

# The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.**

The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 73 No. 39 10-22-19

## ELDERS

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Bobby Sheumaker

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Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

## OFFICE PHONE

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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.

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## MISSION FIELDS

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

## EMAIL

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## WEB PAGE

[www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com](http://www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com)

## YOUTUBE.com

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist



IN  
SEARCH  
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

# Bob McAnally A Faithful Steward of God



Brother Bob McAnally, who served as our preacher for thirty-seven years (1979-2016), passed from this life Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at his home in Athens, Alabama. He was born May 15, 1934, in Hohenwald, Tennessee. As a child, he moved with his family to Decatur, Alabama, in hopes of his dad's finding a better job during the Depression. Bob attended Athens Bible School, where he made lifelong friendships. These ties were a main reason he chose Athens as his place to retire.

Bob was my preacher, my occasional coworker, and my consistent coworker. Bob became my preacher when I enrolled as a student of the Florida School of Preaching in 1989. This relationship lasted most of my first semester, until I went to work with another congregation. Bob became my occasional coworker when I returned to work with FSOP as a full-time instructor in 1996. Bob served on the FSOP board. He also served as editor of the FSOP lectureship book from its inception in 1994. Bob became my consistent coworker shortly after I placed membership back with South Florida Avenue in 2011. It was then that the eldership asked me to serve as Bob's associate minister to help with preaching and the church bulletin. I learned later that Bob's recommendation had a big part in that. It also was providential. Bob's leukemia, which was in remission for several years, came back about that same time. It was my pleasure to serve God by helping make Bob's work less stressful and more effective as he battled that energy-depriving disease.

## Character Impressions

As I reflect upon Bob's life, the following points stand out. First, his knowledge and desire for technology was "cutting edge." He was among the first generation of preachers to take advantage of computers and technology. South Florida Avenue was among the first congregations I knew that had built-in PowerPoint capabilities. Bob used it for practically every sermon I knew him as a coworker. I was not a member of SFA in the early 2000s, but when I spoke here for VBS or other occasions, I was motivated to learn and prepare PowerPoint presentations. Second, Bob was very cooperative. As a result of living in preacher's houses and offices where book shelves were supplied, when I came to work with FSOP, I was in desperate need of bookshelves. Bob had a table saw within view under his carport. I was not sure if he

had interest or time to help me build bookshelves, but when I asked, he was glad to help. When I became editor of the FSOP lectureship book for the 200 volume, Bob passed the baton in a very helpful manner, making the transition smooth. He took time to discuss and show how the book-building process worked. Wherever I worked and was responsible for the church bulletin, I patterned it after the one Bob did for SFA. He showed me how to use PageMaker, which later evolved into InDesign. These programs are professional grade, which, again, speaks for Bob's "cutting edge" love for technology! Third, Bob was consistent. Being with the same congregation for thirty-seven years speaks volumes in itself! As could be said with any preacher, Bob did not always do things the way some would prefer, but he was Scripturally and productively consistent in the way he carried out his work as a preacher! Whether it be his preaching style, his PowerPoint presentations, or his church bulletin content, church members could count on his consistency.

## **Stewardship Impressions**

As I thought of Bible passages that reminded me of Bob, a few of Paul's statements stood out. "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (2 Cor. 4:1-2). In the same immediate context, Paul wrote, "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed? .... <sup>9</sup>For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Cor. 3:5-9). In these passages, Paul used three different Greek words to describe his and his coworkers' ministry: (1) "ministers [servants, ESV]" (*diakonos*) (1 Cor. 3:5) basically refers to whoever renders service of whatever kind, and is the same word from which "deacon" comes; (2) "ministers [servants, NKJ]" (*huperetes*) (1 Cor. 4:1a) comes from a word that once meant "under-rower," as in the slaves that propelled ancient ships, but when the New Testament was written it referred to a servant; and (3) "stewards" (*oikonomos*) (1 Cor. 4:1b) is a house-servant, or one who is entrusted with another's property. All of this shows that a servant of God, as was Bob, wears many hats.

Concerning this latter designation, as God's stewards, preachers are entrusted with the "mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1). As I look back on Bob's time at South Florida Avenue, he was faithful as a steward of the "mysteries of God." Although people read a modern definition of "mystery" into the New Testament word, God does not define it as something secretive. Likewise, what preachers do with the "mysteries of God" should not be secretive. First, the "mystery" of God is something that is revealed. In almost every place the word occurs, it has "revealed," "know," "made known," or "understand" in the very same verse or context (Mk. 4:11; Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:7; 15:51; Eph. 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19; Col. 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3). Bob spent his life preaching and teaching the revealed will of God. His preaching career extended over several decades. Communication technologies in the 1950s were much different than in the 2010s, but Bob utilized them all to effectively communicate the revealed will of God. Second, the "mystery" of God is knowable. Paul told his readers that "when ye read, ye may understand ... the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4 cf. Mk. 4:11; Eph. 6:19; Col. 2:2). Bob put in much effort explaining the revealed Gospel in such a way that people could understand it and incorporate it into their lives. From his radio preaching to his YouTube preaching, his lessons were very simple, yet they made seemingly difficult passages easy to understand. Third, the "mystery" of God is unifying. In many "mystery" contexts, the subject is how the Gospel unites both Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 11:25; Eph. 3:3-10; Col. 1:25-29). Bob came to South Florida Avenue shortly after a time of trial and challenge had overshadowed this congregation. Bob was the best man for these circumstances. The Lord used Bob's knowledge of the Scriptures, his skill in verbal communication, his cooperative spirit, and his love for brethren to meet and overcome the challenges. Fourth, the "mystery" of God is universal. The Gospel is for all people everywhere. Paul wanted to "make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (Eph. 3:9). Paul also requested prayers so that "God would open ... a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ" (Col. 4:3). Bob also saw the universal nature and need of the Gospel. In addition to his local work, which touched people of all cultures, he went on missionary campaigns to India, Ghana, and Scotland.

## **"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant"**

At his retirement, most members of South Florida Avenue knew no other preacher located here than Bob McAnally. He certainly left a legacy in the Lord. Even more impressing, though, is the example he set in serving Jesus. May we all hear from God, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Mt. 25:21)! *Ae Brian*

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

## Prayer List

**Our Members:** Staci Smith had a fall and fractured her lower back. Ginny Hamby, Scott Smith, Ellen Shearer, Cierra Edwards (up-coming tests on 10-30), Bruce Longfellow (heart surgery 10/31), Ray Naschick, Ron Ford (spine/neck), Jim Turner, Denise Gulizia, Margaret Coone, Janie Wise (flu), Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt, Debbie Bush, Ginny Johnson, Vickie Rapley (flu) and Melody Baxter.

**Shut In Members:** Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

**Others:** Mike & Marie Massey (Wayne's uncle & aunt), Larry Laster, Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr., Brinlee Alford, Tanya Irizarry (Jagie's sister-in-law) and Wanda Clem (co-worker of Ginny Hamby).

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, October 26th:** Trunk or Treat at Tyler & Jessica Anderson's at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish, drinks, chairs and bug spray. If you are interested in participating, you can decorate your trunk and give candy out to the kids.

**Sunday, October 27th:** Men's Training class 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, October 27th:** Class on how to use a heart defibrillator at 5:00 p.m. (We now have a heart defibrillator in the back utility hallway).

**Sunday, October 27th:** Lads to Leaders work day at 4:30 p.m.

**November 1st-3rd:** Family Seminar at the Orange St. church of Christ.

**November 3rd-6th:** Our Gospel Meeting with Steve Atnip. Please make plans to attend, and remember to bring food for Sunday's fellowship meal.

**Sunday November 3rd:** Fellowship In-Service at 5:00 p.m. before evening services. Card signing only. (No food necessary).

**November 8-9th:** Men's Retreat sponsored by Eagle Lake church of Christ will be held at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City.

**Friday November 8th:** Parents night out from 6-9 p.m.

## Question and Answer Service

Our monthly Question and Answer service will be next Sunday October 27th at the evening service. Hiram has mentioned he still has some room for more questions. Please put your questions in on Wednesday evening.

## Baby Sprinkle Gift Table

Josh & Marissa Estridge will be adding another little one to their family in November. Maddox will be a proud big sister. If you would like to sprinkle them with a gift card or diapers that would be greatly appreciated, since they are waiting to be surprised on whether it is a girl or boy!

## Thank You

Dear brothers and sisters, I just wanted to thank you for your incredible kindness your cards, well wishes and visiting me after my surgery. The healing process has been stressful, but I know God will provide. Please continue to pray for my family and I. With love and appreciation, brother Ronald Cox and family.

## Podcast

You are invited to listen to SFA's new podcast, *The Modern Day Christian Podcast*. You can listen to it from our website or from our YouTube Channel. Each podcast discusses topics relevant to modern day issues.

## Visitors

Sherman Williams, Jerry Green, Eric Bunch, Tiffany Hash, Megan & Sam, Albert Bess, Charlene Scott, Earl Smith, Johnny Davidson, Fran Gabaldon, Mr. & Mrs. Medley, Ingrid Stewart, Jeffery Stewart, Terrance & Shenia Brownlow-Dindy and family, Kathy & Emily Metz, I. Rodgers and Jackie Odei.

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder During Services - David Anderson

Open/Close Building - Charles Paulin

David Williams ..... Table ..... Fred Strickland  
Gavin Williams ..... Assist ..... Matt Willcut

Sunday, October 27, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class .....	Paul Romine
Prayer.....	Alex Parramore
Sound Booth.....	Tucker Sweeney
Announcements.....	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	Rick Kenyon
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Ken Walker
Greeters.....	Fife/McCarter
Cards.....	Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	Tucker Sweeney
Opening Prayer.....	Allan Grimes
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Frank Hamby

Wednesday, October 29, 2019

Song Leader .....	Paul Romine
Opening Prayer.....	Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer .....	Gavin Williams

### November Clean-up John McShane's team (A-D)

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911*

Sunday, November 3, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class.....	Frank Hamby
Prayer.....	David Anderson
Sound Booth.....	Casey Paulin
Announcements.....	Wayne Shearer
Song Leader.....	Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer.....	Rick Kenyon
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Jimmy Sweeney
Greeters.....	Bingle/Faneuf
Cards.....	Colby/Sawyer

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader.....	Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer.....	Paul Romine
Sermon.....	Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer.....	Wadi Khoury

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Song Leader.....	Jim Turner
Opening Prayer.....	Kenny French
Closing Prayer.....	Bobby Sheumaker

## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Sept. 29.....	\$6,386.00
Oct. 6 .....	\$6,229.00
Oct. 13 .....	\$5,734.07
Oct. 20 .....	\$5,838.50
Contribution Average .....	\$6,523.03

# Bob McAnally Memories



*South Florida Avenue*  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1807 South Florida Avenue  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

**Thank You, Vince, and All Who Helped Make Our Youth Seminar a Great Success!**



Youth Seminar speakers: Hiram, Forest, Vince (song leader), Terrance, & Kevin



Great singing!

**Modern Relevance of Ancient Evidence**

Fall Gospel Meeting  
November 3 – 6, 2019

Sunday, Bible Class 9:30 a.m. - The Value of Archaeology  
Sunday, worship 10:30 a.m. - Jericho: Answering the Critics' Denial of Historical Accuracy  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Ai: Finding the Second City of Conquest  
Monday, 7:00 p.m. - Jerusalem: The City of God on Earth  
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Megiddo: Guardian to the Way of the Sea  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Caesarea Maritima: Israel's Mediterranean Seaport

South Florida Avenue church of Christ  
1807 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
863-682-4702

**THINK SOULS!** Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.



Stephen Attrip  
Black Creek church of Christ

**Make Plans To Attend! This Often Neglected Area Of Study Is Important!**