



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 44

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Number 7

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Garrett Olney, Youth
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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Loving What Jesus Loves

Barry Grider

Today, February 14, 2017, is very special. It is Valentine's Day, a day that we celebrate our love for our sweethearts, families and friends. I am so thankful for my loving wife and I rejoice in her everyday (Pro. 5:19). The church is the bride of Christ and our Lord loves His bride. Paul wrote, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph.5:25). Each one of us should be interested in what Jesus loves, and whatever He loves we need to love, also.

Jesus loves the Father. A husband and wife could not be closer than God the Father and God the Son. Jesus stated, "I love the Father" (John 14:31). While on earth He continued to enjoy close communion with His Father for the Bible student often finds the Lord engaged in prayer (Mark 1:35). If we love that which Jesus loves, we will love the Father. Remember this exchange between our Lord and a lawyer.

Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment (Mat. 22:36-38).

How can we be intimate with our Father in Heaven? We can meditate on scripture (Psa. 1:1-3) and utilize prayer (Luke 18:1). God communicates to us through His word. We communicate to Him through prayer. A good relationship requires good communication. God does His part. Do we do our part?

Jesus loves the church. Even before the church was established (Acts 2), the church was always in the mind of God (Eph. 3:10,11). How much did Jesus love the church? He died to purchase the church (Eph. 5:25). Husbands should love their wives with the same sacrificial love that Jesus demonstrated for His bride. How could one ever denigrate the church when Jesus so willingly gave His life for it? Furthermore, salvation is found in the church of Christ and only in the church of Christ, for He is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:23). Therefore, the church should be the object of our love and devotion. The hymn writer, Timothy Dwight, wrote concerning the church,

For her my tears shall fall, For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be giv'n, Till toils and cares shall end.

Jesus loves people. "But when he [Jesus] saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them" (Mat. 9:36). Jesus had so much mercy He died for the entire world (John 3:16). Our Lord was a people person. He preached to the masses and engaged individuals. If Jesus loved the people of the world, so should we. Loving the people of the world is different from loving an ungodly system also called the world (1 John 2:15-17). Jesus stated his mission when He said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). That should be our mission, as well.

Jesus loves the Scriptures. In the wilderness temptation, the Lord defeated the Devil by quoting God's word. On another occasion, He said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). If we love what Jesus loves, we will love the Holy Bible.

If we love what Jesus loves it is because we love Jesus. Listen to Him, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:3).

Do You Feel Spiritually Weak?

Cecil May, Jr.

One dark winter evening, an elder made a trip to the country to visit a member who had missed assembling with the saints for several weeks. He found the member in his living room, sitting in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace. They passed a few pleasantries, and then both got quiet. The elder reached for a poker and used it to push a red hot ember out of the glowing fire and onto the hearth by itself. They both watched as the glowing ember faded, turned gray, then black. It died. The member looked at the elder and said, "I see your point. I'll be back Sunday."

A major purpose of our assemblies is to encourage one another, provoking one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). One of the criteria that determines whether an activity is appropriate for the assembly is whether it edifies or builds up those who are present (1 Corinthians 14). It would be very difficult alone to maintain good morale and stay enthusiastic about the Lord and the good works to which He calls His saints.

The common meaning of *ecclesia*, the word translated "church" in the New Testament, is "assembly" (see Acts 19:32, 39, 41). Everett Ferguson correctly observes, "in assembly the church becomes itself." The *ecclesia* cannot cease to assemble and still be the *ecclesia* (The Church of Christ, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996, p. 235). The Lord knows we need each other; we will not make it on our own; so He calls us to come together for encouragement and remembrance.

In 1 Corinthians 11, the Lord's Supper is being discussed, the memorial Jesus gave His church to help us remember His body and blood, His body sacrificed, and His blood poured out for our sins. The Corinthians had so desecrated the Lord's Supper that what they did was not the Lord's Supper at all. Since they missed the meal's significance, it did not provide

them the spiritual sustenance for which the Lord had designed it. "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died" (vv. 28-39 ESV).

Do you find yourself spiritually ailing, spiritually weak, or maybe even spiritually dying? How are you and the communion feast getting along? Do you faithfully partake each Lord's Day? Are you spasmodic in attendance? Have you forsaken it altogether? Has the Lord's Supper become a meaningless ritual, something done perfunctorily, without bringing its purpose to mind? Has it become just a time to make out a check for the contribution or to plan where you are going for dinner or to check your watch to see whether we are still on time to get out within the hour?

The supper is designed to remind us of the Lord's death, from now until He comes again (1 Corinthians 11:26). Do you think about its significance? "But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9). "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the world" (1 John 2:2). "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

A weekly reminder of Christ's sacrifice, which the Lord understood we needed, can fortify us to walk after the Spirit instead of the flesh. It can provide spiritual sustenance that will enable us to exercise our senses to discern good and evil and the strength to choose the good.

(continued on page 4)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Jonathan Beard	Warren Davenport
ASSIST: Eddie Graham	Caleb Hull
Daniel Manning	Evan Manning
Adam Maund	John Pope

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING:	Jason White
A.M. CLOSING:	Francis Fairley
P.M. OPENING:	Tony Callahan
P.M. CLOSING:	C. J. Stafford

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

RECORD, WEEK of February 12, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	220
A.M. WORSHIP:	280
P.M. WORSHIP:	180
CONTRIBUTON:	\$16,230

OUR SICK

Virginia Ditto, Baptist Hospital East, room 4113.

ILL AT HOME: Sarah Chandler, J. D. Crowe, Sharon Echols, Jerry Ellis, Marylon Green, Carolyn Richardson, Jonathan Rickles, Les Sharp, Velton Trimm, Rufus Washington, Jason White and Jim Woody.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to J. D. & Brenda Crowe on the birth of a granddaughter, Addy Grace Forthun. Dustin & Julie Forthun are the parents.

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, February 26.

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

REMEMBER to Check Your Box!

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "B (Warren Davenport) will meet Saturday, February 18 at 5:00 p.m. for a fish fry in the fellowship hall. The food will be provided.

TEAM "F" (Steve Allmond) will receive assignments the week of February 19.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday morning at 10:00. We will meet for breakfast, February 21 at 8:45 at Cracker Barrel.

LADIES' EVENING BIBLE CLASS Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd & 4th grade classroom. This month we will review chapters 3 & 4 of *Seeking Spiritual Beauty* by Sheila K. Butt.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Lindsay Roscoe, Sunday, March 5 after the morning service in the fellowship hall. Lindsay and C. J. are registered at Kohl's, Target and Bed Bath & Beyond.

JCs LEGO COMPETITION Saturday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the break room. Please see the bulletin board for details and to sign up.

SILVER HEARTS BANQUET Saturday, February 25.

2017 YOUTH DAY, March 25. Theme: *In Christ Alone*. See front page for complete schedule. Flyers are available in the foyer.

2017 MSOP LECTURESHIP, March 26-30. Theme: *Build Your Hopes on Things Eternal*. See page 2 for a complete schedule of topics and speakers. Copies of the schedule are available in the foyer.

2017 VBS June 5, 6 & 7. Soup cans and vegetable cans are needed for VBS. They need to be clean and label free. They may be put in the Ladies classroom. Any questions, ask Leah White.

Last week's solution:

And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. Leviticus 16:8-10

CORNERSTONE

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

SI EHT WLA TNHE TASNIGA EHT SRPOSIMIE FO OGD?
 OGD ROIFDB: ROF FI TRHEE HDA NEEB A WLA VNIGE
 WIHHC UOLDC VHEA VNIGE EFIL, YVRLIE
 UTSRONISHGESE USOLHD VHEA NEEB YB EHT WLA.
 UTB EHT UTSRRPIEC THHA UONLEDDCC LLA URNED
 SNI, TTHA EHT SRPOMIE YB TIHFA FO USSJE TCSRIH
 TMIHG EB VNIGE OT TMHE TTHA EVEBLIE.

Solution next week

Do You Feel Spiritually Weak? (continued from page 2)

Conversely, missing the communion with Jesus and His church, whether by not being present for it or by failing to mentally participate if present, can lead to spiritual lethargy, illness and death.

“The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me’ ” (1 Corinthians 11:23-24 ESV). Listen to Jesus. Eat and drink in remembrance of Him.

(from *Gospel Advocate*, January 2017)

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