

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS



**Forest Hill  
Church of Christ**  
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## **Elders:**

Anthony D. Callahan  
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Floyd M. Hayes  
Gregory D. Mangrum  
Harold D. Mangrum  
Keith B. McAlister  
Leonard Watson

## **Minister:**

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit

## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 5:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

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

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## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!**

Barry M. Grider

The Knight Arnold/Forest Hill congregation enjoyed its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this past Lord's day. Between 500-600 were present for the morning service and luncheon. Over 300 remained for our afternoon worship period. Brother David Looney, formerly our associate minister and presently evangelist of the Bolivar church of Christ, stirred our hearts and emotions as he spoke of the influence of the congregation upon his life and the lives of so many others. Later during our morning worship service brother Robert Taylor, Jr., dear friend of Forest Hill and preacher for the Ripley, Tennessee church of Christ, encouraged us with a beautiful message. He spoke about the church of the New Testament and commended our congregation for seeking to be such. It was good to recognize past and present elders and deacons. Likewise, the congregation saluted the family of the late E. L. Whitaker, Jr. Brother Whitaker capably served the congregation for 33 years as pulpit minister. Also, it was pleasing to see a sizable group present who, likewise, were present that first Sunday in 1959.

Many thanks go to all who made this day possible. As usual, a number of folks worked tirelessly behind the scenes preparing for the special day. We particularly are grateful to our decorations coordinator, Becky Sowell, whose talent continues to amaze the rest of us, and Janet Sanders, our church secretary, for continually preparing the powerpoint presentations that have been viewed by the congregation during the weeks prior to the anniversary. Because of the large crowd extra tables were set up in the fellowship hall. Still we were not lacking in food. The fellowship meal was simply awesome.

God has really blessed our congregation these 50 years. We continue to be thankful for the various works in which we are engaged including the Memphis School of Preaching, the work team program, our educational and youth departments, and our many evangelistic and missionary endeavors. As we begin the next 50 years, may our focus always be on exalting Christ, following His word, and winning souls for Him. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your evangelist. God bless!

## LOVE

E. L. Whitaker, Jr.

It is alarming to see brethren who claim to be children of God “bite and devour one another” and if they are not careful they will be “consumed one of another”. This contention is not defending doctrine, but a matter of judgment. It is a sin, the sin of disposition. This should not be, because we have been called out of sin to live **holy lives** before God and are designated as saints (1 Cor. 1:2).

Being part of one another we are described as being members of a body (1 Cor. 12:12, 27). When all is proper with a physical family, they enjoy brotherly love, (*philia*). Barclay’s comments on the noun “*philia*”, and the verb “*philein*” states, “There is a lovely warmth about these words. They mean to look on someone with affectionate regard—best translated ‘to church’—they have in them all the warmth of real affection—all beautified words to express a beautiful relationship—closeness and affection”. God has planned for His spiritual family to practice and rejoice in love of the brethren (Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:7).

First Corinthians 1:10 tells us we are brethren in Christ. What does it mean to say we have Jesus Christ as our Lord? **Lord** implies servants who are to obey. **Jesus** implies that sinners are to be saved by His grace. **Christ** which means prophet, priest, and king implies the necessity of believing His word, accepting His sacrifice for sin and obeying Him, for all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him (Mat. 28:19,20). This divine name is, in itself, a strong appeal to abandon this ugly spirit (1 Pet. 2:21-23).

God gives us another word in the Bible that is to direct our lives. If we fail in this we are taking a disastrous path because it eventually results in the damnation of the soul. That word is love (*agape*). William Barclay:

Agapan (verb form) has none of the warmth that characterizes *philein*—There is a warmth in *philein*, not in *agapan*—*agape* has to do with the mind; it is not simply an emotion which arises unbidden on our hearts; it is a principle by which we **delib**

**erately** live. *Agape* has supremely to do with the will. It is a conquest, a victory, an achievement—The basis of every conceivable right relationship is the love (*agape*).

If I have *agape* love it means I will try to think, speak, and act toward you in the way that is best for you, not for me, regardless of my feelings about you.

Why should people love? God has so commanded (1 John 5:2,3; 2 John 6; Rom. 13:10). Love is the synonym of “God”.

Love transmutes every thread throughout the whole web of relation into a golden ray, and bathes the soul in a new and sweeter element. Love hides a multitude of evil. Everything is beautiful viewed from the point of **love**.

“Love is a fire that kindles its first embers in the narrow nook of a private bosom caught from a wondering spark out of another private heart, which glows and enlarges until it warms and beams upon multitudes of men and women.”

Love is omnipresent in nature. Oh, how much tenderness, how much devotion, how much sacrifice is couched in this little word of four letters.

Think how many poor souls are groping their way in darkness and despair, how many are fainting by the wayside, and how many are sinking into perdition daily for the lack of love.

God is love (1 John 4:16). How can I be a follower of God and fail to practice love? It takes practice to make anything perfect in anything. The word is not a playground, but a school room; life is not a holiday but an education; and the one final lesson for us all is, to learn to love.

Love “thinks no evil,” imputes no motives, sees only the bright side, and puts the best construction on every action. Can you think of anything more needed in this cold uncharitable world than “love”? It is possible to cry, Lord, Lord, very loudly, and to have none of the spirit of Christ (Mat. 7:21-23).

(from *The Knight Arnold News*, March 29, 1988)

## THE FOUR PROMISES OF FORGIVENESS

1. “I will no longer dwell on this incident.”
2. “I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.”
3. “I will not talk to others about this incident.”
4. “I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our relationship.”

“Even as Christ forgave you, so also you must do” (Col. 3:13).

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