



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: 901-751-2444
Info Line: 901-531-8849

www.foresthillcofc.org
office@foresthillcofc.org

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
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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Lord, Teach Us To Lead

Rod Rutherford

God has always needed leaders in His work! The success or failure of any good work depends to a great extent upon the quality of leadership available to see it is carried out. In 1964, when the Lord's church was making great progress around the world, brother J. D. Thomas wrote:

In the twentieth century, the church has made great gains, but nothing like it did in the first century, percentage wise, and probably the great reason we are not making equivalent gains today is that our leadership is not pointing out the way to us and inspiring us to the challenge as it should.¹

In 1980, when the growth of the Lord's church had slowed almost to a standstill, brother Flavil Yeakley, Jr., church growth writer and researcher, placed much of the blame for this sad state of affairs on the poor quality of leadership. He wrote: "Problems associated with the eldership, in my judgment, are the most serious problem faced by the churches of Christ."²

Speaking of the very serious problems caused by the inroads of liberalism in the present day, brother Goebel Music placed much of the blame on the lack of leadership. He states: "It is my own personal and studied opinion, viewpoint, that one of the tremendous needs in the church today is that of good, sound and solid, scripturally qualified and function fulfilling elders and preachers."³

A great, growing, sound, stable church requires qualified, capable, and dedicated leaders. We will progress only as far as our leaders take us.

God's Plan For Leadership

The church of Christ is built according to the Divine blueprint, the New Testament pattern. In that blueprint, God has outlined the leadership roles for His church and laid down the qualifications for those who would serve in these roles.

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..." (Eph. 4: 11,12). Christ, the Head of the church, rules from His throne in Heaven through His inspired Word, the constitution of the church of Christ (Col. 1:18; 2 Tim. 3:16,17). The church today has apostles and prophets, not as a continuing office, for these were limited to the miraculous age, the infancy of the church, but through their inspired, authoritative writings which make up the New Testament (1 Cor. 13:8-13; Jas. 1:25; Eph. 4:13-15).

The roles of evangelists, pastors, and teachers have continued beyond the apostolic age of the church, for their functions still need to be fulfilled. Qualifications are laid down for them which indicate the abiding nature of their roles.

Evangelists are preachers of the gospel. The church still labors under the Divine mandate to "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This Great Commission must be carried out by the church in every generation until our Lord comes again. Evangelists are essential to this task.

Evangelists, or preachers, are leaders by virtue of the authoritative message which they preach. They are to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (1 Tim. 4:2). They are commanded to "speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority" (Tit. 2: 15).

Pastors are shepherds of a flock of God's people (1 Pet. 5:1-4). They are also known as bishops, meaning overseers (Acts 20:17,28; Tit. 1:5,7), and elders (Acts 14:23). They must meet the qualifications laid down by the Holy Spirit before they can serve with God's approval (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9).

These shepherds, overseers, elders are the leaders in the local congregations of the body of Christ. They have the rule over the church (Heb. 13:17). The success or lack of success in the Lord's work hinges more upon these men than any other. It is crucial that they be fully qualified to do their work.

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Lord, Teach Us to Lead (continued from page 1)

Characteristics of Good Leaders

While specific qualifications are laid down for elders, there are a number of other essential characteristics of leaders in every walk of life which elders, evangelists, and any other leader in God's church must have. We will outline these essential characteristics briefly.

Of first importance is a knowledge of God's Word. One cannot be a leader in God's church unless he has a thorough, working knowledge of both the Old and New Testaments. An elder is to be "apt to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2). But this is true of any leader. He cannot teach that which he does not know. If preachers knew, loved, and respected the Word more, it would be proclaimed with greater force from our pulpits, and many of the problems which plague the church would disappear. If elders knew, loved, and respected the Word more, they would be "able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers," and liberalism would have been stopped dead in its tracks. It is imperative that a leader in God's church know God's Book!

Another essential characteristic of a leader is the ability to communicate. Leaders in worldly walks of life are those who can speak and write clearly and effectively. This is just as important for leaders in the church. Generally, our preachers are adequately equipped to speak publicly by virtue of their training in colleges or schools of preaching. Perhaps enough emphasis is not placed on their being able to communicate by the written word, and their effectiveness is limited because of it. But elders usually have no training in either writing or public speaking unless they were prepared by their training for secular work in these areas. Unless one can clearly communicate God's will and his ideas on how to carry it out, he cannot be an effective leader.

A third essential characteristic of a successful leader in God's church is a love for people and the ability to get along with them. I have known good, dedicated, knowledgeable, well-trained men who failed as preachers or elders simply because they did not understand people and lacked the ability to get along with others. The work of the church requires involvement with people in all aspects of their lives. Preachers, teachers, and elders must teach, counsel, encourage, exhort, rebuke, love, laugh, and weep with people of all ages and all walks of life. Unless one "loves his neighbor as himself" (Luke 10:27) and wears the "badge of discipleship" (John 14:34,35), he will not make a leader in God's church, no matter how great his ability and training in other areas.

A fourth essential characteristic of a successful leader in God's kingdom is a zeal for lost souls. It is the mission, task, and purpose of the church of Christ to make known the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ in the gospel. Unless this is done, a lost world will remain lost! Preachers who will never leave the comforts of their study to teach lost souls and elders who stockpile thousands of dollars of the Lord's money in bank accounts and certificates of deposits purportedly for the unlikely breakdown of the air-conditioner or the replacement of the roof on the church building, are thwarting the purpose of the Lord in dying for lost man and are effectively sabotaging the work of the church!! It is my experience that a single appeal can raise enough money to replace a roof or repair an air-conditioner. The Lord's money needs to be used in the Lord's work! Leaders in God's church must have the same all pervading purpose in life that the Son of God had: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

A fifth essential characteristic of a leader of God's people is a sacrificial spirit. A preacher or elder or any other leader in the church must sacrifice many things to do the Lord's work effectively. One must sacrifice himself, his time, and his material possessions to do God's work. Many elders labor long hours to provide for their families, and then give countless hours to prayer, planning, counseling, and organizing the activities of the church. Preachers, if they are worth their salt, are on call twenty-four hours a day. They are available whenever needed and must be willing to give of themselves cheerfully.

A sixth essential characteristic of an effective leader in the body of Christ is courage. Our Lord courageously defended truth and right throughout His earthly ministry. He boldly defied the money-changers and merchants in the temple who had turned God's house into a "den of thieves" (Matt. 21:12,13). He withstood the false teachings, arrogance, and pride of the religious leaders of His day and denounced their hypocrisy in no uncertain terms (Matt. 23). Unless leaders in the church have the courage to deal with difficult problems, make tough decisions for the good of the church, stand against false teachers, both inside and outside the church, God's church cannot prosper. A courageous leader will be able to withstand criticism and do the right thing in spite of it.

In the seventh place, a leader in the church of Jesus Christ must be a man of prayer. Our precious Saviour set the example for us. He had only a three year ministry to complete His mission on earth, but He was never too busy to pray. After feeding the five thousand, Jesus "went up into a mountain apart to pray" (Matt. 14:23). In order to find time to pray in the midst of a busy ministry, Jesus arose "a great while before day...and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35). Our Lord prayed before making crucial decisions. He prayed all night before selecting His twelve apostles (Luke 6:12,13). He also prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane to find the strength to confront the cross (Matt. 26:36-42). Elders, preachers, and other leaders in Christ's church need the power which can come only from prayer. All great men of God have been men of prayer, as both the Old and the New Testaments abundantly attest.

In the eighth place, a leader in the Cause of Christ must have vision. He must be willing to follow the motto of William Carey: "Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God." Leaders must have the vision to see open doors and have the faith to move through them before they are closed. Right now, with the fall of communism in nation after nation around the world, doors are opening for the preaching of the gospel which only two or three years ago seemed closed indefinitely. Too few faithful brethren are moving to take advantage of these open doors while they are still open! Leaders of God's people must heed the words of our Master: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

In the ninth place, a leader in the work of God must be a man of strong moral character. He must be of good reputation both in the church and in the community (1 Tim. 4: 12,16; 3:7). He must be a man of honesty, truthfulness, and integrity. He must be a man who can be trusted to keep confidences. Satan can be expected to work overtime in an effort to harm the Cause

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDE: Jordan Pugh
ASSIST: Nick Bartel
 Duke Brown
 Jordyn Graves

Colten Wilson
 Ted Brooks
 Lima Essene
 David Stafford

A.M. OPENING: B.J. Clark
A.M. CLOSING: Tony Callahan
P.M. OPENING: to be selected
P.M. CLOSING: to be selected

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

RECORD, WEEK of June 11, 2017

BIBLE STUDY:	215
A.M. WORSHIP:	280
P.M. WORSHIP:	185
CONTRIBUTON:	\$18,508.00

OUR SICK

John Manning is home recovering from spinal surgery.
Dorothy Mosher is scheduled for medical procedures on Wednesday and Thursday.
Aspen White is scheduled for a heart catheterization Monday, June 19 at LeBonheur Children's Hospital.
Tim Nichols is scheduled for surgery Tuesday, June 20.
James Terry is now under hospice care.
Elsie Houston Johnson, mother of Phil Houston, Henderson Health Care & Rehab, Henderson, TN.
ILL AT HOME:, Kathi Graham.

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

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Jerry Wright

Remember our Youth Group and all those on campaign this week in Somerville, Tn.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "C" (Danny Braddock) will receive assignments the week of June 18.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MSOP GRADUATION June 18, Brother Rod Rutherford will deliver the commencement address during the evening service. He will also speak during the morning worship. A reception honoring the graduates will be conducted in the fellowship hall from 3:00-4:00.

BREAKFAST AT CRACKER BARREL Tuesday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m.

YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL Friday, June 23, at the home of Jonathan and Kathleen Beard.

FOUNDATIONS YOUTH CAMP AT MSOP June 24-30. MSOP is requesting all Forest Hill youth who plan to participate in the off-campus activities, please contact Jackie Walker or Joyce Phillips at 901-751-2242 to sign up and/or pay the fee. Thank you.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Bryn Chambers, bride-elect of Daniel Manning, Sunday, June 25 after the morning service in the fellowship hall. Bryn and Daniel are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Ikea and Target.

SUMMER SERIES beginning Wednesday, July 5 in the auditorium. Theme: "The Way of Salvation" by various speakers. A complete schedule is on the bulletin board.

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, June 25.

Check out the new Forest Hill website!

foresthillofc.org

Last week's solution:

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

CORNERSTONE

Replace each letter with a different letter to reveal the scripture.

GRX PVQXVBTK GRX Q XWEZCBRNP SQO MWTT ROB
 UWB KBC IBXQUABOCNXXB GRX Q ERRU SQO PRSB
 MRNTU BABO UQXB CR UWB. HNC ERU VRSSBOUBCZ
 ZWP TRAB CRMQXU NP, WO CZQC, MZWTB MB MBXB
 KBC PWOOBXP, VZXWPC UWBU GRX NP.

N=O Solution next week W=M

Lord, Teach Us to Lead (continued from page 2)

of Christ by tempting a leader to fall and thereby bring the whole church into disrepute. This has happened numerous times and likely will continue to happen. Leaders must heed Peter's inspired advice. "Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Paul's inspired warning applies to elders and preachers, as well as to other Christians: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

A tenth essential characteristic of a leader of God's people is a desire to do God's work and to serve as a leader. Unless one has a strong motivation to do God's work and to serve as a leader, he will not be successful. Perhaps this is the reason Paul prefaced the qualifications of elders by saying: "If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work"(1 Tim. 3:1). If a strong, abiding desire to serve God in a leadership role in His church is not present in one appointed to a leadership position, he will not last long in that position and may do considerable damage to himself and to the Lord's church.

Conclusion

Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost, for a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:8,9). These are very critical times for the church of the Lord. There are many open doors, unprecedented opportunities for carrying the gospel of Christ to every nation on earth, but there are also many evil, insidious movements, both inside and outside the church, which threaten its very survival in our age.

In order to move through the doors open to us as well as to carry the banner in the fight against the forces which oppose us, we need leaders, strong, valiant, wise, bold, prepared men who are equal to both the opportunities and challenges! The inspired Word of God gives the guidelines for the kind of leaders needed. Let us each resolve that we will dedicate ourselves to ascertaining and applying the principles of leadership given in God's Book so that He may accomplish great things through us to the salvation of the world and His everlasting glory!

ENDNOTES

¹ J. D. Thomas, *Leadership in the Church*: Abilene Christian College Annual Bible Lectures (Abilene, TX: ACC Students Exchange, 1964), preface.

² Flavil Yeakley, Jr., *Church Leadership and Organization* (Arvada, CO: Christian Communications, Inc., 1980), preface.

³ Goebel Music, *The Faith Demands Efficient Leadership in the Church* (Colleyville, TX: 1986), 80.

(from 1992 Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship)

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