

Facets *of Fellowship*

APRIL 2011



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Fidelity to God and His Word

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Sometimes Christians are not very kind in the things that they say to each other and are harsh in expressing their opinions. This is especially true when we treat our closely held preferences in areas of freedom as tests of orthodoxy.

I recall listening some years ago to a fellow believer describe their heartache over things that were said at their church about them and their family because they did not home-school their children, but allowed them to go to public school. The opinions were so strongly held and unpleasantly expressed that they left that church where for all intents and purposes, there was only one right way to educate one's children and that way was not in the public school. Parents who chose otherwise were treated as second-class, even as bad parents, though there is nothing in the Bible that would support that view. It's simply a matter of personal preference.

I was recently reminded of that incident while being told that I do not preach the Bible, that indeed I change it, that our preaching and singing at Fellowship is man-centered and that I need to repent of my errant ways. The person who said this has a particularly strong allegiance to an English version of the Bible that I respect and hold in high regard but do not happen to preach from. They noted that from time to time, I will comment on the reading of a particular passage and suggest a different one. That, in their estimate, owing to their allegiance to that one particular English Bible, is evidence that I am seeking to change the Bible. But nothing could be further from the truth.

When I comment on the reading of a particular text and suggest the best English Bible translation of that text, or offer one of my own, it's not to change the Bible, but to bring out with the greatest possible clarity and precision what I understand to be the reading of that text in the original language. At the end of the day, I'm not interested in any particular English version (though I'll happily tell you which I think to be the best and why). I'm interested in the reading of the Hebrew and the Greek texts—the languages into which God gave the sixty-six books of the Bible and from which we are able to demonstrate with confidence that God has indeed preserved His inspired Word.

When we select music at Fellowship—whether it's played or sung and whether it's congregational or otherwise—we give primary attention to the doctrine it teaches and thus to its fidelity to the Bible itself. We measure the songs we sing by their message, not their date of publication or whether they're found in a hymnal. This means that on any given Sunday and in any service we are just as apt to sing from the hymnal as not and just as apt to sing something old as something new. It also means that no matter what the choice of songs might be (and whether we prefer them as much as others), all of the songs will be true to what the Bible teaches and therefore edifying to the saints and honoring to God.

As Christians we will not all agree on matters that the Bible leaves to personal preference—and that's okay because we can still walk together in perfect oneness, striving together for the faith of the gospel, as long as we don't make our preferences the standards everyone else must embrace or else fall beneath the anvil of our judgment. When that happens everyone loses.

*The unfolding of Your words gives light...
Psalm 119:130*

Missionary Love Offering:

A love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs and family was received at Fellowship on Sunday, March 23, following the annual International Student Ministry. In addition to providing encouragement to this missionary family as they serve the Lord in our behalf, our goal was to make up the Briggs' \$813 monthly shortfall for several months. We praise the Lord for the generosity of His people, as a total of \$2,156 was received.



Women's Ministry - Botanic Gardens Trip

Spring is the time of year to look for blossoms! But Women's Ministries is taking it one step further. A trip to the United States Botanic Garden, scheduled for Saturday, April 9, is an activity hoping to both delight the senses and help relationships among the ladies of Fellowship to blossom.

"We seek to nurture authentic caring relationships among the women of our church through true biblical fellowship and encouragement," said Tracy English, Director of the Women's Ministries. Tracy added that the suggestion was made some time ago, and that many women at the church had not been to the garden. It is hoped that the time together will be a chance for the women to get to know each other better through a good time of fellowship and enjoy the beautiful plants at the garden. Women should plan on bringing cameras on the trip.

The United States Botanic Garden, located on the Capitol grounds, was actually the hope of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. All three shared a dream that the nation would host a botanic garden and were instrumental in establishing one. The first national garden was created in 1820, and after moving several times, it moved to its present location in 1933. It hosts a variety of plants from different regions of the country, from cacti to orchids.

The women of Fellowship plan to meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. and carpool to the gardens. If you are interested in participating in the event, please sign up in the foyer of the church or call Tracy at 703-440-4077.



UNITED STATES
BOTANIC GARDEN



April 2011 Bible Memory Challenge.



Luke 24:46-47

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Money Matters

General Fund giving in March fell short of our weekly need by \$724 per week. Through the last Sunday in March, General Fund receipts lagged behind the weekly need for 2011 by \$472 per week. We would obviously like to see that trend reversed. Please continue to pray for the Lord to graciously meet the financial needs of our church that we might do all that we can and should to reach our community and our world for Christ.

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,567
Weekly Need	\$5,291
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$62,650
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$68,781
Year-to-Date Together We Build	\$1,585.

Spring Festival

The Spring Festival is June 4, two months away, but planning is in full swing.

The festival depends on a large number of volunteers, and the Fellowship family has been gracious to meet these needs. Last year, forty-five people served in some capacity. A sign-up sheet is in the church foyer, but also feel free to contact Ron or Sherry Wasserstein with questions about how you can help.

All volunteers or interested parties are encouraged to attend a planning meeting for the festival on Tuesday, April 19, at 7pm at the church.

April Calendar

April 9	Women's Ministry—Botanic Garden (leave church 12:30PM)
April 10	Gideons' Ministry (10:45 AM)
April 12	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
April 16	Church Work Day (8:00 AM)
April 19	Spring Festival Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)
April 24	Easter Sunday
April 27	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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