

Facets *of Fellowship*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2007



Pastor's Perspective — No Merit of My Own

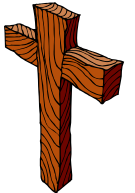
It's been forty-two years since I came to Christ. The thought with which I was gripped on that day was of my own depravity. For the first time in my life, I was convinced of my sinfulness before God and realized that it was that sin which had necessitated the death of the Lord Jesus Christ—that He had died in my place for my sin. I remember crying out to God from the depths of my heart to save me and then being assured from God's Word that He had.

Today, I have a greater sense of my own depravity than ever before. With that, I also have a greater appreciation of the need for God's grace in my salvation. If this is who I am forty-two years later, then the need for that grace to rescue me from my sin becomes all the more apparent. Truly, there was nothing in me to merit God's favor—no reason, apart from His grace, that He would save me. The work of my redemption rests squarely on the cross.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
Galatians 6:14

And if you are saved, the same is true of you. Were it not for the cross there would be no Easter.

Therefore, as we approach Easter with its emphasis on the resurrection, the event upon which our faith rests, I will not wander from the cross. It is the cross and the empty tomb which together constitute our hope and the good news we proclaim.



If the Lord would be pleased to give me another forty-two years, I pray for progress in putting aside the ways of the flesh, but I do not pray for a greater sense of self-worth. The worth is in my Savior whose work on the cross overwhelmed my depravity and secured my reconciliation to God. May all the praise go to Him who died for my sin according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

International Student Ministry

On March 10-15 Fellowship hosted 21 international students from Purdue University during their spring break. Each year it is a pleasure to share in this partnership with our missionary Paul Briggs.



We are thankful for the seeds that were sown through the nightly Bible studies and the testimony of our gracious host families. Please pray Paul's ministry team as they carry out the Lord's work at Purdue.

Encouraging One Another

Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up... 1 Thessalonians 5:11



Throughout the month of April Women's Ministries is receiving contributions toward a care package for Redell Thompson, serving with the US Army's 659th Maintenance Company in Iraq. Please use the sign-up sheet in the church foyer to indicate which item you would like to donate.



All of the ladies of the church are invited to share a meal and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship at the Wegmans store in Fairfax

on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 PM. See Amy Mount for further details.



We were pleased to have 20 men and young men attend the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 24. Those who came enjoyed a good breakfast and the encouragement of their brothers in the Lord. Special thanks go to Bob Jordan who challenged our men to fortify their hearts through Scripture memory.

Spring Festival



Fellowship's 2nd annual Spring Festival will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, May 19 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Through this fun-filled event we desire to introduce people in the community to our church that we might have the privilege of impacting

their lives for Christ. We need your help to make this effort a success! Please give us a few hours of your time. See Pete English for further information.



Seeking God's Direction

Fellowship's missionaries, Dave and Julie Ray, have been busy reporting to supporting churches and sharing in various others settings concerning their recent experience in suffering for the sake of the gospel.

Now Dave and Julie are devoting time to seeking God's direction for future ministry. They sense His call to serve among Muslim peoples and are willing to go where He leads. Please pray for them in this decision.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Charlotte Tobin

Charlotte was born in Arlington, VA and grew up in the Manassas area. Her mom had a government job, and her parents ran a gift and office supply business for several years. Later her dad worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation. As a child Charlotte enjoyed swimming, music, roller skating, horseback riding, and working on cars.

Charlotte graduated from Manassas' Stone-wall Jackson High School in 1978. After high school she married and began a career in sales here in Northern Virginia. Her marriage was cut short by her husband's death at age 33. God gave Charlotte a friend named Bobby to help her through that difficult time.

Some time later Charlotte moved to Louisiana where she lived for 15 years. During that time she worked as a secretary for an HVAC repair service, an orthodontist, and then an automotive service. It was in Louisiana, as an unsaved person, that Charlotte entered an abusive marriage relationship which led to more trying times. But God was at work behind the scenes, working to bring Charlotte to personal faith in Jesus Christ. Christian friends and neighbors began taking

*Be kind and
compassionate to
one another...
Ephesians 4:32*

her daughter Katie to church and this led to Charlotte attending church as well. Her pastor and church family sought to help Charlotte with her troubles at home, and the teaching of God's Word during the worship services brought about great conviction in Charlotte's life. She says, "I felt many days like I was having a heart attack during the hymn of invitation." Finally, in September 2002, Charlotte surrendered her life to the Lord. She was baptized that same month.

Knowing God is not pleased with divorce, Charlotte nevertheless felt compelled to escape her abusive marriage relationship. After separating from her husband, she continued to live in Louisiana for three more years. During that time she served as music director at her church.

In October 2005, after many discussions on the phone, Charlotte decided to marry her longtime friend Bobby. This brought her back to Northern Virginia, where they were married in October 2006.

Charlotte began attending Fellowship in July 2006. She is still seeking to determine how the Lord has gifted her for ministry. For now she is serving through special music, and this summer will be helping with music in Vacation Bible School.

Charlotte asks for prayer for her new family, especially for Katie's adjustment to a new stepfather and new area. She also desires to see Katie's father's life transformed by the Lord.

Money Matters

We continue to have every reason to praise the Lord for His provision as 1st Quarter general fund giving exceeded our budgeted need by \$273 per week.

A major expense that will be incurred this year is re-sealing the parking lot. Financing for this project will be addressed at the April Quarterly Business Meeting.

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$6,055
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-To-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$66,132
Year-To-Date Need	\$62,856
Year-To-Date 50@1 Giving	\$3,275

Please take advantage of the opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our Easter services.

Calendar

Apr. 8	Continental Breakfast (9:00 AM) Easter Services (10:45 AM & 6:00 PM)
Apr. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Apr. 14	Church Dinner/Music Program (5:30 PM)
Apr. 20	Ladies' Wegmans Dinner (7:00 PM)
Apr. 21	Youth & Families Museum Visit/Cookout
Apr. 25	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)
Apr. 27/28	Fellowship in Homes



Fellowship Dinner

A Fellowship Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a music program led by Lee Hoggard. All are invited to join in this time of growing together in Christ. A sign-up sheet is in the church foyer. Please bring a dish to share.