

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Barry M. Grider
Matthew L. Martin

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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PRESTON FAULKNER

1928-2005

Forest Hill's longest serving deacon succumbs to cancer, as angels of glory bear his soul to realms above.

Preston Faulkner, highly esteemed and deeply loved member of Forest Hill, is now home with His Lord. His optimism and perseverance stirred our own belief, that he, if anybody, would defeat the pancreatic cancer of which he was diagnosed about a year ago. Let it be stated, however, that despite brother Preston's passing, he is not defeated. He has won the victory and his influence for good in this congregation will be noted for many years to come.

Pres was 76 at the time of his death. His funeral was conducted exactly 10 months following the funeral of his beloved uncle, Ben Faulkner, who reared him. As David stated of Abner, we can say about brother Preston, "a prince and great man has fallen" (2 Sam. 3:38).

The funeral service for this giant among us was conducted at the Forest Hill building, Wednesday, June 29. It was truly appropriate to hear our national anthem at the beginning of the service. This navy veteran who served in Korea on board the U.S.S. Brush, loved his country deeply. Four soul-stirring hymns of faith were sung by those assembled, led by Glen Wilson. Those songs included: "The Great Physician," "Beautiful," "God's Family," and "When All God's Singers Get Home."

Keith Mosher and this writer had the distinct privilege of speaking at the service. After reading the tender and loving comments of his children, I then spoke as to how I would remember Preston Faulkner. First, brother Preston was a soldier. He was a soldier on behalf of his country and on behalf of his Lord. He obeyed the gospel in 1951 and was baptized by the late, lamented Richard Lee Curry. He promoted and defended that gospel until his death.

Second, brother Preston was an encourager. It just seemed that whenever you would speak to him about a potential problem, you knew everything would work out all right (cf. Rom. 8:28). He was always reassuring and always giving. Preston and June were especially good to my children and I shall always be grateful.

Third, brother Preston was a servant. The word deacon means servant, and no one was more committed to Christian service than was he. So many tasks that most do not want to do, he was willing to take care of it. You also knew when he completed something, it was done right. What does the Lord say to a man like Preston Faulkner? "Well done, good and faithful servant..." (Matt. 25:23).

The tired and frail body of Preston Faulkner was laid to rest next door to the Forest Hill building, at West Tennessee Veteran's Cemetery. One day the trumpet shall sound and all the dead in Christ shall be raised (1 Thess. 4:16ff). What a glad reunion day it will be.

Until then, please pray and encourage our dear sister, June Faulkner, Preston's wife of 51 years. Also, their children and grandchildren, remember, as well.

Barry M. Grider

PRESTON FAULKNER SOLDIER OF CHRIST

From the very first time I met Preston I knew he would be a friend, but I had no idea how true a friend he would be. He has done so much that nobody knows about. Up until the last time he entered the hospital he was still doing all that he could, even though he was in great pain. I was privileged to share a close friendship with him. As fellow deacons, we would discuss things that we wanted to do around the building and grounds, and then he would get the job done. There was no slow time for Preston, as soon as he saw something that needed to be fixed, he was on it and stayed with it until it was completed. He served as a deacon at the Knight Arnold/Forest Hill congregation for 40 years. When this congregation selected me as an elder, Preston and I would sit and discuss the desires that we had for the congregation, and talk about ways we could keep it sound, and keep error out. He loved MSOP and the students. He once told me that June could name every student that had attended for the last ten years. He had many years of wisdom that he shared with me and for that I am truly grateful. He was faithful to the end, and I am so thankful that God has given us a glimpse of what heaven will be like. I think of Revelation 21:1-5. There will be no more pain, nor suffering, God shall wipe away all tears. What a great thought at a time like this. Paradise is described as Abraham's bosom, a place of safety and comfort. Truly, 2 Timothy 4:7-8 could be said about my friend and fellow laborer. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." May we all think on these things and gain strength from God's word.

Tony Callahan

Elder, Forest Hill church of Christ

GOD'S PIPELINES FOR COMFORT

Matthew Martin

On Wednesday, July 6th, Forest Hill will lay to rest Sandra Popp. She will be the sixth member that we have lost this year. In times like these, in the wake of these members' deaths, and when it seems like we are constantly grieving over the loss of someone that we know, what we need is comfort.

Let us not forget we are Christians, and as

such, we have access to one of God's greatest blessings: the blessing of prayer. In times like these, when things get bad, prayer and study can be the only stable things one has. After all, as someone wisely said, prayer and study are "God's pipelines for comfort."

Paul said that God was the "Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort." (2 Cor. 1:3). What a blessing it is for the Christian to be able to go to this awesome being and cast all our cares upon Him (1 Pet 5:7). We are the sons of God, as John said (1 John 3:1). As our Father, God wants us to bring our problems to Him in prayer. When we do, we connect with that great spiritual pipeline that is always open to His faithful children.

Prayer is not the only "pipeline" for comfort that the Christian has. Studying the Bible is another way to receive comfort in times of sorrow. Whereas prayer involves the Christian talking to God, studying His word involves God talking to the Christian.

Consider all the accounts found in the Bible concerning the loss of a loved one. Perhaps the two most read are of Job and David. Job lost *everything*. He lost his home, his livelihood, his friends, and his children. How did he react? He said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21). Now, in Job's case it was not God who was hurting Job, it was Satan, but Job thought it was God, and he still said, "blessed be the name of the Lord." That shows Job's tremendous faith in God.

Also consider David, who lost his son because of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. While the child was alive and sick, David fasted and prayed, hoping his son would be spared. When he finally died, David picked himself up, cleaned himself up, and ceased fasting. Why? Because once his son was dead, David looked to the future and did not dwell on the past, saying though his son could not come back to him, he could go to his son. (2 Sam. 12:23). Studying this passage one can find the confidence of a faithful child of God about not only the home of his lost loved one, but also the assurance that he will be with him in the end. Studying these two accounts can be quite comforting as we mourn the loss of sister Popp and the others that have left us this year. Though they cannot come back to us, we can go to them.

It has not been an easy summer for us at Forest Hill. We have much over which to grieve. But let's keep our heads high and our focus fixed, and when the occasional day comes when we need some comfort, let's not forget God's great pipelines of comfort: prayer, and the study of His word.

TOM HOPPER 1923-2005

Tom Hopper, faithful member of the Forest Hill church of Christ, passed from this life, Wednesday, June 22, 2005. He was 81. Brother Hopper was a Christian gentleman, and, likewise, very personable. The Bible says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). Indeed, brother Hopper was a friendly man and he was concerned about the welfare of others. Paul wrote, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phi. 2:3,4).

Brother Hopper valiantly battled cancer for a long time. Yet, he remained strong in faith. We rejoice that even though brother Hopper waited until late in life to be baptized (David Looney baptized him in 1991), he did not wait too long. We are confident as he drew his last breath, the angels of glory were at hand to transport his spirit to Paradise (cf. Luke 16)..

It was my honor to preach the funeral service of brother Hopper. His earthly tabernacle was laid to rest at Memphis Memory Gardens. Please continue to remember brother Hopper's widow, Ella Frances, along with the other members of his family.

SANDRA POPP 1939-2005

That dreaded disease called cancer, claimed the life of another Forest Hill member this past week. Sister Sandra Popp, because of a brain tumor, suffered immense pain during the last few months. She passed from this life, Thursday, June 30, one month following the death of her husband, Richard, and seven weeks following the death of her mother, Daisy Alexander. Sandra handled all of this adversity with much grace and dignity. Likewise, she never lost her faith. The Psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psm. 46:1). He continues, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God in him will I trust" (Psm. 91:2). Sandra found true security in the only place it can be found, in God and His son, Jesus Christ. We pray that she now rests, free from earthly cares, in the Paradise of God.

Sister Popp's funeral service was to be conducted, Wednesday, July 6, at the Forest Hill building. Burial was to follow at the West Tennessee Veteran's cemetery, where her earthly body was to be laid to rest next to her husband, Richard. Please remember Sandra's two children, Donna and Tommy, and their families. Also, please pray for and encourage her sister, Nancy Price, who, like Sandra, is a member at Forest Hill.

Barry M. Grider

WHAT CANCER CANNOT DO

Cancer is SO limited.
It CANNOT Cripple love
It CANNOT Shatter hope
It CANNOT Corrode Faith
It CANNOT Eat Away Peace
It CANNOT Destroy Confidence
It CANNOT Kill Friendship
It CANNOT Shut Out Memories
It CANNOT Silence Courage
It CANNOT Invade the Soul
It CANNOT Reduce Eternal Life
It CANNOT Quench the Spirit

-author unknown

(from www.abcn.ca)