

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS



## Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Anthony D. Callahan  
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Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

### Ministers:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit  
Matthew Martin, Associate  
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

### VISIT US SOON!

#### Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

### HOME OF THE MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

[www.msop.org](http://www.msop.org)

### Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism  
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Truth for the World  
Words of the Master

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## Great Crowds, Great Spirit, Great Unity Mark 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lectureship Barry M. Grider

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship has come to an end and what an encouraging and edifying week it was. Not a few attendees have stated it was the best ever. To celebrate this milestone, a fitting theme, *The Gospel of Christ*, served as our rich and rewarding study. Year after year students come to the school to be trained in preaching the pure gospel. While it was good to see many old friends, we were delighted to see so many new faces. A number of visitors stated to me this was their first MSOP lectureship to attend, but would not be their last.

Many faithful and able evangelists preached during the week. I particularly enjoyed the evening sessions focusing on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sermons were presented on His virgin birth, sinlessly perfect life, death, and resurrection. As he has so ably done down through the years, brother Robert R. Taylor, Jr., closed the series of lectures with perhaps the most profound and profitable lecture of the week, entitled, "*The Good News of Eternal Salvation.*"

At this year's lectureship, more attention was given than ever before to the spreading of the gospel. Several speakers spoke about carrying the gospel through various mediums such as television, internet, and the printed page. We rejoiced to hear of the success of so many good works that promote the proclamation of the gospel.

Those who attended the various dinners were also uplifted. Monday evening a large number of graduates spoke in praise of the Memphis School of Preaching and expressed appreciation for what the school had meant to them personally. Tuesday evening the Alumni-Friends banquet was conducted. On this occasion, brother Mike McDaniel, faithful evangelist of the Carruthersville, Missouri Church of Christ, was named president of the Alumni Association. He will do an outstanding job, particularly as we prepare to raise the necessary funds for our student housing, which is now underway. Also, at the same gathering, sister Jo Ann Bradshaw and brother B. J. Clarke, were each named an honorary alumnus of the school. Brother Anthony Hixson was named alumnus of the year. We salute all three of these mentioned. Each one was deserving. *The Gospel Journal* dinner was conducted on Wednesday evening. Brother John Moore and I could not have been more pleased with the fine turnout. About 175 brethren attended the program. Brethren B.J. Clarke, Brad Harub, Gary McDade, and Allen Webster, each one an excellent editor in his own right, spoke encouraging words about *TGJ*. Brother Paul Sain was highly motivational in his remarks. My fellow co-editor, brother Moore, made a presentation concerning our future plans for *TGJ*. Many are re-subscribing for the first time in several years, and we have many who are now receiving the publication for the very first time.

As indicated at last week's lectureship, the gospel of Christ is going forward. Faithful brethren are standing together with the right attitude and unity of purpose. For that reason, much good can be accomplished for Christ and His kingdom.

## TRAGEDY BEFALLS WINKLER FAMILY

Baffling, puzzling, and bizarre are the words you have heard the media use to describe the fatal shooting of Matthew Winkler, preacher for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ in Selmer, Tennessee. For those of us who were well acquainted with him, we are filled with disbelief and great sorrow. The Winkler family is one of the most distinguished preaching families among us. Wendell Winkler was a great gospel preacher and a trusted mentor of mine. Dan Winkler is one of the finest evangelists found in the Lord's church today. There is no doubt that Matthew would have continued this family tradition in a marvelous way.

In recent months, I have spoke on several occasions with Matthew Winkler. He and I were developing a great friendship. Not long ago I passed along to him some copies of *The Gospel Journal*. He later called me commending the publication and desiring to be placed on the mailing list. In fact, he was planning to do some writing for us in the near future. However, Matthew's days as a gospel preacher were about to end. He was fatally shot March 21 in his home in Selmer. Less than a week before, Celicia and I, while on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University, ran into Matt, Mary, and their girls and visited with them for a few moments. As others close to them have indicated, they seemed to be a very happy and loving Christian family.

As news of Matthew's death has spread, so has speculation in the media as to what led to the violent act that took his life. As Christians, let us pray that the memory of this good young man will be respected. Also, please remember Matthew's parents, Dan and Diane, as they take on the responsibility of rearing their three precious granddaughters. Pray for our brethren in Selmer as they endure through this tragedy. Likewise, may the Lord's church as a whole be strengthened and not weakened in the aftermath of this horrible episode. As you pray, please include Mary, who is obviously a very troubled young woman.

Celicia and I attended the visitation at the Shackelford Funeral Home, Monday, March 27. The crowd was so large, several hours passed before we were able to see the family. However, we were so glad we could see them and express to them our love and sympathy.

Matthew did not know the hour of his departure was near, nor the type of death he would die. Not any of us know the time, or the nature of our deaths. Just remember these words of wisdom, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psm. 90:12). I look forward to heaven and being reunited with brethren like Matthew Winkler. Only then will we finally get a clear picture of what has so often eluded us in this life. As the songwriter mournfully cried, "We'll understand it all by and by."

Barry M. Grider

## RESPONDING TO NANCY GRACE

(Submitted by Daniel Rogers)

Monday night on CNN's *Nancy Grace* talk show, Tom Rukala, a Baptist preacher, was invited to describe the churches of Christ to the viewers in connection with the show's ongoing discussion of the death of brother Matthew Winkler. Rukala's characterization of the church was very unflattering. Predictably, he attributed the founding of the church to Alexander Campbell, but he went on to describe the church as "a very legalistic sect" that uses "methods of intimidation and pressure tactics," made up of people who "claim that they are the only ones going to heaven." He further described the church as "a very exclusive group," a "narrow sect," and "a borderline cult." He stated that the church uses "tactics that...are...not only unbiblical but unethical, and...ungracious."

Last night, Grace invited Rubel Shelley onto the show to represent the church. Predictably, he did little to vindicate the image of the church, and essentially conceded that the church was founded by men. To his credit, Shelley did admit that he was "more liberal-minded" than many brethren in the Lord's church (at least he's honest). The characterization of the church as "cultish" was further continued.

Brethren, these charges need to be addressed. You can read the transcripts of the *Nancy Grace* show for yourselves at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/ng.html>. You can go to <http://www.cnn.com/feedback/forms/form5c.html?24> to respond to these charges. Grace has a reputation in both the legal and the journalistic communities as one who "plays fast and loose with the facts" (a quote from the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals regarding Grace's behavior as a trial lawyer). She is not likely to defend the church, especially since she seems to have sympathy for more liberal viewpoints in religion.

Each of us should send an e-mail to Nancy Grace asking her to allow a sound member of the Lord's church to have equal time to rebut these charges. Certainly Matthew's death will have been in vain if it is allowed to become an occasion for the enemies of truth to slander the church of the Lord in the public eye. He would have stood against those charges, and so should we. The time is ripe for someone to point out the true nature of the church, and surely none among us would shrink from an opportunity to expose Grace's viewers to the truth about the church. Let us pray for an opportunity and work to open the door.

Cards may be sent to the Winkler family at the following address:

Dan Winkler  
c/o Freed Hardeman University  
Henderson, TN 38340

Memorial gifts may be made to a fund established for Matthew's children:

Winkler Family Fund  
229 Ward Circle Suite 23  
Brentwood, TN 37027

## THE GOSPEL CAN REALLY HELP ME!

Matthew Martin

For our Youth Day a couple of weeks ago, we sought to answer the question: *Can the Gospel Really Help Me?* After hearing our four speakers, if there ever was any doubt, it has been vanquished. Throughout the day the near 300 that were gathered enjoyed great singing, and heard great preaching.

Joey Davis, of Cordova Tennessee, answered the question that could help the skeptic. Jeff Johnson of Chattanooga Tennessee, explained how God could help the addict. Jason Mullenix of Munford, Tennessee, had the uneasy task of answering whether God could help the suicidal. Jason proved God could do so. Finally, Ben Wright of Carbon Hill, Alabama, told us that God could help the lost.

On behalf of the Forest Hill elders, we appreciate those who spoke, and those who attended. A special thanks to Willy Ling, and John Manning who did a superb job in leading us in song. Also we are thankful for those who kept children in your homes Friday night, so they could attend; those who worked in the Fellowship hall and provided our meal with a smile (specifically Helen Newsom, who coordinated everything involved with feeding almost 300 people), and those who stayed up late Friday night decorating the auditorium without a complaint to be heard. Of course, thanks be to God, for His Gospel, which can help all of us with every problem we face.

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## SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL

Matthew Martin

Ahh Spring is here. Time for warm weather, rolling the car windows down, putting on that ridiculous Hawaiian shirt that you insist still fits, and most importantly: time for spring cleaning.

Yes, I can almost hear your excitement at the notion of getting on your hands and knees and picking up the smallest piece of a Hershey's kisses wrapper from under the bed. But before you throw this article away in your newly discovered trash can, allow me to add a *spiritual* implication to this wonderful yearly chore in our lives: How about a little spring cleaning for the *soul*?

## USE THE VACUUM CLEANER

Got a lot of tiny little *hidden* problems? You need the spiritual vacuum cleaner. It can help you overcome all those problems in your life that no one else knows about. It isn't hard, at first, to keep some sins a secret. But eventually they will find you out. Remember the old adage: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people, some of the time..."

to be continued...

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