel are we spiritually “Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise” (Gal. 3:27-29). Only when we continue in the Gospel do we remain the spiritual children of God in good standing (John 8:31-32). Are you spiritual? ♥ *Brian*

Join Us for Bible Classes!

Cradle Roll (behind tech booth) **Upper Elementary** (Room 17)

Sundays: Nikki (Bible basics)

Sundays: Kathy (EHT)

Wednesdays: Jagie (Bible basics)

Wednesdays: Marion (EHT)

2-3 Year-Old (Room 18)

Sundays: Marissa (EHT)

Teenage (Room 19)

Sundays: David A. (EHT)

Wednesdays: Becky (EHT)

Wednesdays: Vince (Romans)

Lower Elementary (Room 7)

Sundays: Anna Clair (EHT)

Adult (Auditorium)

Sundays: SFA men (Prophecies of Christ)

Wednesdays: Olivia (EHT)

Wednesday: Brian (Revelation)

First Principles Class (Fellowship Room, any aged adults)

Wednesdays: Rick

PRAYER LIST

Current Kathy Nester is in Lkld Nursing and Rehab and would love visitors, Brenda Mask has been sick at home, Casey Potvin has been in the hospital but is now home, The Faneuf's have had the flu, Sharon Egolf has been home following a medical procedure

Continual: 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

Wayne and Anita Shearer have moved there church membership back to Bartow, stating in part: "There are no negative reasons for this move There are no ill feelings of any kind, we love each and every one of you and we will see y'all on different occasions for sure. Thanks for all that everyone did for us."



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!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

October

Designated Elder.....Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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

Sunday, October 22, 2023

10:30 A.M.

Sermon.....Vince Daugherty
Transformed by the Gospel (Mark 16:1-8)

6:00 P.M.

Singing Service

Those to Serve

10:30 A.M.

Song/Prayer before class.....Tucker Sweeney
Song Leader (both services).....Kyle Faneuf
Announcements(both).....Frank Hamby
Scripture reading/prayer.....Bobby Sheumaker
Lord's Table (both).....Josh Estridge
Closing PrayerJeff Bingle
Open/Close bldg (both).....Brian Kenyon
Greeters.....Stacey and Michelle Paulin
Attendance cards (both).....Caelan/Camron
Sound Booth (both).....Paul Sweeney

6:00 P.M.

P.M. Song Leader Kyle Faneuf
Scripture reading/Prayer.....Joseph Faulk
Closing Prayer.....Camron Bailey
Greeters PM.....Kenyon's

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Announcements.....Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader/prayer.....Vince Daugherty
Devotional.....Jarred Spivey
Prayer.....Tim Croson

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

4 Men's lectureship @ Eagle Lake
10-12 Fall Family Camp at Weeki Wachee Camp
12-15 Fall Gospel Mtg at SFA- Tommy Brooks

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Oct 01	.....	\$7,471.50
Oct 08	.....	\$6,699.00
Oct 15	.....	\$8,265.00
Contribution Average	.....	\$7,028.82
Weekly budget	.....	\$7,410.00



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

Eagle Lake Church of Christ
MEN'S LECTURESHIP



What Does it Mean to be a Champion

Saturday, November 4th
9:00 AM-2:45 PM

Breakfast will be served from 8:00-8:45AM
Lunch will be provided.

Schedule
Lesson 1, Rusty Hilliard — 9:00-9:45
How to become a Champion.
Lesson 2, Duane McChickland — 10:00-10:45
King Josiah II Kings 22-23
Lesson 3, Ronald Cox — 11:00-11:45
Jochebed Exodus 2:11
LUNCH — 12:00-1:00 PM
Lesson 4, Forrest Antemasaris — 1:00-1:45
Barabbas Acts 4:11
Lesson 5, Vince Daugherty — 2:00-2:45
John Mark
Closing remarks and Prayer

REASONS WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN WOMAN NEEDS A SISTERHOOD

1. Encouragement

- Sometimes a new convert may need a more seasoned, faithful Christian woman to help her have a better understanding of God’s word to help her live faithfully. (1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 8:30b-31a)
- A sister in Christ who has fallen away from the faith can benefit from some encouraging words from faithful sisters in the church. Sisters who love and care for lost souls will try to encourage others. (James 5:19-20)
- A sister may be experiencing the loss of a loved one, or she may have lost her husband or may just be experiencing the trials of life. Having a sister in Christ to talk with would be a way to lay their burdens down. A sister can provide comfort to a sister who is experiencing a similar situation that she has experienced before. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

2. Help

- Women who are either first time or new moms sometimes need someone they can trust to help them. A Christian woman can offer to be there for them if they need advice or help around the home. (Titus 2:3-5)
- Christian women can benefit from the talent of other women, especially when they have a need that another sister can assist them with. For example, I’m a hairstylist who teaches braiding classes. I can teach another sister my God given talent. Also, sisters can barter their talents—I braid someone’s hair and that person may babysit for me when I have a date night. We all have something (talents) we can teach another sister. (James 1:17)

3. Friendship

- If our goal is to get to heaven, we should spend time on earth amongst other Christian women so those women will be with us in heaven. We need to spend time being friends with likeminded women who are living the lifestyle of a Christian. (Proverbs 18:24; 27:17)
- We cannot live in this world to ourselves. We all need a friend or two. Even Jesus had people who He could call his close friends and an “inner circle” known as his disciples. (John 11:34-36; 13:23; Luke 6:13) There are times we need someone. We will all need a close friend that we can confide in who will just listen. This is what sisterhood looks like. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Youth Section

Christian Apologetics

Apologetics

One argument for the existence of God comes from an idea of cause-and-effect. How did the universe get here? If the universe is the effect, it stands that there must be a cause. Because it is true that something cannot come from nothing. What could that cause be? (See Gen. 1:1) -VD

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**South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

**"As for God, his way is perfect:
The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all
who take refuge in him."**

2 Samuel 22:31



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