

Facets *of Fellowship*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 2009



Pastor's Perspective — Reflecting Our Diverse Community

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The phrase “the most segregated hour in America” has been around for a long time. Some attribute it to a sermon preached by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1953. Others say it was already celebrated as a cliché as early as 1949. But whenever people bring it up, it’s always framed in terms of black and white. This is shortsighted. It’s not just that blacks in America worship in black churches and whites in white. The divide is much greater and far more complicated. Koreans in America worship with Koreans, Chinese with Chinese, Ethiopians with Ethiopians, Hispanics/Latinos with Hispanics/Latinos, Vietnamese with Vietnamese, Arabic with Arabic—and so forth. I say that to our shame as Christians living in America in 2009.

If it were merely a matter of language, it might not be a problem. After all, I’m not likely to get much out of a service in Arabic without the help of a translator. But the reason for the divide isn’t merely language (or language at all, in the case of blacks and whites). It’s preference. Somehow, we’ve all bought into the idea of ethnically segregated churches—even though that’s not the model of the New Testament.

When the church was founded in Jerusalem, it was ethnically diverse. On the day of its founding alone, it was comprised of brand new Christians from fifteen different ethnic groups, all of which spoke different languages. With that kind of diversity, imagine the

kinds of problems they had to face and how difficult it might have been to work through them and learn to love each other in the process. Interestingly, what the Bible tells us is that it was the determined unity of this ethnically diverse group that was used of the Lord to present a convincing testimony of the transforming power of Christ to the lost of that city with the result that thousands came to saving faith in Him (Acts 2:42-47; 6:1-7).

All the believers were together and had everything in common.
Acts 2:44

The church at Antioch was also ethnically diverse. Like many churches in the New Testament, it was founded at an international crossroads with people from all over the world passing through and in residence. Therefore, as it reached its community with the Gospel, ethnic diversity was the natural result—and eventually that diversity was even reflected in the men that comprised its leadership team (Acts 13:1).

Fellowship sits at an international crossroads in an ethnically diverse population. As we reach our community for Christ, our church will naturally reflect that diversity. This is a good thing. In fact, it’s a biblical thing—and I’d love to see it happen. There’s no reason eleven o’clock on Sunday morning has to be “the most segregated hour in America.” Tell your neighbors about Christ and bring them to church.

Spring Festival



Fellowship’s 4th annual Spring Festival was held on Saturday, May 16. Though it rained in the morning and evening that day, the Lord provided wonderful weather during the festival hours. Once again our church family demonstrated a strong desire to reach out to our community, as more than 40 volunteers helped with the games, crafts, food, prizes, moon bounce, petting zoo, cake walk, gospel presentations and church information.

It was exciting to see over 250 people from the com-

munity in attendance. There were many opportunities to speak with people who came about their spiritual needs, and to encourage them to attend the services of the church and take part in its ministries. We praise the Lord that several families have visited Fellowship in subsequent weeks as a result of this outreach.

It is our prayer that the festival will make people in our community more aware of our church and its ministries. Please pray the Lord will provide further open doors for ministry in their lives in the days and weeks ahead, that we might see people won to Christ and added to His church.

Summer Family Worship



The Summer Family Worship Hour began on Sunday evening, June 7 and will continue to throughout the summer. This ministry provides an opportunity for families to worship the Lord together during the months that Awana is not in session. Pastor Odom and several others from the church family will be lead-

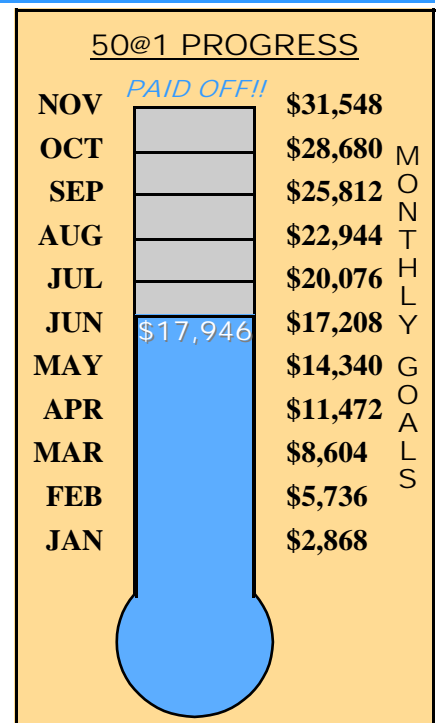
ing us in worship featuring a variety of music that appeals to all ages. Pastor Lindholm is providing a study in the book of 1 Corinthians for the adults, while the children meet separately for KidsTime. Please plan to join us for this great opportunity to worship with one another each Sunday evening at 6:00 PM!

Money Matters

We continue to make great progress toward raising \$31,548 in special giving in order to eliminate Fellowship's mortgage by Thanksgiving. As of May 31 we have already exceeded our goal for the end of June, leaving only \$13,602 needed to meet our goal. We praise the Lord for the generous giving of His people! Please pray for the Pastors and Deacons as they are now considering how to best reallocate the funds now devoted to the mortgage in order that Fellowship might address current and future needs and do more to advance the cause of Christ in our community and around the world.

May Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,797	General Fund giving continues to be a cause for concern as May's average weekly giving was by far the lowest average for any month this year. As a result, our yearly shortfall grew from \$4,950
Weekly Need	\$5,689	
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$91,768	
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$96,718	
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$321	

to \$9,408 during the past month, leaving us 7.5% below our average weekly need. Please pray for this need as we trust in the Lord's faithful provision.



Building Strong Fathers and Sons



All of our men and young men are encouraged to attend our Father's Day Breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 20. We will enjoy a time of fellowship around a homemade breakfast, and receive a challenge from God's Word designed to strengthen us as fathers and sons. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us!

Church Life Ministries

A church-wide dinner celebrating our seniors will be held on Friday, June 12. It's not too late to register! Please call the church office if you would like to join us.

A group from Fellowship will be going to the July 4th celebration on the National Mall. We will meet at the church in the late afternoon, ride the Metro to the Mall, take in the exhibits, listen to a military band concert, and watch the fireworks. Please sign up at the church.

Calendar



June 12	Church Dinner <i>Celebrating Our Seniors</i> (6:00 PM)
June 20	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
June 26	Women's Ministries Game Night (7:00 PM)
June 30	Youth King's Dominion Trip
July 4	Fireworks on the National Mall

Ladies' Game Night

Women's Ministries is having a game night on Friday, June 26 at 7:00 PM. All of the ladies are invited. Please bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Guests are welcome.



CONGRATULATIONS! *Yelka Esquivel, Whitney Howell and Justin Jensen graduated from George Mason University on May 16. Zachary Martens graduated from the US Naval Academy on May 22, and his brother Jacob graduates from Robinson Secondary School on June 16.*

