



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Matthew Jones, Associate
Haston Handley, Youth
Jordan Pugh, Youth

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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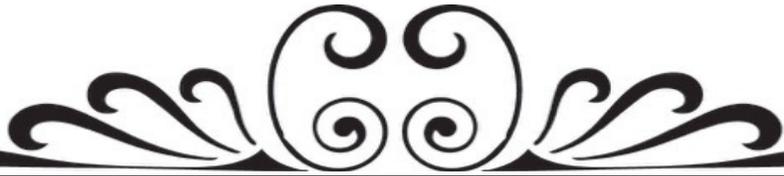
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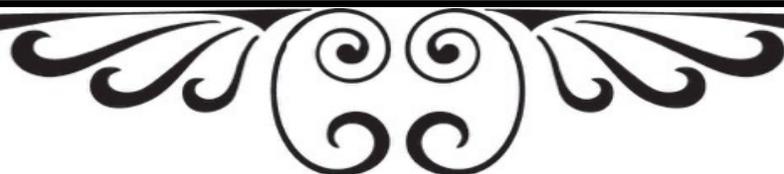
Email: fhbiblecourse@gmail.com



Wednesday 2016 Summer Series “New Testament Worship”

June 22	“Biblical Authority and New Testament Worship”	B. J. Clarke
July 6	“Worship Upon the First Day of the Week”	T. J. Clarke
July 13	“Preaching and Worship”	Bobby Liddell
July 20	“The Lord’s Supper and Worship”	Don Walker
July 27	“Giving and Worship”	Billy Bland
August 3	“Prayer and Worship”	Keith Mosher
August 10	“Singing and Worship”	Barry Grider

Wednesday evenings in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. for 7th grade and up.



The Growing Church

Rick Brumback

It is exciting to be a part of a congregation that is growing in the work of the Lord. To further the goal of church growth, all manner of efforts are undertaken, from church growth seminars to membership drives. At the same time, it is important that we understand how to measure the growth of a congregation as we assess how we are progressing in our labors for the Master. Many times one will judge growth by the number of people who are attending services. And while it is encouraging to have a growing number meeting to study and worship, a head-count is not the true assessment of church growth. The Scriptures are replete with thoughts regarding numbers and the righteous. Many times in the book of Acts note is made that the word of God increased, or the number of churches/disciples multiplied as people were added to the church (2:41, 47; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 9:31; 11:24; 12:24; 16:5). However, Jesus also spoke with regard to the broad and narrow paths, pointing to the more scarcely-peopled narrow way (Matt. 7:13-14). The attendance may not reflect how many people are, or are not, living the name they profess the other days of the week.

Some might suggest that growth can be evaluated in terms of the number of projects which the church is promoting, or the number of full-time evangelists employed by the congregation. And while the body needs to be active, it can be the case that all projects and works of the church are being supported by the same few members and not the body as a whole. Or perhaps an increase in preachers will mean that they can manage to do the work for all members.

A glance at the weekly contribution seemingly might indicate that the congregation is growing because the Sunday collections are up. And while the members should cheerfully and generously give to help the church abound to every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-8; 1 Cor. 16:1-2), it can be the case that the dollar figures are high because members do not mind paying someone else to do the work of the church. Or maybe some few are doing the bulk of the giving.

We should evaluate church growth according to the entirety of New Testament teachings on maturity. Peter wrote, “[A]s newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2). In a similar vein Paul said to the elders of the

Ephesian congregation,

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32).

“Growing” should incorporate the idea of “maturing,” and the mature congregation will be feasting regularly on the Word of God. The mature Christian will know and understand God’s teachings and not be tossed about by different views (Eph. 4:15-16). The members are then prepared to live the life they profess (1 Tim. 6:11-12).

As a result of growing in knowledge of God’s will, the growing congregation will have increased attendance and contribution, and also increased participation in the activities of the church throughout the week. The mature Christian does not say, “What do I have to do now?” but “What can I do to help?” Soon, the work of the body is being done by all the members, not just the same few repeatedly. Also, the growing congregation sees its members present to support the body and worship God at service times. How sad for a visitor to come and see that the members do not attend! Consistency is a part of maturity and growth. The number of visitors, those whom we can teach and convert, will also increase because growing members invite others to be a part of God’s plans. In a growing congregation, the members are more complete in their own spiritual journeys as they become grounded in their identity as children of God.

Growth involves more than just numbers; it involves a conscious decision on the part of every member to mature in knowledge and help accomplish the duties assigned the church by God. It may not be that the magical key to growth is in a seminar, membership drive, or other “event,” but rather in each Christian’s willingness to become more Christ-like and help others do the same. May we take steps to help the church to grow!

(from *The Southwestener*, March 2016)

From the Preacher

The 50th Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship is now history. As always, a great theme, a great crowd, and great fellowship made it a wonderfully inspiring week. Many thanks to our members who are so dedicated to contributing time and effort on behalf of this noble work.

Memphis School of Preaching alumnus, Bob Spurlin, passed away last week, after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Brother Spurlin will long be remembered not only for his faithful preaching but also for the great encouragement he gave to so many, while he dealt with his debilitating disease. His books such as *Don't Ever Give Up*, *Dial 911*, and *Tackling Life's Problems* brought much comfort to many who have endured pain and suffering. Brother Spurlin was laid to rest in Somerville, Alabama.

The Forest Hill congregation will conduct a VBS June 6-8. Our theme is *The Mystery of Christ*. Also, our members should notice on the front page of this bulletin an announcement for our Wednesday Summer Series. Numerous faculty members of the Memphis School of Preaching will be exploring the theme *New Testament Worship*. Great learning opportunities always abound at Forest Hill.

Recently I had the privilege of preaching in a weekend gospel meeting for the Southwest congregation in Austin, Texas. My appreciation is extended to Matthew Jones for filling the pulpit in my absence. This coming Lord's Day I will begin a gospel meeting with the Hartley Bridge Road congregation in Macon, Georgia. Our members can look forward to our recently hired instructor, Don Walker, filling the pulpit. This will be his first time to speak from our pulpit since his appointment to the MSOP faculty. You will enjoy hearing him preach the Word.

Barry

"And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

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