THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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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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"Called To Be Saints"

Barry Grider

A few months ago, Celicia and I went to the movies to see "The Letters," a movie about the life of Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, more commonly known throughout the world as Mother Teresa. The reason I wanted to see the movie was out of curiosity and an interest in the life of this remarkable woman. There is no need for me to cast aspersions on her kindness, humility and service. She evidently sincerely wanted to help the poorest and neediest among us. In so doing, she championed many of the virtues of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, likewise, had compassion upon the masses (Mat. 9:35,36). Despite her small frame, it would be difficult to find a stronger, more passionate voice for children than "Mother" Teresa. She boldly confronted world leaders concerning the plight of children, drawing much attention to the their slaughter through infanticide, including the aborting of unborn babies. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Catholic Church, seeing now it has been 20 years since her passing, would want to canonize "Mother" Teresa and elevate her to "sainthood." After all, very few could accomplish the benevolent acts of this gentle soul who left her home in Albania in Eastern Europe to fight hunger and disease in poverty stricken Calcutta, India.

According to Catholic doctrine, I am convinced I could never be elevated to sainthood. According to the standard of the world I probably still do not qualify to be a saint. The world's definition of a saint is very similar to the dictionary definition, which says, a saint is one who is "good, kind and patient." Well, those are wonderful Christian qualities but the Bible teaches something different about becoming a saint. Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren, as follows, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them which are in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (1 Cor. 1:2). The one who is called by God to be a saint is the one who is sanctified. The one who is sanctified is the one who has been set apart for consecrated service. Who is this individual? That is the same one who has been called by the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14) to become a Christian. Those who have become Christians through their obedience to the gospel invitation, through faith, repentance, confession and baptism, are now sanctified (set apart) and have become saints. The Lord hath declared it so. Paul addressing the church at Philippi, wrote, "To all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). The bishops in this congregation were the overseeing elders. The deacons were those special servants engaged in specific duties under the oversight of those elders. The saints were all other Christians in that congregation, not people who had been dead for 20 years or 200 years and then ordained as such by the Catholic Church for extraordinary service and because of some alleged miracle in connection with that person.

Though "Mother" Teresa was indeed a noted humanitarian and no doubt should be lauded in many ways for her noble deeds, one thing she was not. She was not a saint according to the Bible. She left this earth without ever obeying the simple gospel of Christ which would have made her a saint. Dear reader, have you ever said, "Well I'm no saint?" The fact is you better be if you want to go to heaven. The good news is we can be, "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

What Elders Need From the Bible School

Dennis Loyd

The idea of Sunday Schools can be traced to the 1780s in England. Before child labor laws were passed, children were required to work six days a week, resulting in illiterate youngsters. An Anglican minister, Robert Raikes (1725-1811) proposed classes be arranged in churches on Sunday, the one free day for children. The Bible became the textbook to teach reading and writing. In time, as compulsory education for children became the law, Sunday schools became what we know today where Bible events, characters and truths are presented in age-appropriate ways.

Some of us grew up with the little cards sold by the Gospel Advocate Co. No other place offered such a small amount of information in such a succinct form that enabled teachers to cover so much material. That lesson along with the colorful picture on the front became the standard textbook for many of our early classes. I remember the sand table in one of my early classrooms. That table built to fit small bodies stirred the imagination of all in the class. It could be a house, a desert, a mountain, a lake, a road or a battlefield—whatever was needed to make the lesson come to life.

Today we are more up-to-date. Our equipment, teacher training, curriculum materials and modern classrooms show our desire to make this time a very productive hour for our students. In light of these things, what should elders expect from the program?

Committed Parents

Elders need parents so committed to the value of the Bible school they are always present for their own classes and on time for their children's classes. Elders need parents who help their children prepare for their classes as the parents prepare for their own. They need parents who will follow up on the day's lesson with more than "What did you learn today?" Parents need to ask such questions as "What was new to you today in class?" "Did you find other Bible passages that relate to your subject today?" "What did your teacher ask you to remember from today's lesson?" A few days later, parents need to pose that last question again to see if the students still remember the major point of their study. Elders need parents so committed that they talk up the value of these classes and encourage visitors to attend classes.

Dedicated Teachers

Elders need teachers willing to invest much of their time in preparing for a class and then teaching that class with energy and enthusiasm. Teaching is work, but it should never be a chore. Elders need teachers capable of handling both the material and the students with poise and dignity. These teachers must have an understanding and an appreciation for the age group they teach. We were all immature in our growing up. Some children may not be very mature yet. Elders need teachers in their classrooms prepared for the age group they have with the material they are to teach. It is a sin to walk into a classroom unprepared or ill-prepared. We dare not waste the limited time we have to teach our youngsters. Elders need teachers committed to the importance of the task.

Informed Students

Children have a natural curiosity about learning new things, even learning about the Bible. That curiosity can only increase at the hands of a good Bible teacher. With proper parental encouragement, these students will come to class ready to learn, ready to see new things, and ready to listen. They will be determined to put into practice more than names and facts. They will be introduced to basic concepts—compassion, forgiveness and generosity. These can be learned at an early age and continue to develop and exercise for decades to come. Parents should be grateful when their children insist they do not want to miss their Bible class. We learn best when we are regular in attendance. To miss one or two lessons can interrupt the continuity of the book studied or the life examined.

Feedback

Elders need to hear the good and the bad about their Bible classes. The teacher who has gone the second mile needs first to be verbally commended. Elders need to hear that a teacher is outstanding in the performance of duties in the classroom. Elders need also to know of deficiencies in a teacher's work. To allow an ill-prepared or a lazy teacher to continue is an injustice to the students.

Elders also need to know of physical deficiencies. Is the classroom not up to standards? What about adequate lighting? What about the proper teaching tools? If electronic equipment is available, is the teacher adequately trained to use it, and is it functional? Are the furnishings comfortable and do they contribute to a learning atmosphere? We may not have the most up-to-date classrooms, but we should not allow them to be a dark and gloomy collection of broken furniture. The finest equipment and the most expensive furniture will never take the place of an outstanding teacher.

(continued on page 4)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE:	Danny Braddock	Jerry Manning
ASSIST:	Bob Bergstrom	John Connell
	Bob Gitter	Kevin Knipple
	Ty Phillips	Colten Wilson

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING:	Rufus Washington
A.M. CLOSING:	Greg Rickles
P.M. OPENING:	Harold Mangrum
P.M. CLOSING:	Jackson Greer

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

RECORD, WEEK of September 4, 2016

BIBLE STUDY:	230
A.M. WORSHIP:	315
P.M. WORSHIP:	195
CONTRIBUTON:	$17,649

OUR SICK

Virginia Ditto, Kirby Pines Rehab.
Garland Elkins, Christian Care Center, Room 220.
Velton Trimm, Christian Care Center, Room 212.

ILL AT HOME: J. D. Crowe & Avis Terry.

HOMEBOUND

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

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Fritzi Rickles.

RESTORED and PLACED MEMBERSHIP: Kay Downey, 861 Lancelot Ln, Collierville, TN 38017, (901)853-9044.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Forest Hill,

Our family wanted to thank the church for the beautiful spray that was sent for our mom's service. We really appreciate the thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Carol Whitaker & Jill Caughron

FLOOD RELIEF Some have asked how we can help our brethren and fellow citizens in Louisiana following the massive flooding in that state. The Zachary, Louisiana Church of Christ, where MSOP graduate, Bruce Hatcher, is the evangelist, is taking financial contributions which will aid relief efforts with food, water and supplies. If you so desire, you may send checks to: Zachary Church of Christ, P.O.Box 97, Zachary, LA 70791.

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Newsom on the birth of a great-grandson, Jared Thomas West.

HEARTS & HANDS

TEAM "E" (Jim Woody) will meet Saturday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a covered dish luncheon.

TEAM "F" (John Connell) will receive assignments the week of September 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUNG ADULTS DEVOTIONAL Friday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jackson & Kathryn Greer.

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES resume Tuesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m.

MONEY MANAGEMENT (9 Week Course) begins Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the M.O.S.T classroom #405 of the education building. This class will be taught by Robert Berch. Please go to: http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1023665 to sign up and order class materials.

ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING Sunday, September 18 following the afternoon service in the chapel hall.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the break room of the education building.

HEARTS & HANDS REORGANIZATION LUNCHEON Sunday, September 25 after the morning service. All are invited to stay for this covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall. **ZONES 3 & 4** are responsible for set-up and clean-up. **ZONE 6** is responsible for supplying drinks and set-up, serve and clean-up the drink area.

FLU SHOTS Sunday, September 25, after the morning service in the fellowship hall. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

GAME NIGHT & COOK-OUT Saturday, October 1. Details to follow.

FALL FOOD DRIVE for the Tennessee Children's Home. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board. Deadline is Sunday, October 9.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Daniel Berch, Mary Claire Cox, Aneesa McLaurin and Sarah Ulrich from the 1st & 2nd grade class for learning all their cards last quarter. Great Job!

Last week's solution:
Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, Romans 4:16

CORNERSTONE

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

NDA EHT ROLD RPPEEDAA UTON RMBAA, NDA SIDA, UTON YTH DEES WLLI I VIGE TSIH NLDA: NDA TRHEE ULIEDDB EH NA TRLAA UTON EHT ROLD, WOH RPPEEDAA UTON MIH.

Solution next week

What Elders Need From the Bible School (continued from page 2)

Prepared Christians

The aim of every class should be to see those students maturing to the day when they see the need to obey Jesus and become Christians. Every lesson should add to a student's depth of understanding and appreciation for what God has done for us. Each Old Testament lesson should see a connection in the New Testament. Each character study should point out mistakes and failures and the need to turn around. Classes need to stress the need to grow just as Jesus grew—in wisdom, in stature and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).

Students need to understand more is involved in obedience than the sinner's prayer or an invitation for Jesus to come into their hearts. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism need their due emphasis. Baptism needs to be stressed for what it is—a beginning and not an ending. Jesus called it a birth. After birth much maturing must occur. Some will make mistakes and will need further instruction. They need to understand fully what baptism has done to them and for them.

Churches rightly take pride in their Bible school programs complete with curriculum, teachers, physical setting, students and results. But none of this should move forward without the elders acknowledging their responsibility as shepherds of the souls in their midst from the youngest to the oldest. The aim of this program should always be for each participant to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18 NKJV).

(from *Gospel Advocate*, August 2016)

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