



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:

Danny Braddock Jr.
Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Eddie F. Ray III

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

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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Every Member Involved Faithfully and Fervently

Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

The persistent involvement of every member of every congregation is a constant, often baffling, and an ever present challenge to godly elderships everywhere. Yet this is what the Lord not only expects, but demands. This and this only will allow the church, with the Lord's help to achieve its marvelous mission in our world. Appropriate scriptures come easily to mind. The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in record time (52 days) because "the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6,15). Jesus stressed in John 9:4 that it was imperative that he work while it was day for night cometh when no man can work. Paul concluded the great resurrection chapter by encouraging the Christians at Corinth to be "steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). Paul strongly commended brethren at Thessalonica due to their "work of faith" and "labour of love" (1 Thess. 1:3). Through Titus, Paul encouraged that brethren "be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1). We note in Eph. 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." In what realms should every member be involved faithfully and fervently?

Every Member Truly Converted in Faithful and Fervent Fashion

This is demanded at the time of one's gospel obedience. There is no other way to enter the kingdom. Jesus made this crystal clear in Matt. 18:2,3. On Solomon's porch in Acts 3:19 the apostle Peter charged his audience to repent and be converted. Involved in genuine conversion is a threefold change. Heart, life, and state or relationship must all be changed. In hearing Christ, believing on him, repenting of sins, and confessing faith in his Deity we experience change of heart and life. One's state or relationship must then undergo change. This is accomplished in baptism as we pass from the outside of Christ and redemption to the inside of Christ and redemption. That is why such passages as Rom. 6:3,4 and Gal. 3:27 speak of our being baptized into Christ. Unconverted members perhaps are to be found in every congregation and they, without exception, pose a problem in getting every member involved faithfully and fervently.

Every Member a Faithful and Fervent Student of God's Word

Gus Nichols once said that the damning sin of this age is biblical ignorance. Brother Nichols knew it was a taproot from which spring so many other sins. The ox and ass in Isaiah's day knew the master and where food was to be found but Israel did not know. (Isa. 1:3,4). Biblical ignorance led to captivity for God's people (Isa. 5:13). In the age of Hosea the people of God were destroyed due to their glaring ignorance of God's word (Hos. 4:6). The Sadducees erred greatly because of biblical ignorance (Matt. 22:29). Some at Corinth were experiencing resurrection difficulties because they were so terribly deficient in knowledge (1 Cor. 15:34). Paul labeled such as shameful.

The answer to biblical ignorance is a daily willingness to go to the law and the testimony (Isa. 8:20). It is seeking out the Book of God and reading (Isa. 34:16). It is an eager willingness to hear the word of the Lord (Jer. 22:29). It is to give attendance to reading and meditating upon the word of life (1 Tim. 4:13,15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Rev. 1:3). Great students of the Bible are people who have studied it for a lifetime.

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Every Member a Faithful and Fervent Person of Prayer

Evening, morning, and at noon were prayer times for the devout Psalmist (Psa. 55:17). Jesus “spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint...” (Luke 18:1). The initial fruits of the first people to obey the gospel are set forth in Acts 2:42. They continued steadfastly in apostolic teaching the Lord’s Supper, fellowship and in prayer. Col. 4:2 charges us to “Continue in prayer...” Paul in 1 Thess. 5:17 says, “Pray without ceasing.” These call for regularity of prayerful seasons—not 24 hours of prayer and nothing but prayer every day. That would not leave us time for the doing of other equally important works connected with Christianity.

Every Member Faithful and Fervent in Worship

The Sweet Singer of Ancient Israel viewed worship as being done in the beauty of holiness (Psa 29:2). Later the Psalmist expressed deep delight when he was invited to go into the house of the Lord (Psa 122:1). Such a precious invitation left him glad—not mad—not sad. Some, to be truthful to their real feelings, would have to rewrite Psalm 122:1 to read, “I was glad when worship was over and I could get back to doing what I really enjoy doing.” Jesus stressed in Matthew 4:10 that our worship and service belong to God. Acceptable worship is right object (God), right manner (in spirit), and right way (in truth or as the Bible dictates). Jesus made such clear in John 4:23,24 as he conversed with the woman at Jacob’s well. Specifically, Christian worship consists of singing (Eph. 5:19), teaching (Acts 2:42; 20:7), prayer (Phil. 4:6), communion (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20ff), and the contribution (1 Cor. 16:1,2).

Some illustrations stress a great contrast. One lady bored to death with worship, said, “The elders of this church are trying to church us to death!” Congregations may die but not by being “churched to death.” A devout Christian, still new in the faith, once told me after I finished a meeting in the Pennsylvania city where he lived, “One of the reasons I want to go to heaven is in order that I may worship God daily as we have done in this meeting!” Which one had really caught the real glimpse of worship in beauty and in gladness? An elder of a Texas congregation was once asked by a member, “Do I have to attend every service of the church?” His answer was classic and so wise. He answered, “I did not know there were any services of the church that any Christian wanted to miss.”

Every Member Faithful and Fervent in Christian Living

This is really what Jesus inculcates in the beautiful beatitudes that grace the foreword of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3-12). Like Timothy we should be an example of believers in word, in manner of life, in love, in spirit, in faith or fidelity, and in moral purity (1 Tim. 4:12). We should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11,12). The nine ingredients that compose the fruit of the Spirit are an intense imperative in the living of the Christian life (Gal. 5:22,23). Paul majors in what we should put off and on in Col. 3:5-14. To foundational faith

we should add or supply virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity or love (2 Pet 1:5ff). Only by such living can we be salt of the earth and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16). Only then can we adorn the doctrine of God our Savior (Tit. 2:10). Only then are we epistles really fit to be read of all men (2 Cor. 3:2).

Every Member Faithful and Fervent in Soul Winning

Such is a mark of true wisdom as Solomon observes in Proverbs 11:30. Such is the very heart of the Great Commission—save our souls by gospel obedience and then take the word of life to the lost (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:47). Gospel begins with God! Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19,20 inculcate upon us the restoration of the erring. We are to engage in such “in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Gal. 6:1). James assures us that by so doing the sins of the restored one are covered and his soul is saved from spiritual death (James 5:19,20). As soldiers of Christ our mission is an eloquent extension of his mission to earth. The name Jesus, according to the unnamed angel in Matt 1:21, means Saviour. God’s Son states in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Jesus said in Matt. 9:37, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few...” In proportion to the world’s lost in our day the laborers for souls appear to be fewer than just a few. Not many members of the church in our day take seriously their solemn responsibility as real soul winners. This is sad; it is immeasurably sad. It must be remedied.

Every Member Faithful and Fervent Relative to Gospel Meetings

It is true that some of our congregations have ceased to have gospel meetings. I regard this as one of the spiritual tragedies of our day. Gus Nichols used to say that when congregations thought they needed no more gospel meetings, in reality they needed to start having more than they previously have had. Untold good has been done by gospel meetings. And yet gospel meetings in recent years have fallen on rather hard times. The reflection does not point to the gospel or the effective way it is still presented by able, sound preachers. The real fault lies with indifferent members who have lost their relish for anything concentrated except that which is earthly and secular in nature. To all such members three questions are appropriate. (1) What would Jesus do relative to a gospel meeting? (2) What would Paul do? (3) What would such people do if they knew the week of the gospel meeting was their final one before death, judgement and eternity?

The day of the gospel meeting is not over for many of our spiritually-minded congregations. I still preach in meetings every year where the average attendance for all services exceeds Sunday morning attendance on a regular basis. More and more work by way of previous preparation has to be done to have good and great meetings but they can be had. I see it successfully done many times each year and from coast to coast, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf.

(Gospel Advocate, January 1985)

PRESIDE: Greg Mangrum
ASSIST: Lewis Elliott
 Jonathan Rickles
 Steve Ulrich

Harold Mangrum
 Randy Elliott
 Sam Rickles
 Chris Weight

A.M. OPENING: Warren Davenport
A.M. CLOSING: Allan Hart
P.M. OPENING: Lawayne House
P.M. CLOSING: Daniel Manning

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

RECORD, WEEK of July 15, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 225
 A.M. WORSHIP: 290
 P.M. WORSHIP: 215
 CONTRIBUTION: \$15,257.00

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto
 Hazel Eskew
 Doris Jean Cole
 Anita Hopper
 Albert & Ruth House

Betty Jones
 Clarine Justice
 Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Velton & Dorothy Trimm

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Phil Houston, recovering from surgery (no visitors please).

Wayne Sanders, will have surgery July 30.

Richard Bergstrom, brother of Bob Bergstrom, receiving hospice care at his home in Salem, MA.

Taylor Caffey, father of Kathy Maund, will have knee replacement surgery on July 25.

Deane Pigg, sister of Corinne Elkins is in rehab in Nashville.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "C" (DANNY BRADDOCK) will meet Friday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Danny and Melinda Braddock for a covered dish meal.

TEAM "F" (STEVE ALLMOND) and TEAM "G" (TOM WACASTER) will receive assignment cards Sunday, July 29.

EVENTS

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

2018 SUMMER SERIES Wednesdays, June 20-August 8. Theme: *Add to Your Faith...(A Study of the Christian Graces)*. Speaker July 25: Bobby Liddell. Topic: *Add to Your Faith...Godliness*.

ICE CREAM SUPPER and finger food fellowship after Bible Study Wednesday, July 25.

YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL at the home of C.J. and Lindsay Stafford, Saturday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m.

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, August 27.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO the family of Bessie Berry, who passed away last week at the age of 97. Her service was conducted Friday at Family Funeral Care.

Please continue to pray for Matt Jones and family who have been on a mission trip to the Bahamas during the month of July, they will be returning home soon.

Last week's solution:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. II Corinthians 1:3-4

CORNERSTONE

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

TKEA DEEH OT YVUSSROLEE: FI YTH TRROHEB TSSSRPEA
 TSNIGAA EEHT, URKEEB MIH; NDA FI EH TRPNEE, VROIGFE
 MIH. NDA FI EH TSSSRPEA TSNIGAA EEHT VSNEE TSMIE NI
 A YDA, NDA VSNEE TSMIE NI A YDA UTRN NIGAA OT EEHT,
 YSNIGA, I TRPNEE; UTOH TSLHA VROIGFE MIH.

August 2018
Coordinating Elder-Danny Braddock
Birthday Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Lanell Bowers Mike Callahan Daniel McMillin	6 Colson Albritton Rebekah Nichols	7 Zach Gross Annette McAlister	8	9	10	11 Doris Jean Cole Jerry Ellis Lisa Safronoff
12	13	14 Becky Sowell	15	16 Mary Alice Bergstrom Carolyn Hayes Dorothy Trimm	17 Corinne Elkins	18 Patsy DeShields Irwin Thomas
19 Kirk Teachout	20 Greg Mangrum	21 Steffanie Weight	22 Steve Allmond	23 Velton Trimm	24	25 Dillon Brewer Kay Downey Carolyn Richardson
26 Jim Brown Dorothy Mosher	27 Crystal Guthrie	28 Cedric Huff	29 Paul Connell Lewis Elliott	30 Cindy Dawson Walt Safronoff	31	

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