



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 77 No. 51 December 19, 2023

ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

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.

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

You CAN Work

Rick Kenyon

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:4-6, ESV).

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” (Rom. 12:4-6).

No matter who you are, God made you and has given you an ability to work and serve. Everyone can do something:

- Attendees – Bible classes; worship services; youth events; gospel meetings; area wide events; etc.
- Bakers – fellowship meals; funerals; sick; hurting; new in town; to show “I care”; etc.
- Bringers – bring Bibles; kids; grandkids; parents; friends; neighbors; family; co-workers; etc.
- Crafters – knitting; crochet; painting; wood; yarn; cross-stitch; sewing; scrapbooking; etc.
- Decorators – themes; designs; layouts; arrangements; research; creations; etc.
- Drivers – pick-up/drop-off from church; transport throughout the week; emergency rides, etc.
- Encouragers – pat on the back; cards; words; calls; texts; attendance; visits, etc.
- Followers – supporting events/ideas; smooth operations; essential cogs for productivity; etc.
- Greeters – smiles; handshakes; answer questions; warm welcome; first impression; etc.
- Givers – money; food; clothing; essentials; rides; time; prayers; friendship; etc.

- Helpers – chores; moving; baby-sitting; yard-work; busy-work; delegated tasks; etc.
- Huggers – love; emotional support; friendship; family; church intimacy; etc
- Inviters – to worship; to Bible studies; to events/programs; coworkers; friends; family; etc.
- Leaders – husbands; parents; elders; evangelists; teachers; deacons; ministries; programs; etc.
- Listeners – God’s Word; stories; young/old; leadership; visits; phone calls; discretion; etc.
- Mentors – guides; wisdom; teachers; experience; personal; parental figures; spiritual parents; etc.
- Planners – organize; delegate; invite; collaborate; coordinate; recruit; etc.
- Servers – prepare food; serve food; wash dishes; restock supplies; clean tables; set up tables; etc.
- Sharers – time; food; homes; vehicles; surplus; entertainment; holidays; meals; etc.
- Smilers – natural smiles; constant source of joy and energy; infectious; calming; comforting; etc.
- Speakers – Bible class; sermons; devotional; Scripture reading; prayers; etc.
- Talkers – conversation starters; conversation continuers; stories; wisdom; humor; visits; etc.
- Teachers – Bible class; at home; sermons; older to younger; mature to immature; etc.
- Thinkers – complex concepts; research; connecting-the-dots; illustrations; ideas; etc.
- Ushers – smooth operation of worship services; audio; microphones; seating; etc.
- Visionaries – big ideas; long-term goals; foresight of workers; endurance; etc.
- Visitors – sick; nursing home; hospital; shut-in; elderly; lonely; encouragement; meals; etc.
- Workers – behind the scenes; prep work; counting money; small tasks; silent tasks; etc.
- Writers – cards; emails; novels; articles; letters; encouragement; inspiration; etc

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col. 3:17). “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor. 16:14).”

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

Ephesians 2:10

Upcoming Events	
December	
31	Fellowship in Service 5:30 pm
January	
5	Fellowship bonfire @ Brian & Jagie's
9	Senior Saints meeting
15-18	FSOP Lectureship
February	
23-25	YES Weekend Valdosta

PRAYER LIST

Current: Bobby and Linda Simpson have had Covid but are doing better, Rachel Zapata's sister Genoveva Martinez had a heart attack last week. Vince Daugherty has been in the hospital with cellulitis. Judy Crow, former member here, is having serious, no guarantee, spinal reconstruction surgery in an attempt to relive unbearable pain January 24.

Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Antoine & Marcella Swain (health); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Bobby and Linda Simpson (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Jim Turner (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Ronnie Lynn is recovering from neck surgery.

Shut-ins: Joyce Burbage, Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French and

Starting in January our Wednesday evening services will begin at 6:30!

The next few weeks are going to be challenging with the construction project going on inside the main building. Please be patient and flexible as we go through this together. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall for our worship services. The elders are still working out what to do about Bible classes, etc.

- Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Christmas stocking project that benefited a local Women's Abuse Shelter.
- Hopefully these gifts we were able to provide will bring them a little joy and a little hope this holiday season!



Fellowship In Service will be on Sunday December 31 at **5:00 PM** before our evening service. Please join us to sign cards for those of our number who need encouragement or who are celebrating a special occasion next month. If you are unable to attend you can still sign the cards at your convenience.

Women of the Word

Olivia Smith

Sharpening is Painful

No one likes to be told that what they did was wrong, let alone that what they did was unchristian-like. I am blessed to have people in my Christian family that will pull me aside and tell me what I did or how I have been acting is wrong. It doesn't feel great at the time, but in the long run I am grateful for these people. A real friend will tell you when you are wrong, even if it hurts. Without these sometimes-painful exhortations, we would not grow in Christ. I would not be the person I am today without these people. I am forever grateful for them. (Proverbs 27:5-6; Hebrews 12:11)

Scheduled to Serve in December	
Designated Elder	Brian Kenyon
Wednesday, December 20, 2023	
Announcements	David Anderson
Song Leader / Prayer	Brian Kenyon
Devotional / Invitation	Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer	Tucker Sweeney
Sunday, December 24, 2023	
10:30 am Sermon	Vince Daugherty
6:00 pm Sermon	Vince Daugherty
Singing Service	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Bingle's
Song/Pray before class	David Williams
Announcements (both)	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader (both)	Brian Kenyon
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Estridge
Lord's Table (both)	George Davis
Closing Prayer	George Beals
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	Klark/Sawyer
Sound Booth (both)	Derek Williams
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Sweeneys
Announcements	Jimmy Sweeney
Song Leader	Vince Daugherty
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Closing Prayer	Steve Tydings
Wednesday, December 27, 2023	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcut
Devotional / Invitation	George Beals
Closing Prayer	Kyle Bingle
How We Are Giving	
December 3	\$10,600.58
December 10	\$7,967.49
December 17	\$5,624.60
Contribution Average	\$7,087.96
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!

What Ornaments Do You Wear?

This time of year is filled with Christmas traditions. One such tradition that I remember growing up is decorating the Christmas tree. We had boxes full of ornaments in our attic that we would bring down, sort through, and hang in just the right spot on the tree. Ornaments usually reflect your life, they tell a story. Often by looking at the ornaments one hangs on a tree, you can tell what is important to them. On our tree at home, we have ornaments that tell our story. We have some that have pictures of my nieces and family. We have some that tell of my wife's occupation as a nurse. We have some from Buccees, a must-stop destination on road trips. We have some that tell of our time living in Alabama and now South Dakota. Think about your tree, what story does it tell merely by the ornaments that hang on it? Each is unique and yours is not like mine. Just by the things that hang in pure sight, there is much insight into the details of your life.

Spiritually, what ornaments do people see on you? What traits are visible to the eyes of others? What story do these things tell of the deeper things within you? We have to be careful about the things we put on for others to see, the traits that we carry around daily. The Bible tells us to be the lights of the world, but what do people see you bearing?

Look at what Paul says in Ephesians 5:1-21 "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.¹⁴ Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Notice the charge given to the church at Ephesus to walk in love (verses 1-7), walk in light (verses 8-14), and to walk in wisdom (verses 15-21). Do these three traits or characteristics apply to your life? Are these the things people see you displaying daily? If not why not? The charge given to the New Testament Christians at Ephesus is the same charge given to us today. In a world full of sin and gloom, we should have a life or a walk characterized by these three things. These things should define us and should be front and center. Do we actively wear these things as an ornament, that tells the world of something bigger than ourselves, Jesus?

Ornaments are hand-picked and specifically placed to help to better tell our story. What things do you hand-pick and use to tell the story of the saving power of Jesus?

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Return Service Requested

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

James 1:17



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