



SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 49 December 7, 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Rick Kenyon
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

Joshua Cantrell

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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.....7:00 p.m.

WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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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.



JONATHAN SINGH

FALL 2021 FSOP GRADUATE



Brother Singh came to FSOP from the New Amsterdam church of Christ in Guyana, South America. Before enrolling in the school, he was a part-time photographer, working both independently and with other local photographers. He is a graduate of Berbice High School, and he studied architecture for a year in the New Amsterdam Technical Institute. His dad, Samuel, is a Gospel preacher in New Amsterdam and a fine leader of his household. Glen Willcut, a preacher and an elder for the Eagle Lake (Florida) church of Christ, has known Jonathan since he was born and was instrumental, along with Kevin Patterson, preacher and an elder for the Sebring Parkway church of Christ (Sebring, Florida), in sponsoring Jonathan through school. After graduation, Jonathan plans on working with a congregation as a youth or associate minister, while furthering his education in the fields of apologetics and family counseling. Thanks to our supporters for their help!

This past Sunday (12-05-2021), we participated in the *Out of Darkness Suicide Awareness Community Walk*. This event is part of a nationwide effort in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to raise support for the prevention and awareness of those affected by suicide. According to the AFSP, there are an average of 132 suicides every day in America (per 2020 statistics). They also note that suicide is the second leading cause of death between ages 10-34. It is a potent weapon of Satan that creates loss, despair, and pain. Fortunately, as followers of Jesus, we can combat Satan's attacks by showing compassion, providing hope, and offering comfort to people who feel like they have nowhere to go. Our role in the event was not to "push" the church but to "be" the church. Being the church means treating each other and our fellow neighbors as Jesus would, rather than promoting the church name (cf. Jn. 13:35). Our service and love to people will reflect Jesus more than simply telling people who we are. Likewise, when we live the Word of God, we can connect with people so that we can share the Word of God with them. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort. If you prayed for us, donated bottled water, helped with labeling bottles, brought or packed or emptied coolers, came to the event, helped with set up or take down, spoke encouraging words, then you have taken part in this effort to promote the name of Jesus. We were the only church at the event, and I pray that our presence impressed a Christ-like influence with those who interacted with us. Please continue to pray for all our evangelistic efforts, and remember to let God use you so that people know Him.



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

Youth Group News

Reminders for when we are D O W N

It can be very easy to be depressed about things in life. The world has a great way of being able to kick you when you are down. In the book of Hebrews, Christians were feeling unsure about their faith in Jesus Christ. They had to face friends, family, and neighbors who made fun of them or even hated them because they were Christians. To help those first Christians endure, the Hebrews writer said, "consider Him who endured hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (Hebrews 12:3). The writer was saying, remember what Jesus had to go through, you are not alone. Next Scripture says, "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrews 12:5,6). We all have earthly fathers that discipline us to the best of their own wisdom. In the moment, discipline does not feel good, but a loving father still disciplines. The writer was saying, remember, if we endure chastening as a Christian that means we are sons of our heavenly Father.

SENIOR SAINTS

by John McShane

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder." I don't know how bad the murder rate was back when the ten commandments were handed down. It must have been bad if God included it in the commandments He gave to Moses. Today, I would consider murder an epidemic in our country. Why is this so? When I look at the programs on TV where murder is the main theme, see the video games that promote killing, and listen to the rap songs that glorify guns and killing, I see and hear murder becoming commonplace and acceptable to many people. I do not know what the answer is to this problem. I do know that the Bible says murder is unacceptable, and as Christians, we need to actively promote the part of Romans 13:9 that reads, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love has to overcome hate and love has to be outwardly demonstrated in our daily lives. We must keep in mind and pass on to others the words of Revelations 21:8, "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." When hate overcomes love and murder takes place, the murderer has signed his sentence to eternal damnation no matter what punishment happens here on earth.

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 - health
 Neyome Brunson - strength

Recent requests:

Bernetta Green - sick with a cold Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot
 Virginia Walker - back pain

(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

Updates & Prayer requests

Jeanelle Thrower has strained her hamstring and cannot walk. Doctors have also found a small blood clot in her ankle.

Virginia Walker is suffering from back pain.

Bernetta Green is sick with a cold. She has a new phone number. It has been updated in the directory.

Responses

Matt Webb asks for forgiveness for arrogant decisions he has recently made and for spiritual strength.

The first Monthly Men's Breakfast will be at **Fred's Southern Kitchen** on Tuesday, December 14 at 8:30 am. It will be a great time to fellowship!



Senior Saints Christmas Party
 December 14, 2021

10:00 am
 Fellowship Hall



Christmas Cards

The basket is on the table in the foyer. If you have cards for members of the congregation, please place them in the basket alphabetically for our youth group to pass out before services.

Please join us for a fingerfood fellowship to celebrate **Jonathan "Jonny" Singh** for graduating from the Florida School of Preaching on Sunday, December 19, 2021 after evening worship. Sign-up sheet is on the board.

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
 Stacey Wilson - knee replacement

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

December

Designated Elder - Brian Kenyon

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
 Song Leader/prayer Stacey Paulin
 Devo Terrance Dindy, Jr
 Closing Prayer Phil Fife

Sunday, December 12, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "The Will To Worship"
 Luke 7:48-50

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Joshua Cantrell
 "God Is... Therefore We Will Not Fear."
 Psalm 46:1-2

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) Jason Hendrix
 Greeter Brunson
 Song/prayer before class Tucker Sweeney
 Announcements Tyler Anderson
 A.M. Song Leader Andre Medley
 Scripture reading/Prayer David Williams
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer Jeff Bingle

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Shearer
 P.M. Song Leader Andre Medley
 Scripture reading/Prayer Mike Van Allen
 Lord's Table Lou Van Allen
 Closing Prayer George Davis

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Announcements Tyler Anderson
 Song Leader/Prayer Jonny Singh
 Devo Josh Cantrell
 Closing Prayer Allen Grimes

Upcoming Events

December

11 - Youth group
 caroling & party, 2p
12 - Elders meeting, 4p
 L2L workday
14 - Monthly men's
 breakfast, 8:30
 Senior Saints
 Christmas party, 10a
18 - Wreaths Across
 America

December

19 - FSOP graduation
25 - Christmas
31 - Annual bonfire
January
2 - fellowship in-service
9 - Elders meeting
17-20 - FSOP lectureship

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Nov 21 \$6,280.00
 Nov 28 \$6,440.00
 Dec 5 \$7,709.00
 Contribution Average \$6,926.29

Dear God,

As I begin this day, let me turn my thoughts to You as You help in guiding me in things I say and do. Give me the patience that I need to keep my piece of mind and with life's cares I hope, Dear God, some happiness to find.

Let me live but for today not worrying what's ahead, for I have trust that you will see I get my daily bread.

Give me courage to face life's trials, and not from trouble run. Let me keep this thought in mind, Thy will not mine be done.

And if some wish I do not get, tho I have prayed to Thee, help me to believe and understand You know what's best for me.

I've failed You many times, I know, but when tonight I rest, I hope that I can kneel and say, Dear God, I've tried my best.

Amen

Author unknown

“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.

Thank you for visiting

Barbara Paulin
Darnell & Jane Kirkland
Shirley Loudermilk
Dawn Sutton
Albert Bess



STUDY WITH US

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:00pm

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

THE BEATITUDES Part 4

Matthew 5:8,9

Teacher: Shenia Brownlow-Dindy

All ladies are invited to join us in the FSOP classroom at 1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 or on Facebook. Live stream through the Facebook Group: FSOP Ladies Class.

If you have questions please contact the Florida School of Preaching at (863) 683-4043.

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: 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 HE WHO IS MIGHTY
HAS DONE GREAT THINGS
FOR ME, AND HOLY IS HIS
NAME. AND HIS MERCY IS
FOR THOSE WHO FEAR HIM
FROM GENERATION TO
GENERATION.

Luke 1:49-50

