

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

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444
Fax: (901) 751-9711
Info Line: (901) 392-2449

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Floyd M. Hayes
Harold D. Mangrum
Leonard Watson

Minister:

Barry M. Grider

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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DON'T BE A HIGH-MAINTENANCE CHRISTIAN

Brian Giselbach

“Maintenance” is not exactly the most exciting word. It’s hard to get excited about maintenance. It’s not something that gets the blood flowing, is it? Consider the matter of maintaining your car. Cars are an essential part of the society in which we live. And cars can be fun. But the not-so-fun thing about cars is that they have to be maintained. Maintenance is not exciting, but it’s better than walking.

The Christian life must be maintained also. We have to take care of ourselves spiritually. As Christians we are expected to grow into maturity (2Pet.2: 1-3; 2Pet. 3:18). Christians must continually give themselves to things that will enhance their spiritual growth (e.g. regular Bible study and prayer, fellowship and encouragement, worship, evangelism, service).

An important part of our Christian lives is the work of helping other Christians to maintain their faith and stability. We’re called upon to look after the needs of others in the faith (Phil. 2:4; Eph. 4:7-16; Gal. 6:1). This can be both a taxing and rewarding work, but a necessary one. And just as we need to look out for the spiritual welfare of others, even so we need others to look out for us.

Considering your own Christian life and spiritual maturity, do you consider yourself a high-maintenance or low maintenance Christian? We all need maintenance, encouragement and direction than older Christians. But the object is to grow steadily and sufficiently so that our faithfulness to the Lord is not as dependent on others as it was when we started down the path of faith. I have known Christians who have been in the church for many years who need a high degree of input and encouragement from other believers or they will drop out. I have known mature Christians and church leaders who seemingly invest a large amount of their energy just maintaining the faith of other Christians who never seem to grow up. This is not what the Lord intended. He doesn’t want us to always be tapping the time and energy of other believers, and robbing the church of resources it could use to bring others into the kingdom.

One of the things each Christian should realize (as quickly as possible when they come into the family of God) is that spiritual growth is mandated by the God of Heaven. He expects you to grow into maturity. Growth is not just a good idea, it’s a command. Furthermore, growth is not just a command; it’s essential to the development and work of the kingdom. It is just as essential to salvation to grow into Christ-likeness, as it is to hear the Word, believe in Christ, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ, and be immersed for the remission of sins. To grow or not to grow is not an option for the child of God.

As a Christian, I will always need maintenance. I will never reach the point where I do not need to study the Bible, and pray, and worship, and need the encouragement and fellowship of other Christians. There will be times in my life, as there will be for every Christian, when I will need the aid, comfort, and counsel of wiser Christians. But I never want to be high-maintenance. I don’t want my faith to be dependent on others “dragging me to church,” when that’s a decision that I should

have already made as a Christian. I don't want my faith to be such that I have to be coaxed to speak to others about faith in Christ. It is a blessing to receive strength and encouragement from others, but the greater blessing comes in being able to give back; to reach a point spiritually that you become a pillar of strength and assurance for others.

So let's strive to be low-maintenance Christians. We will always be dependent on the Lord, but we should strive to be less dependent on the time, energy, and resources of other believers. Let's get better at giving than receiving. And may the kingdom of God be enriched by the fruit we bear to Christ's glory!

(from Power, March 2005)

DYING WITHOUT GOD

Charles Box

Some person you know and love is going to die unprepared for death and judgment. They will die without God and without hope. And remember these are people who are precious to you. This is a tragedy of all tragedies.

These precious lost ones do not have to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). Christ Jesus gave His life to redeem the lost from sin. At just the right time Jesus was born. "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Gal. 4:4). He lived without sin and then died on a cross to save sinners (Heb. 2:9). If it was not for the death of Jesus, God would have no choice but to punish men for sin. But, Jesus died as our sin substitute (2 Cor. 5:21).

The gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). You must share this salvation message with as many as you can. Your love, prayer, concern, and effort may lead them to the "Lamb of God" so their sin can be forgiven. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Are you putting forth an honest effort to win the souls of others for Jesus? Do you want to face God in eternity having done any less than your best in reaching the lost? Do you want to sit by and allow people you love, people who are precious to you, people you work with or even strangers to die without God and without hope? Do you want to look into the cold, lifeless face of a fellow human being and be left with the awful thought that you might have done something to save them from hell if only you had tried?

If souls are to be won specific action must be taken:

- Select six people who, with God's help, you will try to win for Jesus. The six are:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
- Pray for them daily by name.
- Encourage these lost ones to attend the service of the church. Pick them up for the assembly and sit with them during the worship.
- Have them in your home for a meal and also visit in their home.
- Study the Bible with them in some organized way.
- Be a true friend to these lost ones.

Do not give up. Be persistent in the things above and in other things you can do to bring these lost ones to Jesus. "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psm.126:5-6).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, June 19

**Memphis School of Preaching Graduation
Garland Elkins will speak at all services**

July 18-22

**Vacation Bible School
"Steps of Salvation"**

November 5

Ladies Day

Guest Speaker: Melanie Webster

November 6-9

Gospel Meeting

Guest Speaker: Chuck Webster

