

FORCEY MEMORIAL CHURCH

August 2008
Volume 37, Number 8



August Calendar Highlights

- 2 SIS Pray and Praise - 7:00 a.m.
- 3 MP Reports - Morning Services
Frederick Keys Game
- 4 SAM Trip - Inner Harbor & Science Center
- 16 Blood Drive - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
SIS Summer Sizzler - 3:00 p.m.

FORCEY FOCUS NEWSLETTER

The Silence of God

Recently I have talked with several brothers and sisters in Christ who feel that now, in a time of great need, God is oppressively silent and seemingly absent. Our Father has told us in His word, that sin creates distance between us and Him, and that the silence can be His way of getting our attention and drawing us back through repentance. But the silence is not always a result of sin. God's people have always had times when they feel overwhelmed and cry out, "How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1). And God doesn't necessarily tell us why our cries are met with silence.



C.S. Lewis, in *A Grief Observed*, writes about his experience of grief following the death of his wife, Joy:

"Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms. When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be—or so it feels—welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait,

the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once. And that seeming was as strong as this. What can this mean? Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?

"I tried to put some of these thoughts to C. this afternoon. He reminded me that the same thing seems to have happened to Christ: 'Why hast Thou forsaken me?' I know. Does that make it easier to understand?

"Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him. The conclusion I dread is not 'So there's no God after

all,' but 'So this is what God's really like. Deceive yourself no longer.'" (pages 5-7)

Later, Lewis was able to write, "I have gradually been coming to feel that the door is no longer shut and bolted." He came to see that God's silence during his grief was not a sign of indifference, cruelty, or abandonment. He began to understand some things about God that went much deeper than just a mental assent to facts about God. That deeper and intimate relationship with God only came about because God was asking him to trust his Father through prolonged silence.

This summer we have been studying what God has told us about Himself:

- He is from everlasting to everlasting—already there at our tomorrow when the silence is over because He is not limited by time.
- He predicts and directs the future, and the silence is necessary to accomplish in us the good He intends.
- He is unchanging and dependable. He is completely able and willing.

And for some of us—right now—we are being invited by our Father to go deeper and to actually *know* these things about Him by trusting Him to the very end . . . through the silence. Will you accept the invitation?

Pastor Phil Powers

Soul Winning at Forcey

“And there arose a great storm of wind...and they awake Him, and say unto Him, ‘Master, carest Thou not that we perish?’” (Mark 4:37-38). As the disciples feared for their lives during this violent storm, they cried out to the Lord for help. In a similar manner, the Lord can still use such fears today to draw people to Himself. A recent encounter by a Forcey member during a hospital visit illustrates this point.



As the Forcey member was ministering from room to room, he stopped to talk to a young woman named Naima sitting in the hall outside her room. She told him that she was afraid because of the approaching storm, that loud thunder upset her greatly. The Forcey member then asked Naima if he could pray for her. She readily consented, and he prayed for the Lord to keep her safe through the coming storm.

Realizing that this was a good opening to present the gospel, the Forcey member inquired about her assurance of going to Heaven some day. Naima's response indicated that she did not know the way of salvation. The Forcey member then presented to her the simple message of the gospel, that salvation was through faith in the Lord Jesus and His atoning death for her sins. Naima listened carefully to the message of salvation and within a few minutes called upon the Lord Jesus to be her Saviour.

After reviewing with Naima from God's Word the assurance of her salvation in Christ, the Forcey member went on to the next room rejoicing in his heart that God had used this woman's fear of thunder as a catalyst to bring her to Christ.

Ralph Zimmerman



Missions

Forcey Mission Trip to Israel (July 2009)

Forcey is exploring the possibility of sending a mission team of eight to ten people (age 18 or older) to Israel through Chosen People Ministries during the first two weeks of July 2009. Participants would experience outreach ministry to the Jewish people all around the country, starting from the CPM Messianic Center in Jerusalem. This would not be a tourist trip, although a few days will be set aside for sightseeing in Jerusalem and the Galilee area. The estimated cost of the mission trip is between \$3000-3200. We are trying to gauge possible interest and need to hear from you quickly. If you are interested contact Mark Heazlit, markheazlit@gmail.com or Ann Hunt, annhunt@forcey.org.

Labor Day Evangelism with Jews For Jesus

Stephen Katz and Jews For Jesus invite you to march with them for Christ on Labor Day, September 1. You can participate in one or both of the parades planned for the day (downtown Kensington 9:30-11:30 a.m. and downtown Gaithersburg 12:15-1:00 p.m.)



Participants will hold banners proclaiming Christ, pass out tracts, and have the opportunity to engage in evangelistic conversations. Volunteers who march with Jews For Jesus in the parades will need to purchase a "Jews For Jesus and Others" t-shirt. If you are interested in participating in this exciting ministry contact Mark Heazlit, markheazlit@gmail.com or Ann Hunt, annhunt@forcey.org.

Cuban Support

Technology is a good catalyst for positive things happening in Cuban house churches. Our missionary Michael Giglio is able to import used items to Cuban church leaders. Contact Michael, drcuba@usa.net, if you would like to contribute any of the following items: DVD players, MP3 players, laptop computers, digital projectors, or external memory sticks. Used baseball gloves and lightweight, outgrown summer clothing are also needed.

SIS Summer Sizzler

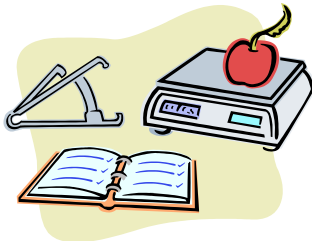
August 16
3:00-6:00 p.m.
at Forcey



Pulled pork and smoothies will be provided. Bring a side dish to serve 4.

Hear about upcoming events, ministry expansion plans, and learn how you can be involved.

FIRST PLACE Christ-Centered Health Program



Are you struggling to maintain a healthy weight and want to find a healthy lifestyle plan with motivation, education, and support? You will get just that and more with the **First Place** program coming to Forcey this fall. Nancy Parlette will facilitate the weekly meetings which include weigh-ins, Bible study, nutritional training, prayer and group support. This is a great opportunity to bring an unchurched friend in to meet others from Forcey and learn about spiritual, as well as physical, health. We will, most likely, meet on Sunday afternoons. Contact Nancy to let her know if you are interested and to get all the details on the cost and registration, nparlette@comcast.net.

Forcey's Audio/Visual Ministry

Over the past year you have heard a number of appeals for people to assist in the audio/visual (A/V) department. When everything works well, the A/V ministry tends to work quietly in the background, leaving many to wonder what we actually do, and why we seem to always be short-handed. In this article I would like to explain what we do, our current and future impact, and why you should consider becoming a part of this ministry.

What does the A/V ministry do? As technology has moved forward in the last fifty years, we have incorporated various changes into our services that allow us to worship "better" both individually and corporately, in ways that we often take for granted until they don't work. This means that when the pastor speaks or the choir or soloist sings, everyone throughout the sanctuary (and now the lobby) can hear them clearly. When we sing a hymn or chorus, everyone can sing together because the words are on the screen. And when we want to hear last Sunday's message again so we can make changes in our lives, we can get it on a CD we can listen to as we drive, or we can get it on a DVD we can watch in the comfort of our living room. So what goes into making all things work together?



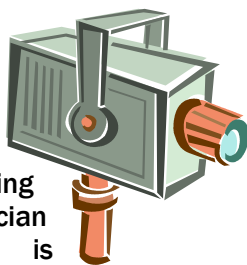
Several weeks before a Sunday morning service, the worship leaders choose the songs that will be used in their respective service. These are passed on to a ministry team member who creates a Power Point presentation file (called slides) for each service, and sends the files to staff members. Each time the words change on the screen it is because a different slide is being projected, and each of those slides has to be created.

During the Sunday morning service the Power Point operator sits in the sound booth and advances the slides as we sing the songs or have various announcements, until Pastor takes over when he begins the sermon.

In the meanwhile, everyone can hear both the sound from the video segments as well as what is going on in the front of the sanctuary because of the technicians on the main sound board. These folks arrive one to two hours before the service to set up, making sure that each person or group is

properly microphoned and sound levels are appropriately adjusted.

Only a portion of all the sound that goes into the main soundboard goes to the speaker system. The rest goes up to the soundroom to the audio recording board, where the recording technician makes adjustments before it is recorded onto a master CD as well as a master DVD. But DVD's also record video, so where is that coming from? The video comes from three main sources – the remote camera located on a small platform in the right rear of the sanctuary (operated by a cameraman), the camera located in the soundroom window, above the center aisle, and the computer feed that also goes to the projector. The camera and the computer feed are controlled by the video director, from his console, as he also directs the other cameraman via a headset. Together they decide how to compose each scene for the cameras, and switch the actual recording between the cameras and the computer, depending on what is being recorded.



At the end of each service it might be concluded that the work is done, but there is still more for the duplicating team. They start with the CD and DVD master disks, and use the bulletin notes to create the respective labels. Each disk must then be individually put through the CD printer, putting the service information directly on the printable side of the disk. The master disks are then put into duplicators which produce exact copies of the master being used, and in turn the copies have to go through the printer to be properly labeled. Finally each disk is matched to the order form that was filled out at the welcome center, and filed there for pickup the following Sunday.

Where is the ministry now? In addition to making sure that each service happens with no technical problems, and is properly recorded, we have been producing over two dozen copies of services each week. Folks have their individual reasons for wanting a copy of a service, but we know that some are going to shut ins. Our goal in each case is for the listener or viewer to be able to worship God just as if they were present in the sanctuary. Why should you be involved? Foremost, you should be involved in any ministry for the furtherance of the Gospel, laying up treasure in heaven (Matt. 6:20). No matter how small a part of this ministry you might play, the number of people who are affected is far greater than we can imagine. But God knows.

How can you be involved? At least six people are needed for each service each week. The time commitment for most of the positions is usually just prior to and during the service in which they serve, but some are for times apart from the service. Training is primarily on the job, although some may be scheduled apart from it. In most of the positions we have had the same people for several years, scheduled for every week, or sometimes every other week. We really would like to train enough people so that we can schedule everyone for only once a month. If you would be willing to learn to do any of these jobs, please email me at Alan.Thompson@torchlake.com, or call me at 571-722-8377.

Alan Thompson

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Ministry

Has your first name recently been changed to “Mommy?” Do you find “treasures” in your laundry – like rocks, paper clips, or Polly Pocket shoes? Do you miss moments of free time – even in the bathroom? Would you like the companionship of other moms going through the same joys and challenges that you face each day?

If your answer to any of these questions is “YES!” then MOPS is for you!

MOPS is an international Christian organization that tries to meet the needs of moms who share a desire to be the very best moms they can be! This year, based on our theme, *Adventures in Mothering*, we will be learning more about ourselves as we go through the adventure of motherhood, celebrating and embracing the fun in the experiences, even in the midst of daily mom life.

Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 9th, from 9:15-11:30 a.m., with monthly meetings held the second Tuesday of each month. Child care is provided for ages 3 months through five years old.

If you are interested in joining this fun, spirit-filled group of women, let us know – spaces are filling quickly.

Contacts: Amy Miller, Coordinator, 301-460-0250

Jinny Szabo, Registration, 301-890-2014
E-mail: forceymops@yahoo.com

Opportunities are also available to volunteer with MOPPETS. This ministry supports MOPS by providing loving, curriculum-based childcare while the MOPS group meets. If you love children and would like to help, contact Maribel Avlonitis, 301-474-6980.

2008 Financial Peace University (FPU)

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University (FPU) has been updated and will be offered at Forcey again this Fall. The 13-week program will be Monday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. from September 8th to December 8th, excluding November 24. Please plan to register by August 24.

Do you know someone who is struggling financially? Are financial discussions in your household stressful? Are you not able to give the way you would like? Do you want your children to be prepared to handle money in a God honoring manner? Do you feel that financial concerns are stunting your spiritual growth? Do you know someone that is not saved and does not believe churches offer any practical value to their lives today? If any of these strike a chord then you may want to learn more about Financial Peace University.

FPU is not the usual boring type of personal finance class. The sessions are entertaining, informative, and biblically based. Each class consists of video instruction followed by small group discussion. This format, along with relevant homework and accountability partnering, is an effective approach for actually changing our behaviors. Do you know family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors that might benefit from Biblically-based personal finance teachings?

This program has been well received in the past and has the potential to positively impact a great number of people in our church and community. Please prayerfully consider how you may be called to receive, or provide, a blessing through this ministry.

Jesus says in Luke 16:11, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" It appears from this verse that God uses money as a test of our management and stewardship skills before entrusting us with spiritual things. We hope you will consider how you can use FPU as a tool for spiritual development, discipleship, and reaching our neighbors for Christ.

For more information on cost for materials for new participants, updated workbooks, and registration instructions please see <http://Forcey-FPU.org>, pick up a brochure in the lobby, stop by the FPU table on Sunday mornings, email FPU@Forcey.org, or call 301-830-2250 (Mark) /301-537-5014 (Ondine).



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