



Forcey *focus*

GROWING UP TO LOVE GOD AND PEOPLE
WITH HEAD, HEART AND HANDS, LIKE JESUS

Marking Your Growth Chart

Pastor Phil Powers

Many of you, like us, marked the growth of children with pencil marks on the wall or door frame. Though we have moved several times since our boys were small, we had transferred those marks to a paper roll. When we look at those lines with dates and measurements, we smile, remembering some events that also marked the progress of time and growth.

I recently received a list of questions distributed by the C.S. Lewis Institute. These are intended to be a yardstick and door frame for measuring your spiritual growth as this New Year has begun. Spend some quiet time answering these questions and see how much you have grown—and perhaps look up at the next phase of your growth and see what it will look like if you take those next steps with Jesus.

1. How is my personal relationship with God?

- Do I have a growing desire to spend more time with God? Am I spending appropriate time praying, reading and meditating on the word?
- Am I growing in my desire to obey and please God? Do I obey out of gratitude for God's love? Or from guilt or fear?
- Have I fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit? Do I ask God to fill me each day with the Holy Spirit?
- Are there areas I am holding back from God? Which ones? Why?
- Am I more aware of the sins in my life? Do I repent on a daily basis and receive forgiveness and cleansing from God. Have I fully, truthfully repented of all past and current sins?

2. Am I actively serving God in some way?

- Volunteering at church?
- Praying regularly for the pastor, staff, missionaries and volunteers?
- Am I seeking to make others feel welcome in my church?

3. Am I growing in my desire and actions to give sacrificially to God's work in the church and other ministries? Am I teaching my children about sacrificial giving and putting God before materialistic desires?

4. Am I living in humility before God, my family, friends and co-workers?

5. Is there evidence of grace growing in my life? Do I thank God every day for his love, grace and mercy and saving me from what I deserve? Am I learning to see others through the mind of Christ? Am I treating others with the same grace God has shown me?

6. Am I loving my family as I should?

- Husbands, are you loving your wives? How, specifically?
- Wives, are you respecting your husbands? How, specifically?
- Parents – are we teaching our children the Bible, how to pray, and how to please God?
- Am I managing my time in a way that reflects God's priorities and honors my family relationships? What specific changes are needed?
- Are there any outside influences that are harming my family relationships? If so, what will I do about them?



7. Am I forgiving others?

- Is there anyone among my family, friends, neighbors or coworkers that I refuse to forgive?
- Do I fully trust that God has forgiven my sins?

8. Am I growing in fellowship with other believers?

- Am I part of a small group? Is it making a difference in the lives of participants?
- Do I have a Godly mentor to help me grow in my walk with Christ?
- Am I mentoring/disciplining a newer believer?

9. Have I personally witnessed to anyone in the past year? In my neighborhood? In my workplace? Am I prepared to share my testimony? To share the Gospel?

- Am I fervently praying for and planning opportunities to witness in this coming year?
- Am I being salt and light in my neighborhood, workplace and social groups? How, specifically?

10. Am I focusing part of my time and money to help the poor and disadvantaged? Am I teaching my children about the importance of helping the poor? How?

Trustees Corner



Greetings readers--this is the inaugural issue of the "Trustees Corner." We are adding this column to continue the dialogue between ourselves and the congregation and share with you the work we are overseeing and offer it up for your prayerful consid-

eration and support. As most of you know, we operate an Official Board at Forcey Memorial Church, composed of the pastors, the Elders, and the Trustees. The Trustee board is responsible for oversight of the business operations of the church and the related support to the ministries and our congregational members. The Trustees and their areas of oversight are: Chris Carlson, Chair; Brent Douglas, Office; Scott Keen, Treasurer and Finance; Devin Stover, Buildings and Grounds; Ken Wesche, Church Administrator and Office Manager; and Chuck Williams, Human Relations.

We meet regularly, normally twice a month during the school year, and have representatives from the different areas we support sharing their operations and needs with us at the beginning of each meeting. In January, we focused on the Buildings and Grounds area and met with the Audio Visual support ministry, led by David Hull, and the Library ministry, led by Al Zapata. We ask for your continued prayer for all of our ministries and our abilities to serve them and you faithfully in a way that shows glory to God and demonstrates the proper custody of the church.

Soul Winning at Forcey



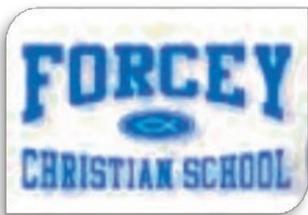
"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim 2:2). The Christian is exhorted to multiply his efforts by training others to carry on the work of the

ministry. This applies especially to the work of soul winning. A recent experience by a new member of Forcey serves to illustrate this principle.

During this past fall season, Forcey's EE team conducted a ten-week class on Tuesday evenings on how to lead a person to Christ. The classroom teaching was combined with on-the-job training to allow each trainee to put into practice certain soul-winning principles. The long-range goal of this class was to provide both the tools and motivation so that each trainee would one day be able to launch out on their own, witnessing for the Lord and leading others to Christ wherever they would go. By the end of the course each trainee had led a soul to Christ.

The real impact of this soul-winning course, however, was seen a few weeks later when one of the trainees (a new member at Forcey) reported that while visiting his family out-of-state over Christmas, he had the privilege of leading his mother to Christ. He was not only excited about her salvation, but stated that he now had his sights set on his father and brother to bring them to Christ. This zeal for the salvation of lost family members demonstrated the work of the Holy Spirit in that new soul winner's heart, making him indeed a faithful servant who is "able to teach others also" (II Tim 2:2).

- Ralph Zimmerman



Registration for 2011-2012

-Rev. Ezekiel Wharton, Administrator

The registration period for children of Forcey Memorial Church members will be held from February 2-8. During this time, FMC members may register/re-enroll children for 3 year old preschool (classes meet half days on Tuesdays and Thursdays) and 4 year old preschool (options include half day morning class [M-F], half day morning class [M/W/F], half day afternoon class [M-F], or half day afternoon class [M/W/F]). They may also re-enroll children for kindergarten and grades 1-8.

Children who are not currently enrolled in the school may be placed on a waiting list for kindergarten and grades 1-8 and will be given first priority after currently enrolled children are given the opportunity to re-enroll from February 9-16. Application forms will be available on the table outside the school office, Room 163, beginning January 25, and at our website: www.forceychristianschool.org. For further information, please contact the school office at 301-622-2281.

It's All About Worship

Everything in the life of a believer and in the life of the church is about worship. It's about praising Him with our lips, thanking Him with our hearts, and demonstrating His love and grace with our lives. The teaching and the fellowship and the activities are great, but they all come down to worship at their core.

Did you ever realize that Missions is all about worship? There are some fantastic worship scenes in the early chapters of Revelation that picture the time when all of creation, in the heavens and the earth, worships God whole-heartedly. The phrase "every nation, tongue and tribe" comes from this part of the Word. The primary role of Missions is to generate that crowd scene – to take the Gospel to the nations, tongues and tribes that have never heard, and raise up those worshippers!

Raising up true worshippers everywhere in the world will be the theme of our **Missions Conference** this year. We will be focusing on people in difficult lands who are not just finding a Savior, but learning to truly worship and take the love of God to their own people – and beyond their own borders as well.



The **Missions Conference** will run from **March 20-27**, with featured speakers like Lou Felo, Hanna Shahin and Mark Lewis. We'll have a men's breakfast, a women's tea, extended time of prayer, multiple seminars during the week, and quite simply the greatest pot-luck dinner ever done by people who aren't Baptists. Perhaps the most exciting thing will be to learn about some marvelous progress in our commitment to the people of southern Sumatra. Our prayers are being answered in a big way, and the Conference is where you'll learn all about it.

If you've been at Forcey for awhile, and you just don't quite get what the missions thing is all about, this is the place to find out. You'll come away with a new burden for a world that is terribly lost, and great joy in the incredible things that God is doing. When Jesus said that the Gates of Hell could never withstand the onslaught of His church, He wasn't talking in parables. That's what's happening in our world today. Come out that week, and learn more and more about it.

- Bob Wilttrout

Is Your Body For God?



In his enlightening book, **Bod4God**, Pastor Steve Reynolds shares his story of going from 340 lbs with type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure to reversing all

those problems losing over 100 lbs! When he learned how losing weight might help his health problems he decided to call on God and begin exercising and cut back on his over-eating. He found inspiration from verses like Colossians 1:16 "... all things were created by Him and for Him." It reminded him that even his body was for God and belonged to God. In Philippians 1:20 it says "... Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body." He realized that he needed to honor God, not just with his heart and mind, but with his body as well. Through God's strength, he began to shed the weight and soon found he no longer had high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or any symptoms of diabetes.

So many people asked him about what he was doing that he felt a responsibility to share it with others and put together a sermon series for his church. Since then it has transformed into the highly successful **Losing to Live** program that has not only helped his church members get healthier, but has been a great means of outreach to the community. All together their community has lost over 6,000 pounds.

You may know some of the people who are involved with the program here at Forcey. Please make every effort to encourage and support them. Pray for them, get together with them and go walking instead of eating. If they are part of your household, then be sure to stock the refrigerator with plenty of fruits and vegetables and be willing to try new healthy recipes. Even better, why not ask them to share what they've been learning and join them so you too can revitalize your health.

To learn more go to www.bod4god.org, or email Nancy Parlette, healthylivingstrategies@comcast.net.

- Nancy Parlette, Health Ministry

THANK YOU!!

In case you didn't notice, that is a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who come early or on time to first service **AND** park on the Seventh Day Adventist HQ lot on the corners of Randolph Rd. and Old Columbia Pike diagonally across from the Forcey parking lot. Your selfless love, kindness, and concern for the welfare of the elderly, disabled, parents with young children, visitors, newcomers, and those who attend second service is deeply appreciated. Further, by parking on the Adventist lot you help assure that our lot is less crowded, less prone to fender benders, and our fire lanes are kept open for the safety of all who worship with us.

Also a **BIG THANK YOU** to our shuttle driver Victor Rivas, for his faithful service, his cheerful demeanor, his commitment to the Lord, the people of Forcey and the Shuttle Ministry! Without Victor's service it's possible we could have no shuttle ministry. Victor, we appreciate your service!

That being said, Victor and *the shuttle ministry need your help*. First, we need four drivers with a clear driving record who can contribute 1/2 to 1-1/2 hours **PER MONTH** to the shuttle ministry. If you have been looking for an area to serve with a minimal time commitment required, perhaps this ministry would be well suited for you. If so, please contact Craig Riston at criston@gmail.com and let me know if you are interested in this opportunity to serve the body of Christ.



Finally, we still have folks who are parking by the yellow curbs and in areas with yellow diagonal lines that are designated fire lanes. Not only is this illegal, it is a safety hazard that affects all who are worshipping in the building on Sunday mornings. We also have cars parking in the handicap parking spaces without displaying a handicap parking sticker or tag which is illegal. Therefore, we have been placing notices on windshields and have begun noting vehicle model and tag numbers of those in violation. In the future, a call will be made to repeat offenders about their violating the safety around our building.

- Craig Riston

February Calendar Highlights

- 1 SAM Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Senior Luncheon hosted by Crossroads
- 15 SAM Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Corporate Prayer

For a complete calendar of events, visit the [Forcey Memorial Church website](#).

Our Pastoral Staff

Philip Powers	Senior Pastor	301-928-8057
Gerard Schneider	Associate Pastor for Counseling & Family Ministries	301-987-8953
Ronald Jones	Associate Pastor for Christian Education	301-928-8059
Lonnie Harris	Associate Pastor of Singles Ministries	301-704-6708
Chris Marchand	Associate Pastor for Teens	301-219-6610
John Itzel	Minister of Music and Worship	301-929-8062
Art Kennedy	Minister of Arts and Worship	301-802-3864