



# Forcey

# focus

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

## Only Jesus

Here in our part of the world, many people are willing to admit *spiritual* beliefs and desires while at the same time they reject everything that is *religious*. What I mean is that they believe in a realm of existence they can't see—the after-life, immaterial beings, God—but they don't buy into the church or the Bible. Maybe they have been hurt by religious people—whatever the religion, or perhaps they were disillusioned by something that showed them the hypocrisy of those claiming to follow Christ but looking very much like the world.

And around the world are billions of people who also cling to spiritual beliefs, but for a variety of other reasons know nothing of the true Jesus Christ or want nothing to do with Him. Whether here or there, from ancient times to the present, people continue to look for a god they can live with—a god that fits with their understandings and desires—a god that is comfortable.

But the true God is far from comfortable. He doesn't fit into our world. He demands we be transformed by and

into His life. That's what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). In *The Silver Chair*, C.S. Lewis described the true God who revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus. In this story, Jill, who is all alone in the forest and is very thirsty, encounters the Great Lion, Aslan, who is resting between her and a refreshing stream. "Are you not thirsty?" said the Lion.

"I'm dying of thirst," said Jill.

"Then drink," said the Lion.

"May I—could I—would you mind going away while I do?" said Jill.

The Lion answered this only by a look and a very low growl. And as Jill gazed at its motionless bulk, she realized that she might as well have asked the whole mountain to move aside for her convenience.

The delicious rippling noise of the stream was driving her nearly frantic.

"Will you promise not to—do anything to



me, if I do come?" said Jill.

"I make no promise," said the Lion.

"Do you eat girls?" she said.

"I have swallowed up girls and boys, women and men, kings and emperors, cities and realms," said the Lion. It didn't say this as if it were boasting, nor as if it were sorry, nor as if it were angry. It just said it.

"I daren't come and drink," said Jill.

"Then you will die of thirst," said the Lion.

"Oh dear!" said Jill, coming another step nearer. "I suppose I must go and look for another stream then."

"There is no other stream," said the Lion.

The majesty, goodness and absolute demands of God are not up for debate, nor can they be compromised. He promises what we need for our thirst on His terms. Our distorted ideas about God must be set aside for the only One who matters—the One for whom we were made. Whatever it is that keeps a distance between you and God isn't worth it. Come and drink.

- Pastor Phil Powers

## Soul Winning at Forcey

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life..." (1 John 5:13a).

According to this verse, the believer is able to know for certain in this life that he has eternal life. This assurance of salvation is often a good starting point in arousing the interest of a prospect concerning their need of Christ. A recent interview by a Forcey member with a patient at a local hospital helps to illustrate this point.

As the Forcey member visited from room to room, he encountered a middle-aged patient named Doris. When he asked about her assurance of eternal life, she became excited over the possibility that a person could know for cer-



tain that they will go to Heaven. The Forcey member then began to present the gospel to Doris, showing from the Scriptures that her good works could not remove her sins, but that she must place her trust in the Lord Jesus in order to be saved. After completing

the gospel presentation and answering her many questions, he then gave Doris the opportunity to receive Christ as her Savior. With evident sincerity, Doris bowed her head and called upon the Lord Jesus to save her soul.

The Forcey member then reviewed with Doris the Scriptures concerning the assurance of her salvation in Christ. She thanked him profusely for explaining to her the way to Heaven, and they rejoiced together that she now had the certainty of eternal life (1 John 5:13a).

- Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team

# Trustees Corner



The Trustees have been exercising our oversight responsibilities in our areas of church operations, business operations, and ministry support. The Finance subcommittee has successfully overseen the annual review of our financial reporting by an outside auditor. This is conducted as a

measure of good stewardship and as a requirement of our loan terms. The Building and Grounds subcommittee successfully replaced the HVAC unit in the choir room area. Additionally, the subcommittee is preparing to replace the fan in the main sanctuary HVAC unit.

Thank you again 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.

## Health Ministry Support Team

**A**re your health needs compromising your quality of life? Are you a person who enjoys helping others by doing things you already **love** to do? The Health Ministry team would like to connect you!!!

**What is a Support Team?** - A group of people (friends, neighbors, family and church family) organized to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support to persons with health concerns or other special needs. The activities of a Support Team are based on two things:

1. You identify areas where you can use some assistance and friendly support
2. What the team is able to offer based on their time availability, skills and what they enjoy doing.

Using a team approach, volunteers will pool their talents, creativity and time to offer more care giving than one volunteer can provide alone. **The Team Principles: Do What You Can, When You Can, In a Coordinated Way, & With Built-in Support System.** The Health Ministry Team Members, (Joy Wright, Catherine Ajenifuja and Nancy Parlette) in collaboration with Holy Cross Faith Community Nursing, have completed training to identify, train and provide support to new team leaders.

**What can you do?** To learn more about Support Teams, the team will show an introductory video to various groups at Forcey, and ask you to identify your time commitment, skills, and to learn more about what you enjoy doing. "So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it". *1Corinthians 12: verses 25-26.*

- Joy Wright for the Health Ministry Team

## In Like A Lion, Busy Like A Bee



**Y**es indeed, your month of March is going to finish with a flourish of frantic activity. Why? Because you'll be so involved with everything happening at the Missions Conference, of course! Let me just list a few of the things:

- ◆ **Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>** has a men's breakfast planned, with a special speaker coming to us directly from behind enemy lines! Secret Agent? Awfully close to one. Great stories, great challenge – and lots of bacon!
- ◆ **Sunday morning** with that same secret agent, followed by Sunday evening with a time of prayer with 6 or 7 of our favorite missionaries. A chance to do some serious Kingdom warfare. (No bacon, as far as I know.)
- ◆ **Wednesday evening seminars on the 23<sup>rd</sup>** with a wide variety of challenging topics covering at least three hemispheres. 4 or 5 topics will be offered, and you'll have the opportunity to attend any 3. Everybody comes away knowing things they never imagined.
- ◆ **Thursday** a luncheon or a dessert for the women of Forcey. Details not known to me at this time, but then, I'm not invited, am I?
- ◆ **Saturday evening the 26<sup>th</sup>** will be the Missions Banquet – simply the greatest pot-luck dinner around! Bring some of your best food, bring your own chopsticks if you prefer, and enjoy an evening where we share our burden for the nation of Indonesia. You'll learn what is happening there because of YOU. Seriously!
- ◆ The second Sunday morning, our speaker he will share the Word with us, and offer fresh perspectives on how God is pulling the nations of the Muslim world into His Kingdom.

If you can handle all of this, you will be blessed! And I can promise you that we'll offer you a much lighter schedule in April.

-Bob Wiltrout, Missions Coordinator

**MISSIONS WEEK  
MARCH 20-27**

# It's Family Photo Time!



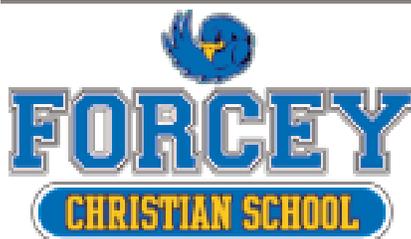
Olan Mills is coming to Forcey starting April 6<sup>th</sup> to give you a **FREE 8x10 family portrait** along with a copy of the **Forcey Family photo directory**. The Forcey family has been growing and changing and it's time for a new family album.

This is a great way to help the family at Forcey to connect with one another. We've all had those moments when we forget the name of the person in the pew behind us, or when we want to find someone who is listed in the bulletin but we don't know what they look like. Those problems are solved with a church photo album. What about using it to pray for those who are sick, new parents, the church staff or a particular ministry? The uses are limitless!

Early bird sign-up has begun online and is available until March 11th at [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com).

1. Click on the left button to "schedule a new appointment".
2. On the next screen, type in the church phone number (301 622-2200).
3. Next, add all your information and click "save".
4. Use the arrows on the calendar to move to April and pick a day and time in red.
5. Olan Mills will send you an email reminder.

Paper sign-up is scheduled on Sundays before, between, and after services in the church foyer from February 27 - March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have not signed up then and were in our previous directory, you will receive a phone call from Olan Mills to schedule your portrait time. Your caller ID will read "church directories". You can also call them to set or change an appointment at (800) 866-2263.



These are busy times at FCS! We now have the privilege of working with more than 560 students. From three-year-olds to eighth graders, we are working to help each one grow academically, socially, and spiritually. We are also in the midst of our registration process for the coming school year. In what are still uncertain economic times for many families, we so appreciate their commitment to Christian education and specifically with partnering with us. We also appreciate being a ministry of Forcey Church. At our February open house, we were encouraged to

meet families who were introduced to us through other ministries, like Mother's Day Out. Moreover, we were pleased to have FCS graduate and Forcey Day Camp director, Mike Maslin, share at our open house at which he got to pass out flyers about this year's camp program, too. In the meantime, some other exciting things have happened around FCS. Leon Schwarzer, a sixth grader, took second place at the ACSI Geography Bee in Lancaster, PA. Our boys' basketball team upset rival Beltsville Adventist. You have probably already seen our new gym floor and the mighty falcon and Forcey lettering painted on the gym wall by Kim Seagle. A group of FCS students, including some girls in Pioneer Girls, sent 140 Valentine's cards to wounded warriors at

the National Medical Center. Our seventh and eighth graders donated over \$1,000 to World Vision for needy children. Also, our staff has been laboring diligently on the school-improvement process, working toward accreditation through the ACSI and Middle States.

In the midst of all this, we are as dedicated as ever to our mission of helping students become more fully-devoted followers of Christ. Even though these may be challenging economic and cultural times, we are committed to pursuing excellence on behalf of our students and their Creator. Thank you for your prayers.

**-Rev. Ezekiel Wharton, Administrator**



## Fall 2011 Retreat

We invite you to begin planning to attend the SIS retreat on October 14 and 15, 2011. Invite a friend or family member to join you in a time of spiritual refreshment based on the topic *Investing in Your Relationship with God and Others* (Matthew 22:36-39). Our speaker, Mrs. Leslie Bond, is a part of Renewed Women Ministries and resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Bonds have many ties here in Maryland from their time of ministry in our area.

Payment plans are available to help fit the retreat into your family budget. Beginning in March, a 6-month payment plan of \$25 per month will be available OR you may choose 3 monthly payments of \$50 beginning in June. The total cost of the retreat is \$150 per person and includes a corporate and personal time in God's Word, a private room, wonderful food, a beautiful setting and of course, fabulous Forcey fellowship. Check the SIS table in the church lobby for more information and details. It is our hope and prayer that you will be able to join us for this special time with your Sisters in Symphony!

# March Calendar Highlights

- ◆ **Precepts Bible Study** - 1st & 3rd Monday of the month @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **SAM Bible Study** - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Challengers Club** - Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Young Women's Bible Study** - Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Stockade Club** - Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Battalion Club** - Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Karate** - Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **SIS Prayer** - Saturday @ 7:00 a.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Body & Soul** - Saturday @ 8:30 a.m. (weekly)
- ◆ **Missions Conference** - March 20-27

For a complete calendar of events, visit the **Forcey Memorial Church website.**

## Our Pastoral Staff

Philip Powers, Senior Pastor  
Gerard Schneider, Associate Pastor for Counseling & Family Ministries  
Ronald Jones, Associate Pastor for Christian Education  
Lonnie Harris, Associate Pastor of Singles Ministries  
Chris Marchand, Associate Pastor for Teens  
John Itzel, Minister of Music and Worship  
Art Kennedy, Minister of Arts and Worship

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**(301) 622-2200** ◆ **www.forcey.org**