

Facets *of Fellowship*

FEBRUARY 2005



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Redeeming the Time

Time is a priceless gift from God. How we should guard it with care and use it to the fullest!

David Brainerd, faithful missionary to the American Indians in New York, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania, said, "Oh how precious is time; and how guilty it makes me feel when I think I have trifled away and misimproved it, or neglected to fill up each part of it with duty, to the utmost of my ability and capacity."

In his book *Lest Ye Faint*, Franklin Logsdon tells of the president of a Christian college who entered the chapel service one morning with a solemn expression of his face. Following the hymn, he stood up to speak to the student body. He said, "I have just received a telephone message bearing sad news. A fine young man who graduated from this school three years ago has died suddenly."

A hush fell over the audience. Scanning slowly the students, the president asked, "If all you desire to do, if all you hope to do, had to be crowded into three short years, what would you do differently today?"

I would pose the same question to you. It's a question we all need to answer. But to me it's sad that it has to be asked at all. For long or short our days are to be lived for the Lord—invested in His service not squandered in our own. David Brainerd died at the age of twenty-nine years, after only five years of missionary service, the result of his strenuous labors—but his life was full...and his life's work done. May his life inspire us as we faithfully follow the example and resolve of our Lord, who said, "*As long as it is day, I must do the work of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work*" (John 9:4).

Strategic Planning

The Pastors and Deacons held a special strategic planning session on Saturday, January 15. They discussed strengths and weaknesses of Fellowship with an aim toward identifying areas in which the life and ministry of the church might be enhanced. The following 12 aspects of church life and ministry will be targeted in 2005: worship and music; corporate prayer; outreach; membership; men's ministries and leadership development; fellowship and body life; ministries to those with special

From [Christ] the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:16

needs; church finances; retention; missions; facilities; and children's ministries. The Pastors and Deacons will be addressing one of these topics at each of their monthly meetings. Their desire is to more fully meet the needs of all

those God has called our church to serve, from the youngest to the oldest and from the unreached soul to the mature believer. Please pray for God's direction and special enablement that together we might see our church strengthened during 2005 and beyond.

January Annual Meeting

The January Annual Meeting was held on January 26. The following Officials were approved/announced for 2005: John Goff, **Treasurer**; Frank Buckley, **Financial Secretary and Sunday School Superintendent**; Kathy Buckley, **Clerk**; Alan Marshall and Doug Mount, **Trustees**; Joseph Estrada, Pete English, Nancy Gardner and Tracy English, **Clearing Committee**; Dwight Briggs, **Finance Committee**; Bob Fulmer and Sid Teaford, **Fi-**

nancial Review Committee; Bob and Nancy Gardner, **Ordinances**; Marian Goff, Amy Mount and Tracy English, **Women's Ministries Director**; **Fellowship Coordinator**; and **Service Coordinator**.

Pastor Lindholm also provided an overview of the 2004 Annual Report, which all are encouraged to read. Copies are available in the church foyer.

Women's Ministries: Heart Friend Ministry



All of the ladies of the church are invited to attend the Heart Friend Party on Friday, February 11 at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Heart Friends for 2004 will be revealed to one another, and

new Heart Friends will be assigned for 2005. We will also enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments. The purpose of this ministry is to uphold one another in prayer and encourage each other through acts of kindness throughout the year.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Toni Wyatt

Toni was born at Fort Belvoir and raised in Alexandria and Fairfax. Her father was an Air Force pilot and World War II prisoner-of-war. He met Toni's mother after the war, and the couple had five children with Toni arriving last. The family never went to church and religion was never discussed. A couple of times Toni pestered her mother enough to bring the children to church but her mother never attended. God graciously provided friends whose parents would take Toni to church. When her family moved to Fairfax at the end of her 8th grade, Toni stopped going to church but continued to pray.

As a child Toni enjoyed sports and playing in band. After high school she attended Northern Virginia Community College. After dropping out she worked a short time for AAA. Her father and sisters, who already worked at NASA, eventually persuaded Toni to join them there. She has been at NASA the last 25 years, starting as a clerk typist and slowly advancing to the position of program analyst. Toni is currently in training and will be backing up a senior analyst.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
John 13:35

Toni met her husband Greg on New Years Eve in 1987, and they were married in 1989. They have two children: Elizabeth (age 15) and Dan (age 13). Before meeting Greg Toni had prayed for a husband and children, and promised to bring her children to church and raise them to know God. However, after she and Greg were married, they settled into life as usual and did not attend church. When Greg left her Toni started praying and reading the Bible. She knew she needed to follow through on her promise to God.

With the help of Nancy Gardner, Toni began attending Fellowship in 1998 and found peace and a sense of belonging at a very stressful time. She still had years of worldly influence to work through, but then one Sunday everything changed. She recalls what happened that day: "...Pastor Lindholm asked that if we would like to accept Christ as our Savior, to please come forward. The next thing I knew I was walking forward, and on that day I found a joy I have never really before experienced."

Toni serves at Fellowship as a Sunday school teacher, Awana Cubbie leader and nursery worker, as well as helping with the care of the church grounds. Her desire is to help her children remain faithful to Christ through the struggles of their teen years, and to see her entire family come to know the Lord and the peace, joy, and love He brings.

Money Matters

With two weeks of worship services adversely impacted by winter weather, giving in January fell well short of the budgeted need. Please pray that we will be able to quickly recover in February as God's people commit themselves to the building of His kingdom.

| | |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| January Giving Per Week (General Fund) | \$3,607 |
| Weekly Need | \$4,691 |
| Year-To-Date Giving (General Fund) | \$18,035 |
| Year-To-Date Need | \$23,455 |
| Year-To-Date 50@1 Giving | \$474 |



Calendar



| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Feb. 8 | Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM) |
| Feb. 11 | Ladies Heart Friends Party (7:00 PM) |
| Feb. 18 | Baltimore Blast Christian Youth Night |
| Feb. 19 | Memorial Service for Robert Adams |
| Feb. 26 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM) |
| Feb. 26 | Church-Wide Italian Dinner (5:30 PM) |

Memorial Service

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. — 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

A memorial service for Bill and Gail Adam's son Robert will be held at the church on Saturday, February 19 at 2:00 PM. Immediately following the service a reception will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to par-

ticipate as this will be an opportunity to minister comfort and encouragement to Gail and her family, as well as to share the love of Jesus Christ with many unsaved friends and family members.

Italian Dinner



Everyone at Fellowship is encouraged to attend an Italian Dinner to be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 26 at 5:30 PM. Don't miss this great op-

portunity to build stronger relationships with one another, that we might all be better equipped to build one another up in the faith.