



# SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

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## 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](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.

## *The One Who Bears Witness* (Part 2) Vince Daugherty

Last week we started a study of the term “witness” in Scripture. When sin separated Holy God from sinful man, God had need to reveal Himself by use of faith and true witnesses. “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:4) God has used the natural world, Moses, the Law, Israel, the prophets, and John the Baptist as witnesses. Everything previous to Jesus was building to the coming of the Christ, the expert witness. Now since the advent of Jesus, God continues to call forth witnesses that will point back to Christ.

After about 400 years of silence, God carefully chose John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Jesus. John was not the Christ but pointed men to Him. John’s testimony was, “I have seen and testified that this [speaking of Jesus, of whom he saw the Holy Spirit descending from heaven upon Him (John 1:32,33)] is the Son of God” (John 1:34). “John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God’” (John 1:35,36). “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him [Jesus] was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (John 1:40-42). Philip, another early disciple found Nathanael saying, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45). When Nathanael was incredulous, Philip told him, “Come and see” (John 1:46).

### *God Expert Witness*

Even if Jesus did not take the stand, others testified of Him. “There is another who bears witness of Me...” (John 5:32). #1 John the Baptist’s witness (John 5:33-35); #2 His works (John 5:36); #3 The Father (John 5:37) - At Jesus’s baptism the voice was heard from heaven, “This is my Son of whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17). With a view towards His passion, “‘Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘I have glorified it and will glorify it again’” (John 12:28). On the Mount of Transfiguration, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matt. 17:5) Quoting from the Old Testament, “But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;” (Heb. 1:8) #4 Old Testament Scripture (John 5:39,40); #5 Moses (John 5:45-47).

However, the Pharisees lobbed a charge against Jesus, “You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true” (John 8:13). According to the Law of Moses, truth was established on the grounds of 2-3 witnesses. Jesus responded, “Even if I bear witness to Myself, my witness is true” (8:14). For the Pharisees, they had closed their eyes and ears to the testimony of Jesus. His testimony was consistent with God’s previous witnesses so His testimony stood as true. Then Jesus turned the tables on them, “You judge according to the flesh” (John 8:15). Their argument really was not from the Law of Moses, because Jesus aligned with it. Their real objection came from fleshly jealousy. Jesus still passed the burden of proof according to the Law of Moses, “I am One who bears witness of Myself (1), and the Father who sent me bears witness of Me” (2) (John 8:18).

Jesus proved Himself again and again, but most impressively to the point of suffering death because of His testimony. “‘If you are the Christ, tell us.’ But He said to them, ‘If I tell you, you will by no means believe me. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.’ Then they all said, ‘Are You the Son of God?’ So He said to them, ‘You rightly say that I am’” (Luke 22:67-70).

“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am king, For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37). “Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it” (Luke 17:33).

### *Enduring Witnesses*

The testimony of God and Jesus Christ was not to be left without enduring witnesses. After His resurrection, Jesus told His disciples about their mission as witnesses for Him before humanity. Specifically chosen were those closest disciples, the apostles, who were with Christ from the beginning and witnessed His resurrection from the dead (Acts 1:22 \*which was a prerequisite for being an apostles\*). “And you are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:48). “And you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Jesus gave the marching orders to His disciples, and the rest of the book of Acts details how those special witnesses went throughout the world doing just that, proclaiming what they had seen concerning Jesus the Christ!

Their testimony has been preserved in Scripture. The testimony of those who witnessed Jesus was carefully providentially preserved by Divine guidance. At the end of Peter’s life, he wrote, “Moreover I want to be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty” (II Pet. 1:15,16). The apostle John said, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life-- the life was manifested and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (I John 1:1-3).

Scripture now finds itself in our hands. What testimony do you bear? Biblical witnessing is to bear the testimony of those who witnessed Christ. While sharing your own personal testimony has its place, the primary witness God calls for is individuals who will faithfully proclaim Him, His character, and what He has done. If you were put on the stand for Christ, would you be found out as a faithful, and true witness or would you be compromised? Can God depend on your testimony? Can He depend on you?

## **Stand Up for Jesus Every Day!**

### **YOUTH GROUP**

#### **Oh Yeah, Prove it!**

In the world, truth has become a word that does not mean much. Truth by the world's definition has come to mean anything you want it to be. Truth no longer means facts and reality, it can be based on personal feelings or emotions. While feelings and emotions are real, it cannot be a part of the definition of truth. In Luke 1:3,4, Luke said he wanted to write an orderly account, "that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed." We must be able defend our belief in God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible as the Inspired word of God. It is not enough to believe or to claim what the Bible says, we must provide the world with the proofs for what we claim. When we can prove it #1 it strengthens our faith; #2 it provides others an opportunity to believe as well.

### *Senior Saints* by John McShane

This week we will look at the commandment in Exodus 20:15 that states, “Thou shalt not steal.” The commandment is also in Mark 10:19, “You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” Stealing is defined as taking another person's property) without permission or legal right and without intending to return it. I am sure that most of us have been tempted at one time or another to take something that does not belong to us, rationalizing that “well, they won’t miss this because there are so many on hand.” We know that stealing is a fact of life in our world as we read about the smash and grab robberies or the treasurer of a local club or firm caught stealing money by falsifying books. Many reasons motivate people to steal. One of the leading motivations is the addict's need for drugs. As Christians, we need to do what we can to eliminate the basic conditions in our world that drive people to steal. We also need to realize that sin is one of the leading causes of people getting into circumstances that lead them to steal. The one thing that we can do is bring more people to Jesus. No matter the consequences here on earth from stealing, the consequences in eternity are not very favorable.

# 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 & strength  
 Brian Smith - heart  
 Bobby Simpson - health  
 Margaret Coone  
 Annett Phillip - health  
 Vanessa Palmer - health  
 Janie Wise - health  
 Neil Entwistle - heart attack  
 Melody Baxter - rehab for leg  
 Neyome Brunson - strength

## 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  
 Stacey Paulin - health  
 Brenda Mask - health  
 Darlene Thompson - health  
 Jeanelle Thrower - pain; blood clot  
 Virginia Walker - back pain

## 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

## Responses

**Bernetta Green** asks for prayers for strength to continue to trust and believe in God's promises. She is also thankful for her SFA family for the prayers, meals, calls & cards, while she was down with her hip surgery.



## The Power of His Resurrection

Brian R. Kenyon, Director ♦ Broadcast Live at fsop.net

January 17-20, 2022

SFA is hosting the potluck lunch on January 19, 2022



**SFA Men's Monthly Breakfast** will be on Tuesday, January 11 at 8:30 am  
*Fred's Southern Kitchen*  
 It will be a great time to fellowship!



## Pantry Request:

first aid supplies/first aid travel kits  
 (bandages, antibiotic ointment, etc.)

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

### January

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

### Wednesday, December 29 2021

Announcements ..... Rick Kenyon  
 Song Leader/Prayer ..... Terrance Dindy, Jr.  
 Devo ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Jimmy Sweeney

### Sunday, January 2, 2022

#### 10:30 A.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 "Do You Have Coverage?"  
*John 3:14-18*

#### 6:00 P.M.

Sermon ..... Josh Cantrell  
 "Challenges For The New Year"  
*2 Timothy 4:2*

#### 10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both) ..... Phil Fife  
 Greeter ..... Shearer  
 Song/prayer before class ..... Tucker Sweeney  
 Announcements ..... Bobby Sheumaker  
 A.M. Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Josh Estridge  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer ..... Kyle Bingle

#### 6:00 P.M.

Greeters ..... Stewart  
 P.M. Song Leader ..... Jason Hendrix  
 Scripture reading/Prayer ..... Nigel St. Bernard  
 Lord's Table ..... George Davis  
 Closing Prayer ..... Mike Van Allen

### Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Announcements ..... Stacey Paulin  
 Song Leader/prayer ..... Vince Daugherty  
 Devo ..... Zach Jones  
 Closing Prayer ..... Paul Sweeney

## Upcoming Events

### January

2 - Lads Workday  
 - fellowship in-service  
 9 - Elders mtg, 4p  
 - Parents mtg, 12p  
 11 - SFA Men's  
 breakfast, 8:30 am  
 14 - Youth group  
 game night

### January

17-20 - FSOP lectureship  
 19 - SFA lunch potluck  
 23 - Youth-led sc, pm.  
 25 - Sr. Saints, 9:30am  
 25 - Ladies night out  
 30 - Song service, pm



## ~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Dec 12 ..... \$6,854.00  
 Dec 19 ..... \$7,980.00  
 Dec 26 ..... \$6,809.00  
**Contribution Average ..... \$6,942.90**  
**Weekly budget ..... \$7,663.43**

## 2021 at a Glance

### Attendance Avg.

Sun. Bible class: 99  
 AM worship: 126  
 PM worship: 99  
 Wed. Bible class: 87

### Responses

Baptisms 5  
 Public responses 31  
 New memberships 1

**Never take a single day for granted! Each one is a blessing from God (Lam. 3:22-23)**

**Exercise all that you have learned from studying God's wrd and strive to put into practice those things so that you may be able to lead someone to Christ! While bodily exercise and New Year's resolutions can be beneficial, spiritual exercise is even more beneficial to you and those you influence (1 Tim. 4:8)**

**Work! There is much work to be done in service to the Lord., Let's work heartily as to the Lord and not to men! (Col. 3:23-24). Plus the retirement plan is out of this world (Matt.25:21)!**

**You may be the only Bible someone reads this year! Make sure it is a good translation that leads them closer to Christ! (Matt. 5:14-15)**

**Even on the bad days, trust God (Isaiah 12:2)!**

**Abound in good work (2Cor. 9:8) this year. Let's try to see how much we can do in service to the Lord rather than how little we can do to get by (Gal. 6:9-10)!**

**Resolve any issues tht you may be holding on to. Forgive those who have wronged you (Eph. 4:32), don't let anger live in your heart (Eph. 4:31), and strive to be a peacemaker (Prov. 16:7; Matt. 5:9)**



Thank you for  
visiting

Robert & Joy  
McGuire

Sue Johnson

Leah Lobban

Albert Bess

Hasani Harper



## *Florida School of Preaching 47th Annual Lectureship*

1807 South Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33803 ♦ (863) 683-4043 ♦ fsop.net ♦ fsop@fsop.net

# The Power of His Resurrection

Brian R. Kenyon, Director ♦ Broadcast Live at fsop.net



## January 17-20, 2022



**Make plans to join us for this study of the power of Jesus' resurrection and how it affects Christian living from this day unto the last day!**

**Preorder lectureship book by Jan. 14, 2022, for \$20 +tax. Regular price, \$25**

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

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For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



### *South Florida Avenue* **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*1807 South Florida Avenue*

*Lakeland, FL 33803-2653*

Return Service Requested

**"Do not be slothful  
in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord."**

**Romans 12:11**

