



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 47 November 23, 2021

## ELDERS

David Anderson  
Brian Kenyon  
Bobby Sheumaker

## DEACONS

Tyler Anderson  
Jason Hendrix  
Rick Kenyon  
Stacey Paulin  
Jimmy Sweeney

## MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

## 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)

## YOUTUBE.com

[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](http://SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)

## HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching  
since 1969

## Huron, SD Mission Work

Casey & Emily Paulin

## 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.

## Restoring the Erring - A Call to Adventure

Vince Daugherty

There is a wonderful scene from the screen adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" where Bilbo Baggins races out of his house and down the way to catch up to a party of dwarves that had set off on a great journey to reclaim their homeland. The wizard of their party suggested Bilbo be the last member, but when he was informed of all the risks involved, Bilbo wanted nothing to do with their quest. When the morning came, the party, minus Bilbo, had already left him behind thinking he had decided to bow out. But at the very last minute, he decided that whatever life he was living and destined to live in the easy confines of the Shire was not the life he wanted. As he hurried to reunite with the travelers, one hobbit asks him what he was doing. To which Bilbo replied as he ran by, "I'm going on an adventure!"

We are drawn to stories such as the ones Tolkien wrote about with adventure because we are creatures that desire to move in this world. We want a purpose to why we are here. We want to be a part of something bigger than just ourselves. We want to do something, create something, to make a difference in our world. We have these desires because we are created in the image of God.

Our God has given us minds and bodies that call us to a higher mode of being. I am convinced that is why so many young people like Greta Thunberg are so passionate about their role as climate activists. If the world is coming to an end because of humanity's doing, how noble a task then to have a role in its reversal. But, while the world offers people hypotheses at best as to what we should be passionate about, as servants of the kingdom of heaven we are given a clear aim and purpose for our lives. But it is those very purposes as servants of Christ that are often neglected topics in Bible classes and sermons. It is right that all spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Eph. 1:3), but the same epistle says, "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10). Many in the religious world have lost their way when it comes to our system of faith. We are indeed saved by grace through faith (Eph 2:8), and it is not of any works that one can do (Eph. 2:9), but faith and works are not opposed. James says, "faith without works is dead." (James 2:17). Our system of religion is one of faith, fair enough. However, our faith is such that it works! Actual faith is lived out in a practical sense and is seen in how our lives have been changed on the basis of that faith.

One such good work for which we have been created is partnering with God to regain those who have wandered from the truth. Consider the first two parables of Luke 15: The Lost Sheep (verses 4-7) and The Lost Coin (verses 8-10). Jesus compares the lost to a sheep that has wandered away from the other ninety-nine. Jesus says the man who owns the sheep will go out into the wilderness to recover the one which was lost. The parable illustrates God's love, and the extent to which He was willing to go for those lost sinners, He sent His only Son (John 3:16). Paul said Jesus came into the world to save sinners (I Tim. 1:15). The parable also calls us to adventure as well! Christ is no longer walking this earth, but His disciples are. We are to take up the mantle of bringing the wanderers back. "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." (James 5:19,20). Not only may we rejoice at the individual who goes from a lost state to a saved state, but we also can find personal joy in the fact that we can have a hand in that one's repentance!

Sometimes we lose things because of neglect. Jesus compared the lost to one coin in a set of ten that had become lost. To find her coin, the woman lit a lamp, swept the house, and carefully searched. Oh, that we would clean our own houses, what riches could we find! Churches ought to be involved in evangelism and outreach but if we are not careful we can lose ones we thought were secure because of neglect. How full would assemblies be if we would retain all those who were once saved but slipped unnoticed back into sin? How full would our assemblies be if we retained a majority of our children that grow up and leave the faith? Falling away does not typically happen by the missing of one service, but there is always a first. Children whose questions go unanswered or stifled look for answers in the world. It is those who are diligent, at the ready, and keeping the house in order who notice when something or someone is missing. This is a noble task to which we are called as servants of the kingdom. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:1,2).

Life is difficult on our own, in Christ, we are to live together as one body look out not only for our own needs but to encourage our brothers and sisters as well. If I went astray I pray that I would have brothers and sisters who loved me enough to help set me straight in the most gentle way they could. I pray that I would rise to the call for any who may need me to help lead them back in their time of need in a spirit of gentleness. We sing a song from time to time that says, "Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages, Swiftly the hours are changing to years; How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?" I do not know the writer, Ruth Johnson Carruth, but the words so greatly capture the sentiment. "Into our hands, the gospel is given, Into our hands is given the light, Haste, let us carry God's precious message, Guiding the erring back to the right." Our time on earth is short. We have wasted various amounts of time when we were outside of Christ. Even now we can waste our time with the hustle and bustle of life. Scripture calls us to redeem the time as wise men (Eph. 5:6). If our calling lies in the wilderness to fetch those who have wandered astray, or if our calling is to sweep the room and make sure the lights are on, let us answer the call. There are various noble tasks that the Master has assigned us, let us always be diligent to answer the call of adventure in Christ.

**Bible Trivia**  
 on  
**Kahoot!**  
 Thursday at 7:00 pm.

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**



**2021**

**Thankful Meal**

**SENIOR SAINTS**  
 by John McShane

This week we are looking at Exodus 20:7, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." In the New Testament, Matt 6:9 reads, "After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." To hallow something is to make it holy or separate it or sanctify it. Most of us are familiar with the fact that most people take the name of the Lord in Vain through cursing or swearing. In the last few years, it has almost become part of the daily language. We encounter it on TV, in music, and in the written word. Cursing is not the only way to use God's name in vain. One example is anyone who says God wants a particular political party or candidate to win. Another is anyone that claims to speak or know the mind of God, or who claims to be an earthly representative of God's exact truth. God has spoken through His Bible, and no one should try to put words in God's mouth. Be careful what comes out of your mouth because using the Lord's name in vain is indeed a sin. When we misuse His name, we are dishonoring Him and showing a lack of respect. God will not be mocked. Ephesians 4:29-30, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what helps build others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

# SFA FAMILY MATTERS

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* James 5:16

## Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health  
 Carol Edmonson - health  
 Bernetta Green - health  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Darlene Thompson - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - home recovering  
 Stacey Wilson - knee replacement

## PRAYER LIST

John & Linda McShane  
 Ron & Judy Ford - health  
 Jim Turner - health, tests  
 Fred & Kathy Strickland - health  
 Debbie Bush - health  
 Sharon M. Washington - health  
 Antoine & Marcella Swain - health  
 Flo Duffy - eye problems & hives  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack  
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg  
 Katrina Greene - knee replacement  
 Toney Wilson - root canal

## Recent requests:

*(Please update the office of any changes)*

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

## Pray for our Shut-ins

Joyce Burbage      Carol Eason      Ellen Shearer  
*Please call before visiting. Some locations are locked down.*

Current newsletters from our missionaries are posted on the bulletin board. Previous newsletters can be found on the missionary bulletin board in the back hallway.

The elders and deacons are requesting that each family complete the survey for the Building Project by **December 5**.

They are on the foyer table and was emailed to you.

Weekly prayer time for our evangelism efforts every Sunday evening 5:45 pm fellowship hall

*Thank you for visiting*

The Sheumaker and the Mohundro families  
 Leah Lobban      Albert Bess  
 Shirley Loudermilk      Dawn Sutton



## Pantry item request:

### BOTTLED WATER

We will handing out water to participants of

**Walk Out of Darkness 5K - Suicide Prevention & Awareness**

If you'd like to help, please see Rick Kenyon

Please bring the bottles in by **December 1**.



## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### November

Designated Elder - David Anderson

### Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Announcements ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Devo ..... Brian Kenyon  
 Closing Prayer ..... Charles Paulin

### Sunday, November 28, 2021

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Joshua Cantrell  
*"Trusting God at Rephidim"*  
 Exodus 17:8-16

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Joshua Cantrell  
*"Authentic Christianity, pt. 3"*  
 Acts 1:42-47

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Greeter ..... Nona Williams  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Announcements ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Jonny Singh  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Wayne Shearer  
 Lord's Table ..... Alex Parramore  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wesley Brunson

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Fife  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... David Williams  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Lord's Table ..... Alex Parramore  
 Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

### Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Announcements ..... Jimmy Sweeney  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... Jonny Singh  
 Devo ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Closing Prayer ..... David Deal

## Upcoming Events

### November

25 - Thanksgiving  
 26 - Office is closed  
 28 - Youth Group devo  
 at Joyce Burbage

### December

1 - Quarterly challenge  
 5 - Service project  
 11 - Youth group  
 caroling & parties  
 12 - L2L workday  
 18 - Wreaths Across  
 America  
 25 - Christmas  
 31 - Annual bonfire



## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov 7	\$6,818.00
Nov 14	\$6,542.00
Nov 21	\$6,280.00
<b>Contribution Average</b>	<b>\$6,919.98</b>

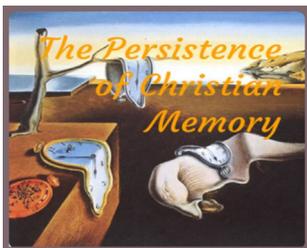
I was recently working on a project as Rissa danced around in the background, singing her heart out in our living room. I looked over my shoulder and asked her what she was doing. She had a book in one hand and was beating time with the other.

"I'm playing church, Mommy!" As she continued, I listened more closely. Some of the words were from hymns, but a lot was made up nonsense. I laughed to myself, but it made me wonder: As a Christian, am I just "playing church" or am I worshipping in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)? Am I bowing my head during prayer, but thinking about what's for lunch? Do I let the words of the sermon go in one ear and out the other? Am I singing hymns, but focusing on the off-key sister in the third row? When we "play church" others cannot always tell. From a distance, we look like everyone else. Like Karissa, we seem to know what we are doing. Do you know who can always tell? God. He listens closely to our hearts (Proverbs 21:2; Ephesians 5:19; Romans 8:27). In Matthew 23:27-28, Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites and white-washed tombs. He said on the outside they appeared beautiful, but inside they were full of dead men's bones. Let's examine ourselves. When we worship, are we spiritually white-washed tombs: faithful on the outside, but dead on the inside?

We don't want to be on the devil's playground.

## “Spiritual Questions with Scriptural Answers.”

We now have a new Q&A page on our website.  
 You are invited to submit spiritually related questions to have scripturally answered.  
 A new question & answer will be posted weekly then archived for later study.



Podcasts hosted by members of SFA  
 Links are available on our website under the SERMONS tab.  
 You can also listen on our YouTube channel.  
 To Know the Love of Christ is a ladies podcast



[www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com)  
 Email us: [SFA.church@gmail.com](mailto:SFA.church@gmail.com)

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



**South Florida Avenue**  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Return Service Requested

**FOR THE LORD IS GOOD;  
 HIS STEADFAST LOVE  
 ENDURES FOREVER,  
 AND HIS FAITHFULNESS  
 TO ALL GENERATIONS.**

*Psalm 100:5*