



# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

April 12, 2016

Number 15

## **Forest Hill Church of Christ**

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### **Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
Warren Davenport  
Gregory D. Mangrum  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Keith B. McAlister

### **Ministers:**

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit  
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 Study .....7:00 P.M.

HOME OF THE  
MEMPHIS SCHOOL  
OF PREACHING

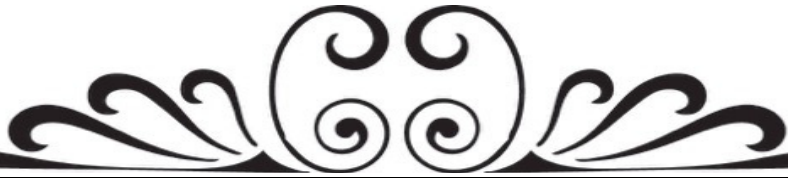
[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

### **Missions Supported:**

Far East/World Evangelism  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Murmansk, Russia  
Singapore  
Tanzania, East Africa  
Truth for the World  
Good News Today

### **Free Bible Correspondence Course**

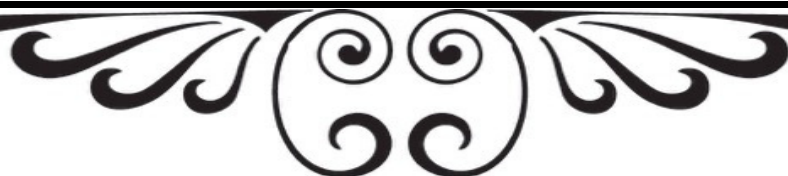
Email: [fhbiblecourse@gmail.com](mailto:fhbiblecourse@gmail.com)



## **Wednesday 2016 Summer Series “New Testament Worship”**

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

**Wednesday evenings in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. for 7<sup>th</sup> 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 headcount 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)

**LORD'S TABLE**

<b>PRESIDE:</b>	Robert Berch	Stephen Ulrich
<b>ASSIST:</b>	Nick Bartel	Bob Gitter
	Cason Grider	Jagger House
	Dennis Johns	Adam Maund

**PRAYERS**

<b>A.M. OPENING:</b>	Harold Mangrum
<b>A.M. CLOSING:</b>	Ty Phillips
<b>P.M. OPENING:</b>	Raymond Pipkin
<b>P.M. CLOSING:</b>	John Manning

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

**RECORD, WEEK OF April 10, 2016**

BIBLE STUDY:	215
A.M. WORSHIP:	305
P.M. WORSHIP:	200
CONTRIBUTION:	\$16,835.00

**OUR SICK**

**Virginia Ditto**, Baptist Hospital East, room 3227.  
**Elsie Johnson**, mother of Phil Houston, is home from the hospital.

**ILL AT HOME:** Rebecca Connell, Keith Mosher, Sam Rickles and Pearl Washington.

**HOMEBOUND**

Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Irby Cole	Carolyn Jones
Hazel Eskew	Clarine Justice
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Ryan McCullar
Anita Hopper	Helen Palazola

**BAPTIZED:** Kayla Summitt, Daughter of Lyle & Nikki Summitt.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to MSOP student, Jared Scaggs and wife Crystal on the birth of a daughter, Lacy, born Monday, April 11.



**KIRBY PINES** Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, April 24.

**LEGACY ESTATES** worship service each Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m. conducted by Forest Hill.



**IN THE AREA**

**Gospel Meeting** Southaven Church of Christ April 17-21. Mon.-Thur. at 7:00 p.m. Speaker: B. J. Clarke. Theme: "Modern Man and Bible Authority."

**TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME  
SPRING FOOD DRIVE**

A list of needed items is on the bulletin board.  
Deadline is Wednesday, April 20.

**INFORMATION LINE:** 531-8849

**HEARTS & HANDS**

**TEAM "B" (Warren Davenport)** will meet Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Warren & Lisa Davenport. The food will be provided.

**TEAM "D" (Randy Elliott)** will meet Sunday, April 24 after the morning service in the breakroom for a covered dish luncheon.

**TEAM "E" (Jim Woody)** will meet Saturday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall for breakfast.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**LADIES' CLASS and MEN'S CLASS** meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Men's class will not meet Tuesday, April 19.

**YOUTH RETREAT** at Crowley's Ridge April 15-17. Please bring your luggage and bedding Wednesday night so the trailer can be packed before Friday.

**LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY** Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the breakroom.

**ELDERS & DEACONS and their families**, Covered Dish Luncheon, Sunday, April 24 after the morning service in the fellowship hall.

**FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY** Sunday, May 15.



**VBS TEACHERS & HELPERS** are needed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**YOUTH CAMPAIGN** to Chalmette, Louisiana, June 11-17.

**FOUNDATIONS** June 25-July 1.

**N.B. HARDEMAN LIBRARY**  
is open each Sunday afternoon from 12:45-1:15.

**Last week's solution :**  
*Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. Genesis 42:1-3*

**CORNERSTONE**

Replace each letter of the alphabet with a different letter to reveal the passage of scripture.

DZLMJV, DZLMJV, M HUV FIKS VSF, NZ KNUK  
NZULZKN BV ESLA, UIA QZJMZDZKN SI NMB KNUK  
HZIK BZ, NUKN ZDZLJUHMKMIY JMOZ, UIA HNUJJ ISK  
PSBZ MIKS PSIAZBIUKMSI; QFK MH XUHHZA OLSB  
AZUKN FIKS JMOZ.

Clue: J = L                      Solution next week                      Clue: N = H

## From the Preacher

The 50<sup>th</sup> 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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Address Service Requested