



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 78 No. 43 October 22, 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

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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.

Homosexuality is NOT a Political Issue!

Brian R. Kenyon

In 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of “same sex marriages,” and since that time our federal government has not only allowed but also continues to endorse homosexuality to the point where punishment is proposed by some for anyone who speaks out against it. There are many, even among members of the church of Christ, who will say preachers or any church people should not talk about homosexuality because it is political, and churches cannot talk politics. Rubbish! The sin of homosexuality is a biblical issue!

Homosexuality is condemned in all three ages of human history. First, it was condemned in the patriarchal age. Consider the obvious teachings in Genesis 19:4-5. The verdict on Sodom was given long before these details (Genesis 13:13). At least part of their wickedness had to do with homosexual practice (Genesis 19:7-14 cf. Jude 4). Another passage that condemns homosexual practice outside of the law of Moses, yet before the Christian dispensation is Romans 1:26-27, which even shows that lust for the same sex (that some might call “same sex attraction”) is sin. The attempt to make this a mere cultural condemnation involves serious twisting of Scripture! Second, homosexuality was condemned in the Mosaic age. “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them” (Leviticus 20:13 cf. 18:22). Some will attempt to say this was merely cultural as well, even claiming Jonathan and David were homosexuals because David “loved him [Jonathan] as his own soul” (1 Samuel 18:3). Such is another example of Scripture twisting. David’s “love” for Jonathan was not sexual but based upon friendship, which was affectionately shown in ancient Eastern cultures. The emotion expressed after they “kissed” was not sexual but was great sorrow (1 Samuel 20:41). Third, homosexuality was (and is) condemned in the Christian age. It must be realized that any prohibition against “fornication” is a prohibition against homosexual practice (Matthew 15:19; Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 5:19). Among the list of those who cannot inherit the kingdom of God are “homosexuals [effeminate, KJV]” and the “sodomites” [abusers of themselves with mankind, KJV]” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The ESV combines both into one phrase, “men who practice homosexuality,” and then adds a footnote: “The two Greek terms translated by this phrase refer to the passive and active partners in consensual homosexual acts.” It is obvious that no accountable person who continues to practice homosexuality can inherit the kingdom of God.

Sodom was destroyed for this sin. Only by God’s grace does the United States still stand, despite its national promotion of this and other sins (Proverbs 14:34). Let us love the homosexual’s soul enough to reach out with to him with the Gospel, while at the same time standing up for God’s will (Revelation 2:10)!

Join Us

FOR A SPECIAL SERIES OF STUDIES
WITH DR. STEPHEN C. ATNIP ON

The Holy Spirit

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2024

Sunday, November 17

9:30 am **Prevalent Views about the Holy Spirit**

10:30 am **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

Fellowship Lunch following worship

6:00 pm **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Monday, November 18

6:30 pm Congregational Singing

7:00 pm **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 pm Congregational Singing

7:00 pm **The Holy Spirit as Comforter**

Wednesday, November 20

6:30 pm **The Holy Spirit and Eternal Life**

Followed by a Fellowship Snack



South Florida Avenue Church of Christ 1807 S. Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803

PRAYER LIST

Current: Karen Ritchey (Casey Potvin's mother) biopsy will be Oct 30, Rosetta Vargas is having medical tests done and needs our prayers

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

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Cheryl Barker

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

Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.



We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of *Nellie Anderson* who passed away last Wednesday.

Funeral services will be at the Timberlane church of Christ in Tallahassee, FL

Tues., October 29, 2024
Please keep the Anderson family in your prayers at this time.

LAURA ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST
FALL
GOSPEL MEETING!

OCTOBER
25.26.27
FRI. SAT. SUN

Steven Ford
Minister,
5. Florida Ave Church of Christ

Gospel Meeting!
Fri. 7p.m. Sat. 7p.m.
OCT 25 OCT 26
OCT 27
Sun Times
9:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am Worship
1:30 pm Worship

- "Seek"
- "Godliness"
- "Expectations"
- "Love"
- "Commitment"

HOME COMING

N. Jackson Ave church of Christ

Bartow, FL

Sunday October 27, 2024

Speakers: FSOP students

Lunch following the 11:00 service

Fellowship in Service

Sunday Oct 27 following evening service. We will have a project for the kids to work on as well, so please come! Bring foods and drinks to share as we sign cards of encouragement while enjoying fellowship with one another!

Elders, Deacons & Preacher Meeting

Sunday, November 10

Submit any questions or concerns to them prior to the meeting so they can be discussed at that time

SING

Friday, October 25th

7:00-8:30 PM

Orange St. church of Christ
Auburndale, FL

Scheduled to Serve in October

Designated Elder	David Anderson
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Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Terrance Dindy
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife

Sunday, October 27, 2024

10:30 am Sermon	Brian Kenyon
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"Do We Hinder Other's Faith? (Mark 9:24)

6:00 pm Sermon	B. Kenyon/Steven Ford
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Questions/Answers

Those to Serve 10:30 am

Greeters	McCarter's
Song/Pray before class	Kyle Bingle
Announcements (both)	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader	Kyle Faneuf
Prayer / Bible reading	Paul Sweeney
Lord's Table (both)	Brian Williams
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	David Deal
Attendance Cards	-
Sound Booth (both)	Jason H

Those to Serve 6:00 pm

Greeters	Paulin's
Announcements	Brian Kenyon
Song Leader	Dave Williams
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Closing Prayer	Jarred Spivey

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Frank Hamby
Devotional / Invitation	Steven Ford
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcutt

How We Are Giving

October 6	\$7,185.50
October 13	\$5,494.81
October 20	\$6,262.17
Contribution Average	\$6,824.31
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!



Him, Not Me

In I Samuel 15:17, Samuel is speaking to Saul after he had disobeyed God by sparing King Agag and the spoils of Amalek. Samuel says to him, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you over Israel?" He then goes on to ask him in verse 19, "Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?"

Ultimately, Saul failed to please God because he did not have enough faith in God to obey Him, even in the face of adversity. Saul "took his eye off the ball" and focused on his own insecurities, his own desires, and his own reputation among the people. Saul was never qualified to be a great king, and yet, he was always capable of being one, because God would have made him one. When we are tempted to lose our focus, may we bring to remembrance God's will, and change our thinking.

Instead of, "I'm not _____ enough," try, "God is _____ enough."
 Instead of, "I don't think _____ is best," try, "God knows what is best."
 Instead of, "How will _____ react?" try, "What would God think?"



No one is qualified to be great in the Kingdom, and yet God is capable of using us. Let's allow Him to do that, whenever and however He sees fit.

Eagle Lake Church of Christ
 9th Annual MEN's LECTURESHIP



Growing the Lord's Church into the Future

Saturday, November 2th, 2024
 8:30 AM—12:00 PM
 Register and a Snack 8:30—9:00 AM
 Welcome-Prayer-Songs
 Lesson 1, Forest Antemasaris — 9:10—9:50am
 History of the Lord's Church
 Lesson 2, Kyle Fanuef — 9:50—10:30am
 The Lord's Church Today
Break 10:30—10:40 Break
 Lesson 3, Kory Berry — 10:40—11:20am
 The Lord's Church in the Future
 Lesson 4, Andre Medley — 11:20—12:00
 The Lord's Church Strong into the Future
 Closing remarks and Prayer
 Lunch Time-----12:00pm

Bible Themed
TRUNK OR TREAT:
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26 @5:00 Pm
We still need volunteers
to help at this event!
See Carlisa with any
questions.
If you are decorating your
trunk please park in the lot
closest to the fellowship hall

SAVE THE DATES:
Nov. 15, 2024-
 Youth Group thankful meal
 at the Kenyon's
Dec. 14, 2024-
 SFA Holiday Party at the
 Fellowship Hall
Dec. 15, 2024-
 FSOP Graduation
 following evening
 service.



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

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give
 to you; not as the world gives do I give
 to you. Let not your heart be troubled,
 neither let it be afraid"
 John 14:27



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