

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

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Forest Hill

Church of Christ

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Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Jordan Pugh, Youth

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.

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Garland Elkins
1926-2016

It has been said that sometimes a great man has to die before his greatness is ever perceived or recognized. Yet when one was in the presence of Garland Elkins, it was immediately recognizable that the qualities of greatness were deeply embedded in him. Though I knew the day would come, I'm not sure I was truly prepared for the passing of brother Elkins. He was an iconic figure to many of us who were his "preacher boys." But as death passes upon all men, it passed upon brother Elkins in the early morning hours of Friday, October 28, 2016. His was a very calm and peaceful passing reminiscent of the way he lived his life. He was 90.

Though Richard and Emma Todd Elkins never knew the heights their youngest son would reach preaching the gospel of Christ, truly their distinctive character was passed on to him. Garland Elkins was born in a community that bore his family name, nearby the county seat of Cannon County, Woodbury. He studied under some of the premiere preachers of the 1940's. While a student at Freed-Hardeman he relished studying the Bible under men like N.B. Hardeman and W. Claude Hall.

For 67 years he was married to a most delightful Christian woman, Corinne. Together they had three beautiful daughters, Connie, Jan, and Denise. Later the Elkins would be blessed with three grandchildren, Stephanie, Shane, and Olivia. The Elkins served congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, and Mississippi. In 1990, brother Elkins became a full time instructor in the Memphis School of Preaching and remained in such capacity until his death.

Garland Elkins was widely known as a great defender of the faith. He engaged in several debates with denominationalists and served as moderator for others. During the 1980s, he appeared on the Phil Donahue Show where he boldly defended the truth on the subject of marriage, divorce, and remarriage and the scriptural right of a congregation to withhold fellowship with a child of God living in an adulterous union.

Garland Elkins probably had the entire Bible memorized. The word of God was in his heart and mind. For those of us who were his students, we understood that scripture memorization was a priority in his classes. As a boy, I recall brother Elkins holding a gospel meeting in my hometown of Bridgeport, Alabama. One evening the lights went out and the brethren began to search diligently for a flashlight. When one was found it was taken to brother Elkins who graciously replied, "That's ok, I don't use notes." Most who heard him preach will remember that just a few minutes into a sermon brother Elkins would bring out his pocket New Testament. The purpose was not for him to read, but, rather, for his audience to know the basis of his authority was the word of God.

Garland Elkins was a man of character. Though he would be the first to tell you that he, like all others, needed the grace and mercy of the Lord, I never heard anything remotely impure or unkind uttered from his lips. Even with the proponents of error or with disagreeable brethren, he conducted himself as a Christian. He loved life and if he had a thousand lives to give he would have given them all to his Lord.

(continued on page 4)

Jerusalem, A Type of the Church (Part 3)

Garland Elkins

Faith is required. Jesus said: "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). He also said, "He that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). We must believe, for "without faith it is impossible to please him (God)" (Heb. 11:6). Faith is the first step toward righteousness (Rom. 10:10), and, necessarily, the first step toward the church.

Repentance is commanded. Christ requires that we must "repent" or "all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Repentance is a change of will (Mat. 21:28-31), and leads to life (Acts 11:18). God "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

Confession of Christ is necessary. Christ made the good confession before Pilate (1 Tim. 6:13). Peter made the good confession which is, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mat. 16:16). This caused Christ to pronounce a blessing upon him (Mat. 16:17). Christ has promised that "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 10:32). Confession with the mouth leads to salvation (Rom. 10:10) and must, therefore, precede the saved state.

Baptism is necessary in order to be saved. No one can be saved from his past sins until he has been baptized according to our Lord's statement in Mark 16:16. These were among our Lord's last instructions to his apostles before leaving the earth. Our Lord said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Faith and baptism, in this passage, are joined by the coordinating conjunction and. Coordinating conjunctions join or unite elements of equal rank. Faith and baptism are thus joined in this sentence to obtain the same result—salvation. He that believeth (item No. 1) and is baptized (item No. 2) shall be saved (item No. 3).

Paul taught that baptism is essential to salvation:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4).

Note that the statement made above by Paul is to the effect that men are baptized into Jesus Christ, and that they also are baptized into His death.

The essentiality of baptism is further seen from Galatians 3:26-27. "For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Note that Paul points out two things:

We are children of God by faith.

We are children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Please honestly consider the necessity of baptism from these standpoints.

Baptism stands between the sinner and the salvation of his soul (Mark 16:16).

Baptism stands between the sinner and remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Baptism stands between the sinner and becoming a child of God (Gal. 3:26, 27).

Baptism stands between the sinner and having his sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

Baptism stands between the sinner and getting into Christ (Rom. 6:3).

(from *Shadows of Good Things*, 2010)

(to be continued)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Marion Maund Keith McAlister
ASSIST: Robert Berch Jack Braddock
 Cason Grider Reggie McHaney
 David Richardson Billy Rodgers

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Kalon Brown
A.M. CLOSING: Marv Sowell
P.M. OPENING: Buster Rogers
P.M. CLOSING: Jason White

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

RECORD, WEEK of November 13, 2016

BIBLE STUDY:	225
A.M. WORSHIP:	305
P.M. WORSHIP:	210
CONTRIBUTOR:	\$16,526

OUR SICK

Alex Brandon, former member, recovering from injuries received in a fall, Regional Medical Center.

ILL AT HOME: Mary Elliott, Marylon Green, Allan Hart, Carolyn Hayes, Jazmyn Howard and Leah White.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Albert & Ruth House
Ann Castleman	Clarine Justice
Virginia Ditto	Ryan McCullar
Hazel Eskew	Helen Palazola
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Anita Hopper	James Terry

INFORMATION LINE: 901-531-8849

OUR SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO the family of Jerry Jacobs, former Forest Hill member, who passed away Wednesday, November 9th.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, November 27.

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

PLACED MEMBERSHIP AND RESTORED: Rachael Hendrix, 3227 Dunsford Way, Apt. 207, Memphis, TN 38119. She has two children, Bailey and Seth.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Recently Cason asked if it was more stressful to go speak somewhere on a Ladies Day or host a Ladies Day. While both require much forethought and effort, I can confidently say with active members like we have here at Forest Hill, hosting is easier. Last Saturday we averaged 100 in attendance from 10 congregations. The food was outstanding which was no surprise given our cooks' reputations. The dads and sons did a superb job of serving our ladies and thanks to Jim Woody for keeping coffee brewed. Lori brought 2 powerful lessons on prayer, very simple yet timely. There are SO many to thank who contributed in some small or big way! Thank all of you for your hard work, your gracious comments about the day and for being so encouraging and supportive.

Love you all,
 Celia

HEARTS & HANDS

There will be no assignments the week of November 20.

TEAM "B" (Warren Davenport) will receive assignments the week of November 27.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

ST. JUDE TOY DRIVE The Young Adults will be collecting new, unwrapped toys during the month of November. There is a list of needed items (and items not accepted by St. Jude) in the foyer. You may bring donated toys to the church office or see Jackson & Kathryn Greer. Also, checks can be made payable to Forest Hill with memo "St. Jude."

GRIZZLIES GAME If you plan to attend the basketball game on December 18th, please see Danny or Melinda Braddock by November 30th to pay for your tickets. (\$20 per ticket)

Last week's solution:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46

CORNERSTONE

Unscramble the letters in each word below to reveal the passage of scripture.

YPPHA SI EHT NMA TTHA TNIHFED WSOMID, NDA EHT NMA TTHA TTTHGEE UTSRNNNIGEDDA: ROF EHT SRNMIHEEDCA FO TI SI TTREEB TNHA EHT SRNMIHEEDCA FO VSRLIE, NDA EHT NIGA TROHFEE TNHA NIFE OLGD. EHS SI ROME USRPOIEC TNHA USRIEB: NDA LLA EHT TSNIHG UTOH TSNCA SRIEED REA TON OT EB RPOMEDCA UTON RHE.

Solution next week

Garland Elkins (continued from page 1)

Garland Elkins was a soul winner. Multitudes have heard him proclaim the simple gospel and multitudes have obeyed that gospel that he preached. A compilation of some of his sermons may be found in the book, "The Savior's Way," a series of messages he preached in Morrison, Tennessee. On numerous occasions I was with brother Elkins as he met people who crossed his path and he would give them a copy of his tract, "Come and See." Such a meeting would always close with this line, "If it agrees with the Bible accept it, if it doesn't reject it." To the very end of his life brother Elkins was concerned for the souls of men.

I often heard Garland Elkins say, "God's Hall of Fame is different from Man's Hall of Fame." Indeed, that is true. Brother Elkins like Abel, "being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4). Like Abraham, he "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). Like Moses, he "had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26). His funeral service was conducted at the Forest Hill church building, Monday, October 31. Billy Smith, B.J. Clarke, and this writer were privileged to speak. Stephen Sutton directed the beautiful congregational singing and Mike Hixson worded a most eloquent prayer at the close of the service. Brother Elkins mortal frame was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Woodbury the following day.

I loved Garland Elkins. He was my teacher, mentor, encourager, and friend. He performed the wedding ceremony for Celicia and me. He was a beloved father figure in my life. He stands as those saints recorded in Hebrews 11, "(of whom the world was not worthy)" (Heb. 11:38). I already miss him so much, but with him gone the hope of heaven is that much sweeter.

Barry Grider

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