

Facets of Fellowship

FEBRUARY 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



Pastor's Perspective — Praying for Kings and Those in Authority

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I have neighbors who celebrated on Inauguration Day. According to a bumper sticker that had been on their car for over a year it was the "end of an error." I don't know if they voted for our new President or not. For them the only thing that mattered was that it wouldn't be George W. Bush. I have a hard time fathoming that level of animosity.

When conservative radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh was asked to write 400 words on his hope for the Obama presidency, he declined. He said: "I know what his politics are. I know what his plans are, as he has stated them. I don't want them to succeed...I don't need 400 words, I need four: I hope he fails." Limbaugh has taken a lot of heat on those comments.

I don't know what your thoughts are about the above, and I won't inquire. My concerns are nobler. I'm concerned about the impact of those positions on prayer—whether you agree with the agenda of our new President or not.

God's agenda involves the advance of the gospel, free from the interference of the government. This can be seen in the opening verses of 1 Timothy 2, where the Apostle Paul takes up the subject of prayer *for kings and those in authority—that we might live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness*. There

he says nothing about the success or failure of their agendas. Nor does he condition our prayers on the values they might embrace.

In keeping with God's agenda, when we pray *for kings and those in authority* we are to plead with the one and only living and true God that they would come to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and go on to embrace as their life-standard the unchanging and absolute truth of the Bible, God's written Word. These are Paul's directives, and his reasoning is straightforward and plain: *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*.

For those who would claim to struggle with the thought of praying anything but a prayer of imprecation for government officials whom they oppose, I would remind you that Paul wrote these words when Nero ruled the Roman world and many Christians were beginning to experience the heat that would soon become a firestorm of persecution against them.

It seems to me that we would do well to keep this passage and its historical context in mind. The Apostle Paul understood an ancient truth that has been seemingly lost to many Christians today: *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; He directs it like a water-course wherever He pleases* (Proverbs 21:1).

International Student Ministry: Through this annual ministry Fellowship supports Paul and Geri Briggs' ministry to international students at Purdue University. A group will be coming from Purdue on March 14-19, giving us the privilege of sharing Christ with them as they spend their spring break touring the DC area. Please consider serving as a host family this year! See Pastor Lindholm to volunteer. You will be glad you did!

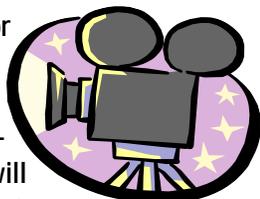
Serving the Body in 2009

By Ron Wasserstein, Deacon for Church Life Ministries

The Church Life Calendar for 2009 is a mixture of the greatest hits from 2008 and some new features for 2009.

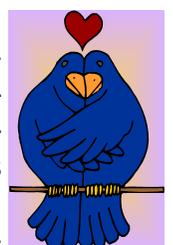
Back, for example, will be the church picnic, the International Dinner, and the New Year's Eve Progressive Dinner, along with other classics. The Men's and Women's Ministries will be serving up many of your favorite activities from the past as well.

But there are some new twists for 2009 as well. Four Senior "Nights" are planned for the year. ("Nights" is in quotation marks because some of these events will happen during the day.) Everyone is encouraged to attend these events, which are designed to acknowledge the blessing of having senior mem-



bers of FBC, and to get to know them in special and unique ways. The first of these is scheduled for the afternoon of February 28, when we'll watch an old movie that is a favorite of one of the seniors. Other events will involve favorite games and favorite foods of our beloved senior members.

Also new in 2009: more "Fellowship-in-homes" occasions, a summer concert opportunity, and a white elephant gift exchange. But the first new activity happens February 14, when the FBC Youth Group, with help from the Wassersteins, will provide child care from 4:30 to 10:00 PM so that couples can have a night out.



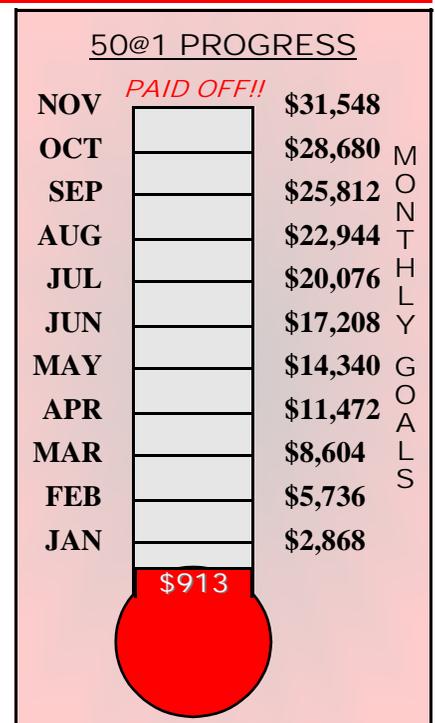
If you are willing to help coordinate one or more of these activities or have any questions, please contact Ron Wasserstein.

Eliminating Our Mortgage – Expanding Our Ministry

Our goal in 2009 is to eliminate the church's mortgage in order to enable Fellowship to devote greater resources to the Lord's work. Expanding our ministry may include giving more to the work of world missions, doing more to address the needs of our local body and help us reach our community for Christ, and expanding our classroom and multi-purpose space in order to better accommodate the growing ministries of our church.

At the first of the year, our mortgage principle was \$76,548. The Finance Committee has set a goal of paying off our mortgage by this Thanksgiving. Regular monthly payments are expected to reduce the principle by \$45,000 by Thanksgiving. Therefore, we need additional gifts totaling \$31,548, or \$2,868 per month, to meet our goal. In January, we fell short by \$1,955.

In order to reach this goal, we are going to need to give aggressively to the 50@1 program. For example, if 40 families participate, we would need them to give an average of \$789 between January and November (\$72 per month). The Lord will not enable everyone to give at this level, but as we work together, by God's grace, we can eliminate our mortgage to expand our ministry—doing more to advance the cause of Christ in this world. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you help with this need.



Leaders for a New Year

The following church leaders have been appointed for 2009: John Goff, *Treasurer*; Frank Buckley, *Financial Secretary*; Amy Mount, *Clerk*; Doung Mount, *Moderator*; Ramiro Esquivel, Joe Robinson, Nancy Gardner and Sherry Wasserstein, *Clearing Committee*; Sid Teaford, *Finance Committee*; Bob Fulmer and Sid Teaford, *Financial Review Committee*; Bob and Nancy Gardner, *Ordinances*; Nancy Gardner, *Sunday School Superintendent*; Tracy English, Amy Mount and Gina

Irving, *Women's Ministries*; Pastor Lindholm, Pastor Odom, Pete English and Bob Jordan, *Men's Ministries*.

We are grateful for each one of these leaders the Lord has provided. We also praise Him for the faithful servants who provide leadership in our Christian education and outreach ministries and who help with the weekly worship services at Fellowship. Please pray for each one as they serve Christ and His church in 2009.



Once again this year Women's Ministries is sponsoring a project designed to *encourage our college students* as they pursue their studies. Donations are being received to purchase gift cards for our young men and women in school. Please turn in your contributions by Sunday, February 15.

Calendar

Feb. 6	Women's Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)
Feb. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 14	Couples Night Out (4:30 – 10:00 PM) <i>Childcare provided at the church</i>
Feb. 14, 21	Sparks-A-Rama Practice (9:30 AM) T&T Games Practice (10:45 AM)
Feb. 28	Seniors' Movie "Night" (2:00 PM) <i>All are encouraged to attend</i>
Feb. 28	Sparks-A-Rama (2:00 PM) T&T Games (4:00 PM) <i>Christian Fellowship Church (Ashburn, VA)</i>

Money Matters

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,122
Weekly Need	\$5,689
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$913
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$121