

Life Lived Alongside Others

and play. Get outside of your comfort zone and go! Be gospel-living, gospel-speaking people at every moment and in every context.

What is our mission?

Some may suggest it is to worship together.

Others will say to grow in numbers with people becoming believers. Perhaps it is to be a family that cares for one another, or to inspire people, or to train people in pastoral care so that we meet the needs of hurting people.

These are all good things, but they can end up as shadow missions - substitutes or distractions from the true mission. Jesus said there is only one mission: make disciples. This happens in life lived together, in real-life discipleship. Jesus taught it and modeled it. For whatever gap there may be between what we believe and putting faith into action, this is key to bridging that gap.

Jesus' revolution didn't focus on the masses or multitudes (even though they were often drawn to Him). Instead it revolved around a few men; a few who would think as He did, love as He did, see as He did, teach as He did, and serve as He did. God would impact the world by changing the hearts of a few.

Jesus said our mission requires *going*. This is first - intentionally taking the gospel to people where they live, work,

Then He said we are to *baptize*. The word "baptize" means "to identify." Being baptized is a simple, public, symbolic picture of your identification with Christ. It tells others in a visible way that you believed in Him and gave yourself to Him - you are now a follower of Jesus.

But baptism also declares our identification with brothers and sisters who share the same life of Christ. Disciple-making involves bringing people into a larger community of faith where they participate in the life of Christ in action and the love of Christ in person. So the question of discipleship is this: to whom are you deliberately, intentionally, and sacrificially showing the life of Christ in this way? Making disciples only happens when we allow others to get close enough to us to see the life of Christ in action. It is life lived alongside others.

Jesus said the third step in our mission requires *teaching*. Not just to give somebody head knowledge of the Bible and doctrine, but to see obedience. We must tell somebody what Jesus said, show them how to live it, and then watch as they also live it. Don't think "classroom" or "lecture-style" instruction. These have their place, but the world and life must be a perpetual classroom for instruction at every moment, if we are to do it like Jesus. It is life lived alongside.

(Continued on page 3)



Meet Our Elder Candidates

BOB WILTROUT



Bob and Andrea Wiltrout have been attending Forcey for almost 40 years, and have been members since 1980. Bob has previously served four terms on the Board of Elders, and "at least 15 years" on the Forcey Missions Committee. Besides his activities at Forcey, he has done active ministry with Youth For Christ, the Navigators, and Walk Thru the Bible at various times

in his life. Andrea has taught the Ladies' Bible class for 15 years, while Bob has taught many different classes at different times. If you asked either of them where their heart really is, the answer would be in world missions. "God's heart is for the entire world, and if we don't have that same heart, we are very much out of line with His purposes."

*Vote October 20
during the Annual
Congregation Meeting!*

GREG STAGGERS



Background

I have lived in the Washington/Baltimore area my entire life. I married my wife Liz in 1989 and have three children, Anne age 21, John age 18 and Michael age 17 in our Clarksville, Md. home. I graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1978, and have worked in the electrical power generation business since that time.

Testimony

I became a believer in 1993 while attending a Forcey Sunday School Class when I put my personal faith in Jesus Christ alone as my Savior and was baptized at Forcey the following June.

Serving the Lord

My wife and I have served in many different areas in the church over the past 20 years at Forcey. We have been teaching Sunday School for the past 18 years in the Beginner Department where we have met many Forcey Families. I have lead Adult Small Groups and/or Home Groups over the past 10 years. I have led a group of teen boys since they were 12 years old in a small group over the past 5 years. My wife and I currently serve on the Communion Set Up Team. I previously served on the Board of Elders at Forcey from 2000 – 2006. I am a 1997 Evangelism Explosion graduate and was a team leader from 1998 – 2003. I served on the Missions Committee in 1999 and served two years on the Forcey School Board (2005 & 2006). I am looking forward to serving on the Elder Board again.



“When any one heareth the word...then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart” (Matt 13:19). In sowing the seed of the gospel, the soul winner occasionally finds that Satan can remove the word sown in the heart, even when the prospect seems open and ready to receive Christ. During a recent visit to a local hospital, a Forcey member experienced this very situation.

While visiting from room to room, the Forcey member met Richard, an older patient suffering from advanced COPD. Despite taking oxygen and struggling to breathe, he still could explain at length the difficulties of his condition. When the opportunity presented itself, the Forcey member moved the conversation to the gospel of Christ. Richard listened attentively, asked some relevant questions, and acknowledged his need to trust Christ as his Savior. However, when the Forcey member attempted to lead him to the Lord Jesus, he politely balked, saying that he wanted to receive Christ’s salvation in his own church. Knowing the doctrinal errors of his church, the Forcey member warned him from the Scriptures of the danger of delay. Nevertheless Richard insisted that he would receive Christ at a later time in his home church.

If you are interested in being part of the Evangelism Team, or would like more information about this ministry, send an email to [Ralph Zimmerman](mailto:Ralph.Zimmerman).

At that point the Forcey member gave him a New Testament and some gospel tracts, and also prayed for his medical needs. Richard thanked him for the New Testament, saying it was the first Bible that he could call his own. As he left, the Forcey member resolved to pray for this suffering man that the seed that Satan seemed to snatch from his heart would yet bear fruit unto salvation.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team

Mark Your Calendar!

FBC Congregational Meeting on October 20, 7:00 p.m. immediately following the Soup-Off and Christmas in October festivities. (more info on page 4)

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We need wholesale, systematic change in the way we think. Relational discipleship needs to be the environment for bridging our gap. Left to ourselves, we will try to fix the problem with new classes and programs. What we need, instead, is to understand and to be committed to the one thing that links together everything we do—to create a cohesive whole, where the essential things are our one focus and anything else is peripheral. So that we can say of anything and everything, *we do this because it is necessary for making disciples.*

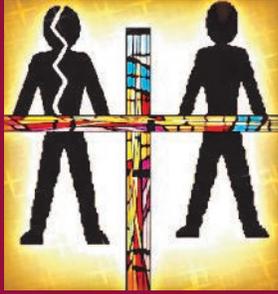
Yes, we will need some programs and events, but what we choose to do will come as answers to these questions:

- 1) How do we go - have contact/relationship with those far from God?**
- 2) What do we need to be able to share the gospel with confidence?**
- 3) How do we teach someone to obey in the context of life lived alongside - by modeling and doing?**

We need ownership of the shared mission Jesus gave us. And it is already happening - just listen to each other and the stories some are starting to share! Listen to the Spirit! Who will you live the life of Christ alongside?

~ Pastor Phil Powers, Senior Pastor

Stephen Ministry



As you sit in the pew on Sunday or walk down the hall at church, do you really know what's happening in the lives of those around you? We don't usually get past the "How are you?" as we greet people, but there are lots of folks who have hurts and losses on any given Sunday as well as the rest of the week. Would you be able to respond in a distinctively Christian caring way if the person next to you shared their hurt? Would you know how to care? Like training to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is to physical body emergencies, Stephen Ministry is specialized training designed to administer distinctively Christian caring to the soul in crisis.

a gift you can give

This training has changed my life. It has personally helped me to grow closer to the Lord, to better care for myself, and to more effectively care for others who are experiencing crises and hurts. We all need to be cared for and many times to have someone come along side us for support. Knowing that there are Christian brothers and sisters, who can confidentially be available to us to do that, is a gift to us. Training to be that person, for those in the pew next to you or other hurting folks, is your special gift to them.



A new class will begin soon for those who would like to become a Forcey Stephen Minister. If you'd like to learn more about what the Stephen Ministry is, please go to Forcey's web site (forcey.org) and on the "Ministries" options, click on Stephen Ministries. You can also contact Pastor Schneider with any questions, (301) 622-2200 or Jerry-Schneider@forcey.org.

~ Flo Strawser, Stephen Ministry Leader

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 20 in conjunction with the Soup Cook-Off and the Annual Meeting

Here is your opportunity to:

- Enjoy a good meal
- Fellowship with the Forcey Family
- Meet Forcey missionaries in a small group setting

There will be a special children's missions program during Christmas in October for children age 4 – 5th grade. (Childcare provided for infant-age 3.)

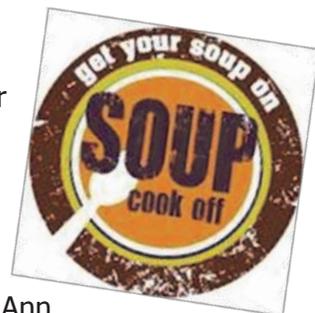
A love offering will be taken to provide a Christmas gift to our missionaries. We do this in October in order to process the offering and get it to our missionaries before Christmas.

SOUP COOK-OFF

Sunday, October 20, 5:00 p.m.

No charge, but reservations required. All donations will go to our missionaries as part of the Christmas in October offering.

For more information, contact Sue Lee, samonim3130@gmail.com or Ann Hunt, ann-hunt@forcey.org.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Harvest Fest!

October 31
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat is a safe, fun and not-so-scary alternative to going door-to-door and is fun for even the youngest of children! Theme decorated cars will line the parking lot while families and friends go trunk to trunk collecting candy!

The event will also have carnival games, hot dogs, prizes, fun costumes, and a moon bounce – and it's all FREE!

Invite every family you know!!

Teens 2013 Retreat

This retreat will focus on disciplines of the faith: the personal devotional life, friendship and accountability, prayer, and timeless habits of godliness. Our prayer is to re-emerge from the weekend more deeply rooted in Jesus, with both the passions and the skills to strive after Him more earnestly.

Dates: Nov 15 – Nov 17, 2013

Depart: Leave Forcey at 4:15 p.m. (dinner provided)

Return: Arrive back to Forcey by 1:30 p.m. on Sunday

Cost: If paid by - **Sun, Oct 13** - \$100

Sun, Nov 3 - \$110

After Nov 3 - \$120

**\$10 OFF each sibling*

November 15 -17

ROOTED
Colossians 2:6-7



"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in the Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." - Colossians 2:6-7

18th Annual Forcey Craft Show & Bake Sale

Mark your Calendar to attend this year's 18th Annual Forcey Craft Show and Bake Sale to be held on Saturday, November 23, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

All proceeds benefit Forcey Christian School. Crafters and Bakers interested in participating, please contact Metta Wagner at forceycraftshow@gmail.com or 301-570-4670.

Volunteers to assist in all areas are welcomed and needed, please contact Metta.