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NEED PRAYER?

You may fill out one of the prayer cards in the pews or go online www.forcey.org/prayer-requests

Pastor Search.....



Last month the Forcey congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve Michael Foster as the next Lead Pastor of Forcey Bible church. Through every level of the process, the response to Mike as a pastor, as a husband/father, and as a genuine man of God was incredibly positive. We are so blessed that we want him and he wants us! The actual transition won't happen until mid-summer, after the kids have finished their school year, but Mike has already become part of our family, and our planning for future ministry.

The process of searching for a pastor is one of the most difficult things that an independent church can ever face. It can be exhausting and time-consuming, dragging on for months and even years. It can bring great stress to whatever fault lines might already exist within a congregation. It often has to cover a lengthy gap between the departing and the arriving. And it doesn't always produce a satisfactory result.

Where do the problems come from? Sometimes it's in the circumstances regarding the departing pastor. Why is he leaving us? Are we being rejected by someone we love? Are there health problems we empathize with? Has there been conflict with others in church leadership? What a blessing that none of these apply even remotely to our situation! Phil and Neva are responding to a clear calling from God for the next stage in their life journey. They are not leaving us as much as they are following Him. Their love for us and our love for them is no match for their love for our Savior. Their health is

good, and they anticipate many more years of successful ministry. Their departure could not be on better terms.

Another problem can be that a church doesn't really know what it's looking for. But Phil challenged the board a year ago to begin writing a description of what we thought the next lead pastor should look like. We spent several months preparing it. When the actual process began, we already had the job description we wanted. When the first suggested names came up, we were ready to screen them against our target profile right away and identify the candidate we wanted to pursue.

As many of us know from our civilian careers, a job candidate can look awfully good on paper, but carry a lot of baggage that doesn't show up on their resume. Hiring the wrong person as a lead pastor could have a devastating impact on a healthy church, and performing due diligence on an unknown candidate is an

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uncertain and a time-consuming process. Ascertaining true character can be difficult when we are so inclined to assume it in a man in full-time ministry. Our decision to pursue a candidate who was already well-known to many of us as a man of exceptional character, integrity and passion for ministry made this part of the task so much easier. Not one of us involved in this process has any doubt about the quality of Mike Foster in every aspect of biblical qualification, including his family leadership, his professional capabilities, and his deep love for the Lord.

Problems can also arise when there is stratification within the congregation – a “them versus us” mentality that sees one part of the church demographic controlling the outcome and not looking out for the whole congregation. This also shows up when there is insufficient trust between the church leadership and the congregation. Change is always unsettling, and a church member can feel quite apprehensive over a big change to the worship and church family experience than has been an integral part of their spiritual life.

Let me say that you as a congregation have been wonderful throughout this entire process! Many questions have been asked along the way, but they were always thoughtful, generally insightful, never antagonistic or argumentative. You have demonstrated remarkable faith and trust in this process. Few churches ever get to experience the sense of unity that we are sharing right now. Even those of you who weren't sure that your leaders knew exactly what they were doing trusted God to bring us exactly the man He wanted us to have. Your support has been greatly appreciated. In a situation which can turn into a real trial, where there are endless potential problems, where so many things could get complicated or go wrong, this pastor search process has been a joy and a blessing at all levels. THANK YOU!

This summer we will say good-bye to one excellent man of God and welcome another one. We will spend the next few months celebrating our remaining time with Phil and Neva at the same time we feel the buzz of anticipation at what God is going to do with us when Mike and Meg arrive. There can be no doubt that He has orchestrated this at every step of the way, and there can be no doubt that there is something very special that He plans to do with Forcey in the near future. And we all get to do it together!

Praise God for His Wondrous Grace!

~ Bob Wiltrout , Chairman of Elder Board



The next Family Dedication is April 29 for parents who want to publicly express their commitment to raise their child “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).”

This is also a time for our church family to recognize and publicly pray for parent and child.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Mike Maslin at mike-maslin@forcey.org.



The theme of this year's conference is
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
April 6-9

We want to encourage partnerships with our missionaries based on shared objectives, mutual responsibility, and mutual encouragement. Plan to come and meet our missionaries, hear updates, develop relationships, and learn more about how Forcey is sharing the gospel globally.



- Saturday, April 7 Men's Breakfast
- Sunday, April 8 Church-wide potluck luncheon following second service
- Monday, April 9 Pokot Outreach Ministries with Julius Murgor



Paul and Carmiña Adams
Brent and Diane Anderson
Jim and Darlene Conner
Zane Dempsie
Bob Ewerth
Patrick and Jan Hall
Lucy Heater
Mark Heazlit
Blen Jaletta
Julius Murgor
Nancy Parlette

MORE MISSIONS!

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS DINNER

If you have a heart for international students, consider being part of the ministry to international students at the University of Maryland. Support is provided through prayer, food, and/or attending the dinner. The dinners are arranged for the 2nd Friday of each month. The next dinner is Friday, April 13th.

Contact Ann Hunt, ann-hunt@forcey.org, if you are able to help out!

SISTERS IN SYMPHONY

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." ~ Proverbs 25:11



Apples of Gold is an opportunity for young women to fellowship together, to learn practical skills to use in your home, and to be encouraged in their daily walk with Lord.

ORIENTATION

Monday, April 17 / 7-8:30 p.m.

APPLES SESSIONS

Mondays, April 23 – June 4 6:30-9:00 p.m.,
(except May 28)

A 7-week commitment is requested.

Location – a home near the church

Cost - \$30 (includes book, 6 meals and a packet of recipes and household tips)
Scholarships are available.

Questions?

Contact Diane Wesche,
women.ministry@forcey.org or
Ann Hunt,

**Click to
sign-up!**

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- Each session begins with a demonstration of a skill to use in your home or a technique for preparing a dish.
- You will eat a meal together that has been prepared by the cooking mentor. Recipes are provided so that you can go home and prepare a similar meal for family or friends.
- After supper, a discussion and teaching time will focus on Scriptural principals relating to womanhood, led by a "Seasoned Apple."

SOUL WINNING - EVANGELISM

Soul Winning

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35b). When laboring in the harvest fields, the soul winner finds it very refreshing to talk to someone that is open to the message of the gospel. This type of prospect has a desire to be reconciled to God and assured of eternal life, but simply has never heard a clear gospel presentation. Last Sunday a Forcey member, while ministering at a local hospital, met just such an individual and had the privilege of leading him to Christ.

When the Forcey member entered the room of a middle-aged patient named Gary, he was warmly received. After a brief time of getting acquainted, the Forcey member asked Gary if he was sure he was going to go to Heaven one day. He replied that he wanted to go, but no one could be sure. At this point the Forcey member asked permission to share with him what the Bible said about how to get to Heaven. Gary responded by turning down the television, stating that "this is important." As the Forcey member explained the plan of salvation from God's Word, Gary listened intently, maintaining eye contact throughout. When the Forcey member finished his presentation and extended the invitation to receive Christ, Gary earnestly and sincerely called upon the Lord Jesus to be his Savior.

After a few minutes of immediate follow-up, Gary understood from the Bible that his salvation was secure in Christ. As the Forcey member left, he rejoiced in the salvation of this new convert.

~ Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Ministry

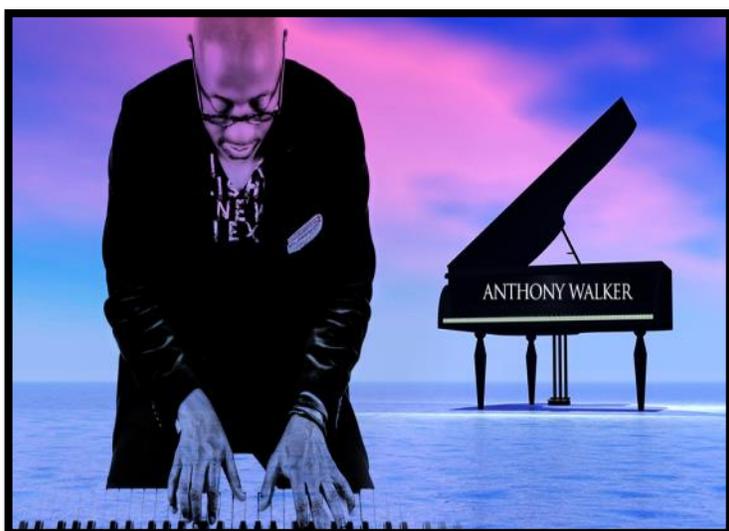
FORCEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

This April, Forcey Christian School will be fundraising to help our students and school through a special

Jazz Night Concert on April 21 in the FBC Sanctuary

Refreshments at 6 p.m. / Concert begins at 7 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$25 each and being sold through [BuyNow](#). Choose your child's classroom from the list of possibilities and enter your child's name so he/she can get credit towards the incentive program. For guests who are unaffiliated with a specific FCS student, there is also a **WILL CALL** option at the end of the options. (The top ten students who sell the most tickets will receive VIP tickets that include preferential seating and a time to meet Mr. Walker personally.)



WHO: Anthony Walker has a musical background in classical, gospel, jazz and rhythm & blues that has established him in high demand as a solo artist, session musician, teacher and producer. He has performed on Broadway, at the White House (per Michelle Obama's request) and has made multiple television appearances including the *NBC Today Show*, the *CBS Morning Show*, *Late Night with David Letterman Show*, and *The Queen Latifah Show*.

WHY: Support Forcey Christian School's **More Than Conquerors** fundraising efforts. The school is hoping to use funds to update bathrooms and begin saving for a newer bus.

STUDENT MINISTRY

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

Equip / Empower / Embolden

is our short-term summer missions program for high schoolers. Mission Possible is designed to challenge students (9th grade and up) in their personal growth in Christ as they contribute to various ministries and learn how to share the Gospel.

They will be raising money for their trips in various ways, including car washes at Forcey on April 21 and May 12.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THE FUNDRAISING.