

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Number 5

**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**
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Keith B. McAlister

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Garrett Olney, Youth
Hatton Allen, 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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Helen Johnson Palazola
1937-2018

Faithful and beloved Forest Hill member, Helen Palazola, departed this life Monday, January 15, 2018, at her home, after an extended illness. She was 80. Sister Helen was the wife of longtime deacon, John Palazola, and together they have been a part of the Knight Arnold/Forest Hill family for many years. She was baptized in 1950 at the age of 13. Later, through her good influence she would help convert John to New Testament Christianity. They were married in 1956 and to this union were born three children. Their eldest, a son, Chris, departed this life in 2010. He was a faithful member of Forest Hill. The couple were blessed with two daughters, Lisa Howard, who lives in Memphis and is a member at Forest Hill, and Donna Smith, who lives in California. Later, the couple welcomed three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren into their lives.

Helen loved the truth of the gospel. She never wavered in her support of what was right. This conviction led John to obey the gospel, leaving the error of Catholicism. The Palazolas were married for 61 years. They loved each other deeply. John is to be commended for the care he provided during these last few years while Helen has been bedridden. As I often spoke with them when visiting, she would have done the same for him.

I suppose the best word that could describe this couple is the word “servant.” First, they have been servants of Christ and, second, servants to their brethren and fellow man. Often serving in inconspicuous roles, they did not seek the attention or approval of others. Their desire was to glorify God. Helen Palazola, along with John, was among those we refer as “salt of the earth” people. Her light did shine forth as she conducted herself as a Christian woman. (Mat. 5:13-16.)

I often referred to this dear lady as “Momma Helen” and I think she loved it. I did so because of her nurturing, mothering ways. I never saw her but that she did not desire a hug and a kiss from me. I shall miss her sweet embrace.

Helen’s health struggles during the last several years have been intense. She also longed for her precious son, whose untimely death left her emotionally distraught until she died. However, Helen was a great woman of faith. Though she hurt, she never lost her trust and confidence in the God who specializes in working all things out for good to them that love Him. (Rom. 8:28).

I was at Helen’s bedside, along with John, shortly after she closed her eyes in death. He and I prayed together and it was comforting knowing that his beloved wife and my faithful sister in Christ had gained the victory. No more pain. No more sorrow. No more death. The former things have passed away (Rev. 21:4).

The funeral service for Helen Palazola took place at the Forest Hill building Thursday, January 18. I regret so much I was not available to preach her funeral as the family requested, having departed for a gospel meeting in Jamaica earlier that morning. However, I loved Helen Palazola and am so thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of her life. I look forward to the heavenly reunion in just a little while.

Better Things

Barry Grider

The key word to remember when studying Hebrews is better. The inspired writer speaks of a better priesthood, sacrifice, testament, and promises. The book also speaks of a better you and me. While the Bible student reads the reprimands and warnings contained in the epistle, he is also encouraged to keep on keeping on. In the midst of the book we read the following:

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises (Heb. 6:9-12).

From this passage the Bible student learns that God is confident his child can do better. This speaks to his ability. Just because it is possible to fail does not mean one has to fail. As Christians we are in a far better position than the one outside of Christ who is indifferent or ignorant of God's will. The writer says these brethren had proven themselves in the past (v.10). Indeed, if a child of God is lost it will not be for sins committed before baptism, but because of unrepentant and unconfessed sins after becoming a Christian. When one is baptized into Christ his previous sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38) and remembered against him no more (Heb. 8:12). Even after we have become Christians we have the assurance that the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us (Rom. 5:9; 1 John 1:7). Now here is the good news. Not one good, kind, righteous, or faithful act will go unnoticed or will be forgotten by our God. As the old song suggests, "Little is much when God is in it." As Paul (who most likely wrote Hebrews) stated,

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love,

and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father (1 Thess. 1:2,3).

Think about your life, dear Christian friend. Have you ever done anything right or stood for the right? Have you ever shown compassion and kindness toward anyone? Of course, you have done so. God does not forget those things even when we have forgotten those things. At the judgment Jesus will remember those who fed the hungry and gave drink to the thirsty. He will remember those who took in strangers and clothed the naked. He will remember those who cared for the sick and visited those in prison (Mat. 25:34,35).

God never forgets the good deeds done in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Second, the Bible student learns that God is confident his child will do better. This speaks of opportunity. When one has failed in some way it is nice to have a friend or family member to say you will do better next time. After God forgives you, he then says you will do better (v.11). Do not get discouraged. Whatever good you have done in the past, you can do in the future. Suppose your life is like a book filled with many chapters. Just because you failed in one chapter does not mean that is the last chapter of your book. A multitude of examples demonstrate how God allows us to start life over again. Peter, Paul, the adulterous woman, Zacchaeus, et al, serve as a testimony of God's grace and mercy. You may have failed in the past, but God is more concerned about your present and your future.

Third, the Bible student learns that God is confident his child must do better. This speaks of responsibility. God's children have an obligation to do better in the future than in the past (v.12). Such a sentiment ought always to be the prayer in our hearts and on our lips. Dear Christian friend, even if you are young in the faith, you have come too far to turn back now. Like Abraham, who "who looked for a city which hath foundations" (Heb. 11:10) and Moses, who "had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26), we must also be faithful. Considering all that Christ has done for us and with the realization that Heaven is closer than it has ever been, let us keep striving for better things.

PRESIDE: Paul Connell
ASSIST: Jack Braddock
 Randy Elliott
 John Pope

Eddie Ray
 Brad Bynum
 Cason Grider
 Jack Woods

A.M. OPENING: Dan Dawson
A.M. CLOSING: Robert Jeter
P.M. OPENING: Robert Berch
P.M. CLOSING: Lewis Elliott

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

RECORD, WEEK of January 28, 2018

BIBLE STUDY:	215
A.M. WORSHIP:	280
P.M. WORSHIP:	N/A
CONTRIBUTON:	\$14,334.00

OUR SICK

June Faulkner, Baptist East, Room 2427, asthma.

ILL AT HOME: Sharon Brittingham, Jim Crowe and Mike Reed.

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry	Anita Hopper
Ann Castleman	Albert & Ruth House
Virginia Ditto	Clarine Justice
Hazel Eskew	Jerry & Betty Robbins
Tommy & Nell Herndon	Velton & Dorothy Trimm

To our Forest Hill Family,
 Thank you so much for hospital visits, calls, texts, food, cards, and most of all prayers during Jim's hospital stay.
 Love y'all! Jim and Brenda

Dear Church Family,
 You faithfully keep in touch. Your beautiful cards and cheerful encouraging calls celebrating my 95th birthday gave me a 100% joy rate.

Love, Anita Hopper

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT foresthilcofc.org.

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "A" (ROBERT BERCH) will receive assignment cards February 4.

TEAM "B" (WARREN DAVENPORT) will receive assignment cards February 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES will not meet Tuesday, February 6.

MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE begins Tuesday, January 30 at 6 p.m. in the Education Building. Please sign up for class/materials at fpu.com/1048923. Additional information will be posted on the main bulletin board.

BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Taylor Tribble, bride elect of Jonah Wood, Sunday, February 4 following the morning service in the fellowship hall. Since they will be living in North Carolina, this will be a gift card/money shower.

YOUNG ADULT SUPER BOWL/GAME NIGHT Sunday, February 4 at 5 p.m. at the home of Greg and Christa Mangrum. Please bring finger foods and/or drinks. This event will be for high school seniors and above. No children please.

JC DEVOTIONAL Sunday, February 11 after p.m. service in the Education break room.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY (SALT) will resume Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. They will be studying *Those Who Wait* by Rosemary McKnight. This book can be ordered online. More information to follow.

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 25.

2018 YOUTH DAY, ABOUND, Saturday, March 24.

2018 MSOP Lectureship, Faith Under Fire, March 25-29.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

Last week's solution:

And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel. I Kings 6:11-13

CORNERSTONE

Scriptogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.
 BV UB SMC FCGCBM VEQ WUV CBVCV MPF TUAX TMPDM
 MC MEV IEVC; EBV MC ACFSCV UB SMC FCGCBM VEQ
 KAUI EHH MPF TUAX TMPDM MC MEV IEVC. EBV WUV
 JHCFFCV SMC FCGCBM VEQ, EBV FEBDSPKPCV PS
 JCDENFC SMES PB PS MC MEV ACFSCV KAUI EHH MPF TUAX
 TMPDM WUV DACESCV EBV IEVC.

J=B Solution next week. I=M

How Christians Should View Death (Conclusion)

George W. Bailey

(continued from last week)

Paul said that the crown of righteousness is promised to them that love the Lord's appearance. James tells us that the crown is promised to them that love the Lord (James 1:12). People cannot love the appearing of the Lord in that final day unless they love the Lord Himself day by day. Only then could they be ready for and look forward to the coming of the Master! Death then ceases to have the sting that it otherwise would have. Only then can it be desired and not dreaded.

To those that love the Lord, God has promised a marvelous heritage. He has promised to make them heirs of the heavenly kingdom (James 2:5). Listen to this passage: "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." In death then, children of God will gain a most wonderful heritage! But the gaining of that heritage depends upon whether or not we are the children of God. It depends upon whether or not we really love the Lord.

Jesus said "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Here is the real test of whether or not we love the Lord. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5:3-5).

Would you like to overcome the world and inherit the kingdom of heaven? If so, you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. But Jesus said, "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

How does man come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God? The Bible says, "But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). God has written for us certain things that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ. These things that are written become the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. This evidence cannot be refuted; therefore, let us believe it. If we will but believe these things, then we can look upon death as a gain.

But merely believing them alone is not enough. The Bible says even the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). If just believing the evidence is all that God requires, then the devils will be saved. But this is not all that is required. Ours must be a faith that works by love (Galatians 5:6).

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