

THE FORCEY FOCUS

THE FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019



SEEING AND BEING THE LOGO

By Pastor Mike Foster

For some time now, a partnering company has been working to redesign our website. Hopefully, that work will be completed in the next month or two as we are currently creating and gathering necessary content. In the meantime, though, we have softly begun displaying our new logo that comes with the website. Perhaps you have seen it online or on various documents floating around the building. We are all familiar with our current logo – probably more than we even realize! Personally, I love the stained-glass concept of our current logo. To me, it communicates a beautiful diversity and unity. It also communicates very obviously and authentically that we are a church (and we're not pretending to be otherwise!). And it communicates a certain stability rooted in a great history. We wanted to continue the stained-glass concept but also have a logo that was simpler and more versatile (able to be easily used in many contexts and especially able to look good in color or black and white). I am excited and thankful for the new design! It is still a stained-glass concept that says diversity, unity, authenticity, and stability. In fact, the four colors are taken directly from the colors in our real stained-glass windows – we sent the company close-up photos of our windows. But the logo also has a “modern feel” which communicates a desire to be relevant in our world today. Now, there is indeed an “F” in the blank space of the logo, which gives it a very special identity. Personally, though I know the logo can be a window, I love seeing it in the shape of a house because it reminds me of Isaiah 56:7 – “for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations”! I see a picture of the nations in the colors of our logo, a reminder of how we are very much an international church – and I know that blesses God’s heart! And, wow, the logo sure does look good in all black or all white. It makes a great “watermark” on pictures and videos. So, I want to thank Jonathan, Lonnie, and LeRachel for helping to lead this project, along with all those who gave input at various stages.



(Continued on page 2)

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FORCEY MEMBERSHIP CLASS



For just as the body is one
and has many members, and all the
members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.

~ 1 Corinthians 12:12

Several of you have expressed a desire to attend the 6-week class leading to Forcey membership, but have been unable to work it into your Sunday morning schedule because of your ministry commitments to music or children's ministry.

To accommodate this need, we will be offering the membership class condensed into **three Wednesday evenings in May – the 8th, 15th and 22nd**. The class will meet in room 320 (the third floor teacher's lounge), and run from 7-8:30 each evening. The concurrent TeamKID program on Wednesday evenings might also make it easier for families with young children to attend.

Questions?

Feel free to contact **Bob Wiltrout**,
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(Continued from page 1)

However, I also want to remind us, more than anything else, LOVE is the logo of our church! Jesus says we will be known by our LOVE – "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). We could have the coolest logo in the world, and it wouldn't communicate anything if we didn't love each other. Or we could have a terrible logo and a terrific love and still be known for all the right reasons! As we grow in many ways, may we grow in love! May love always be our greatest logo!

JESUS FOOD - NOW THAT'S GOOD EATS!

By Pastor Lonnie Harris

I love food! Especially when it's prepared with some kind of international flare. Korean Barbeque, Sushi, Chilean Sea Bass, Any kind of Indian food, Any kind of Caribbean food, and Lamb - don't even get me started on lamb. Whenever lamb is on the menu, I always order it - I just can't help myself. I absolutely love it!

There's a Lebanese restaurant that I like - they serve a Lamb Shank that's just bursting with all kinds of Mediterranean flavors, the succulent meat just falls right off the bone onto a saucy plate of Lebanese delight.



Food at its best is delectable artistry - an aesthetically pleasing array of nutritious fare that lures you in by its smell, and its appearance, and entertains your palate with a celebration of flavor and texture. We enjoy it thoroughly, indeed, we crave it, and thrive on it. It is our source of life, and when it is in short supply we become emaciated and appalling to look it. Without it, we die.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

When I think of food in this way, it gives me a special appreciation for what Jesus says in John 4:31-34 where Jesus speaks of a special kind of food - a food that many of his disciples know nothing about: Jesus Food - to do the will of God and to complete his work.

Those of us who would be His followers must feast on this food. We must drink deeply from this wellspring of living water, and sink our teeth into this hearty, flavorful bread of life! Apart from this water, and this bread, there is no nourishment.

Unfortunately, many of us often find that Jesus food is at best plain and flavorless, and at worst bitter and intolerable. So we keep it in short supply, and partake sparingly. As a result we become spiritually emaciated and appalling to look at. So what exactly is Jesus Food, and how do we develop a taste for it?

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The food that Jesus craves in John 4:34 is the will of God - to do the will of God and to accomplish His work. Specifically, to cross over into the land of Samaria, rub shoulders with the "filthy gentile dogs," seek out one of their loose women, and gently usher her (along with the local townspeople) into the Kingdom of God. Jesus has the eyes to see that many of these precious people are like perfectly ripened fruit, ready to be harvested with joy so that they too can worship the Father in spirit and truth. For He reveals in John 4:23 that the Father seeks such people to be His worshipers. To our Lord, this kind of food was worth every moment of self-denial, every bit of ridicule, every ounce of mental anguish, every jolt of excruciating pain. To our Lord the food of doing the Father's will was literally "to die for." For the son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost, giving His life as a ransom for many.

When God grants us the grace to see things from His perspective - to smell what He smells, and taste what He tastes, we quickly realize that His will is the tastiest thing on the

menu, and we long for Him to serve us up a great big helping of it. We realize that we were created and marked out for such lofty purposes before the earth was even formed (Eph 2:10). Imagine that - God has ordained for us to walk into people's lives with a word of truth here - a message of encouragement there, a simple smile, a hug, a rebuke. Sometimes it means leading someone to salvation, other times it means helping someone who already knows Christ to get back on track.

Everyday is filled with divinely inspired encounters just waiting to happen. All that's required of you is to look up and see that the field is white for harvest, and to remember that you are not here for yourself, but rather, as His disciple, you are here to deny yourself take up your cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23). The cost of relinquishing your will and living for His glory so that others may know Him is high. But it's the kind of fine dining that will nourish you abundantly, and give you eternal life.



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Soul Winning

~ by *Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Ministry*

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). In the great work of evangelism, it is God who oversees and blesses all soul winning operations. A recent event at a local hospital illustrates this point.

As two Forcey-trained soul winners were visiting from room-to-room, they were approached by a doctor on the hospital staff. She reported that an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) doctor had related to her that one of his patients had requested to talk with someone of the Christian faith. This patient was considered to be terminal, suffering from complications from cancer. The staff doctor asked the two soul winners if they would visit this patient (Charles), relating that he would soon be moved from ICU to a regular hospital room on another floor. Once the patient had been relocated, the soul winners visited him in his new room. When they arrived, they found that Charles' son Maurice and grandson Isaiah were also on hand to visit him. The soul winners began to share the gospel with these three men. After they had explained the way of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection, Charles (along with his son and grandson) received the Lord Jesus as their Savior (John 1:12).

This encounter illustrates the teamwork that God is able to orchestrate in order to bring the gospel to needy hearts. In this instance, the Lord's leading resulted in an overflowing abundance as three generations in one family were brought to salvation in Christ at one time.

MISSION CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

**A special thanks to all who helped
with the "This is Us: Partners
Around the Globe" conference.**

Over 100 people made commitments to play a role in the Great Commission in 2019! Some of these were expressed as follows:

- I will volunteer with the ESL team
- I will be a counselor at Camp Dynamite
- I will invite International Students to my home
- I will provide meals for outreach events
- I will get to know a specific missionary & pray for them
- I will financially support ____ (specific missionary)
- I will share about Jesus with my soccer team



Dozens committed to pray for specific Missionaries, Ministries, and Unreached People Groups (UPGs). If you haven't done so yet, I encourage you to figure out YOUR ROLE in the Great Commission and make a commitment to the Lord today for 2019.

BE IN PRAYER

This month we have several people from FBC who will be serving in countries which are not friendly to the Gospel. Please be in prayer for their ministries, travel safety, and for the people they will be meeting. **Thank you!**

**Are you looking
for an opportunity
to serve as a short-
term missionary
this summer?**

CAMP



IT ISN'T TOO LATE!

Consider being a counselor for a week at Camp Dynamite, a camp for inner city children led by Forcey missionaries Bob and Sharon Mathieu. You could make a difference in the life of a child. Children's Camp is July 7-12 and Youth Camp is August 4-9.

**[CLICK FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE
CAMP](#)**

SERVING WITH THE ESL MINISTRY

~ By Paul Malengo, ESL Ministry



On Tuesday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m., the ESL team has the privilege of engaging our international community. On any given Tuesday 20-30 students will show up eager to learn or practice English.

The first stop for every new student is the Registration Desk. I welcome them and acknowledge the courage it takes for them to show up. After they complete the registration form, I have a conversation (or attempt to have a conversation) to determine their English proficiency and the best-suited class level. Classes range from Beginner where students learn the alphabet, phonics, and pronunciation, to Advanced where they are able to review newspaper and other articles together.

My service with ESL started when my wife told me she was going to see what ESL was all about. After contacting Byron and observing for a few weeks, she was committed. As with many things we do, we decided to serve in this ministry together. For two years Vicky was assigned to teach the Advanced students. After experiencing health issues and knowing she would not be able to maintain a weekly commitment she stepped down from her teaching role.

I support the ESL ministry by meeting the facilities and logistical needs of the group. I greet the students when they first show up and manage the registration and assessment processes. Some of my other tasks include:



- Making sure the teachers have everything they need to be successful
- Ensuring the classrooms are set up in the desired format
- Maintaining inventory of textbooks and alerting Byron when the supply decreases
- Supplying Bibles to each class for devotion time
- Setting up for and cleaning up after snack time (which everyone knows is the most important function!)

Since I am usually the first Forcey ambassador the students meet, I always seek to make them feel like they belong. I make sure I pronounce their names correctly and communicate friendliness and patience. I have seen the admiration the students have for their teachers. They genuinely care about each other and form friendships that last beyond Tuesday night ESL class. Teachers invite their students to their homes to share meals and have further fellowship. Vicky told me many times she felt like she got more from the students than she was giving. It is truly a community feeling, and a great privilege to represent our Lord to our community.

If this touches your heart please join us. There is a place for you. I would love to see you on the 2nd floor on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9. Will you consider what your contribution could be to the advancement of this ministry for Christ?



5TH ANNUAL
AGAPΣ  **5k**



USE TEAM NAME **FORCEY
WHEN YOU REGISTER!**

**RUN, WALK, OR VOLUNTEER
TO HELP MARYLAND'S MOST VULNERABLE
CHILDREN THRIVE IN FAMILIES.**

WHEN?

June 15, 2019
9AM Run/Walk

WHERE?

Columbia Gateway Dr,
Columbia, MD 20146

**ADULT
REGISTRATION**

\$35 Ends 6/10

**RACE DAY
REGISTRATION**

\$40 on 6/15



KIDS 13 & UNDER \$15

GIFT FOR TEAMS 10+

REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.BUILDINGFAMILIESFORCHILDREN.ORG/AGAPE5K