

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

Visit our Website at www.foresthillchurch.org

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Anthony D. Callahan
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Ministers:

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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In Search of the Lord's Way
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Volume 33

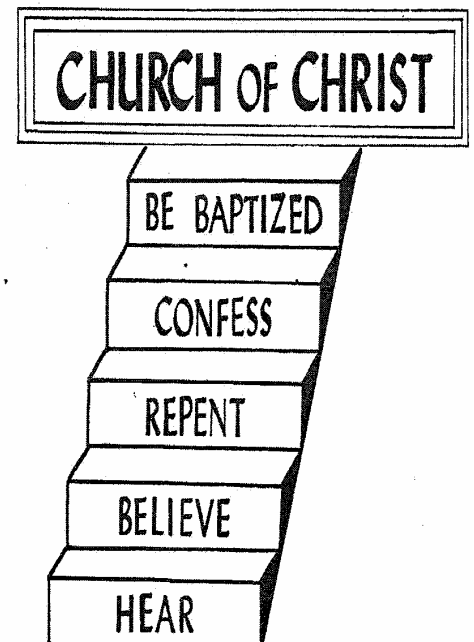
June 28, 2005

Number 26

VBS

Come join us as we walk through the
Steps to Salvation

Monday - Friday
July 18 - 22
9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Classes for
Cradle Roll - Adults



Forest Hill church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill - Irene Road

for more information call 751-2444

A TIME TO BE SILENT

Barry M. Grider

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Ecc. 3:1,7). Far too often brethren are not willing to speak out and boldly proclaim and defend the gospel of Christ. However, there is a time to be silent. Jesus said, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matt. 7:6). There are those who persistently stand in opposition to truth. They abuse that which is holy and scorn that which is right. They have no appreciation at all for Christ, His word, nor His church. Do not waste your time, even your breath trying to persuade such individuals. Turn your attention toward those souls who have ears ready to hear. Jesus always practicing what He preached, refused at times to say anything. Consider the following account:

And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing (Luke 23:8,9).

Jesus knew the heart of Herod. He knew nothing He said would be convincing to Herod. Therefore, He spake not a word.

Likewise, there is another time to be silent. When a brother sins and repents of his sins, what should be the attitude of his brethren? Our Lord said, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him” (Luke 17:3). If we forgive others the way God has forgiven us, we should never bring one’s forgiven sins to his charge again. Yet, it appears that some in our brotherhood rejoice when others fall. Instead of mourning over sins (Matt. 5:4), some rejoice, seizing upon an opportunity by which they can get an advantage on someone else. Yet, the wise man says,

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him (Prov. 24:17,18).

Surely, if one is not to rejoice when his enemy falls, he should not rejoice when his brother falls. Brethren, when someone sins, regardless of whether or not that person repents, let us not broadcast his sins to the public at large. Let us pray for such an individual, and if he repents, forgive him.

MY COMMITMENT

Matthew Martin

On Monday, June 27, at about 10 minutes till 9:00, I sat down in my chair and officially began my first work as a Gospel preacher. It was about fifteen minutes after 9:00, when, after sitting quietly and unmoving at my desk, I said to myself: “What do I do now?” Thankfully, brother Grider came over and gave me some pointers about what to do during my first week as a local preacher.

I thought a good way to get started with my work would be to list some of the things that I will be committed to doing during my tenure here.

In the first place, as the associate preacher of the Forest Hill Church of Christ, I am committed to serving the Lord. That means I have an obligation to preach the Gospel in its purest form. This is my first and greatest duty. I could do many wonderful things for the members here, or for the community, but if I do not accurately preach the gospel then I am a failure and doomed to a tormenting eternity. My first commitment is to the Lord.

In the second place, as the associate preacher, I am committed to serving the members of this congregation. That means if you are a member of the Forest Hill church of Christ you will be seeing a lot of me. Outside of things doctrinal, perhaps no piece of advice was more hammered into my mind while in the school of preaching than “Get out of the office and get to know the brethren.” I can preach sound Gospel up and down, but if the members do not know I care, how can they care what I know? My first commitment is to the Lord, but it is also to the Lord’s people.

In the third place, as the associate preacher, I am committed to serving this community. The goal of every faithful congregation should be to grow. The problem is, with most congregations, the only growth they see is through additions of family members and baptism of their children. While we rejoice in and encourage the baptism of members’ children this should not be a congregations only source of growth. If a congregation is really to grow then the community must be reached. Doing so, not only fulfills my responsibility to the Great Commission, but also, my commitment to the work of this congregation.

In the fourth place, as Forest Hill’s Associate Preacher, I am committed to serving my fellow preacher. I have said it countless times, Barry Grider is one of the hardest working preachers in the brotherhood. I am honored and humbled to work with him and know we will make a great team. I’m sure he is also glad that the load he had been carrying by himself can now be shared.

There is a lot to look forward to if you are a member of the Forest Hill congregation. The Gospel Broadcasting Network is coming, we are growing and new visitors are coming in every week. With God’s blessings, and the hard work of the elders, the members and the preachers, perhaps we can reach 500 members by our 50th anniversary, in 2009. To that goal, we are all committed.

