

Facets *of Fellowship*

MARCH 2005



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — A Taste of Heaven on Earth

Sometimes we get the idea that Christianity is only for people like us. A test is to close your eyes and try to envision the variety of people with whom we will one-day worship around the throne of God and the Lamb. If what you see is something that looks like a Sunday

"...try to envision the variety of people with whom we will one-day worship around the throne..."

School picture from the 1950s, you need to look again—or better yet, allow your vision to be corrected by a passage like Revelation 5:9. People from every tribe and language and people and nation will be together in worship—all purchased for God by the blood of the Lamb, all having bowed the knee to Jesus' name; the only name in heaven and earth that can save.

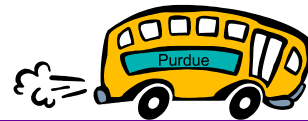
Every week our English as a Second Language Ministries are correcting our vision and allowing us the privilege to contribute to the variety that will be seen around the throne. At present we have nearly or perhaps a few more than 100 students enrolled repre-

senting 25 different countries. Most of our students live within a mile or two of our campus. As these students come to Christ—and some of them have and others will—we are experiencing a taste of heaven on earth.

Christ isn't the way to heaven for only native English speakers born in the USA. He's the way for Bengalis and Bolivians, for Pakistanis and Peruvians, for Egyptians and Ethiopians, for Ukrainians and Uruguayans, for Chileans and Chadians, for Kenyans and Koreans—for everyone. What a joy it is for us to see God at work and Christ manifested in people whose backgrounds are vastly different than our own. If I'm reading the Scriptures correctly, our task is not to make them like us, but to fashion them after Christ that He might be fully formed in them (Galatians 4:19).

Here in Northern Virginia, God has placed the nations at our doorstep and by His grace He is bringing them into the fellowship of our church. May we seize the moment as He expands our vision and equips us to reach and disciple them for His glory.

International Student Ministry



Each year Fellowship hosts international students from Purdue University during spring break. Our missionary Paul Briggs brings them to the DC area to tour our nation's capital and learn about Christianity. This ministry depends upon the host families who gra-

ciously open their homes. This year 19 students and four chaperones will be coming on March 12-17. Please pray for the salvation of the students, and for Paul and Pastor Lindholm as they lead the Bible study each evening.

Awana News

Fellowship's Awana ministry is enjoying another strong year. Each week about 60 children come to club to hear a Bible lesson, memorize God's Word and enjoy games together.

The Sparks and Truth & Training Clubs will be participating in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games on March 12 at Temple Baptist Church



in Herndon. Many unsaved children and family members will hear the gospel at this event which begins at 2:30 PM. Coaches Doug Mount and Kathy Buckley are working hard to prepare our clubbers for the competition.

A group of our T & T clubbers will also be participating in Bible quizzing on April 2 at 9:00 AM at McLean Bible Church. Everyone is encouraged to come and cheer for our teams at these upcoming events.

God's Work in Eagle River



George and Arlene Blood will be at Fellowship on Sunday morning, April 3. The Bloods are part of our missionary team, serving the Lord at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Eagle

River, Alaska. They will be reporting to us concerning their efforts to rebuild this church-plant. Please plan to attend that together we might encourage the Bloods and strengthen our partnership in the gospel.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Charlie and Becky Sparino

Charlie was born in Brooklyn, NY, the youngest of four children. At the age of five his family moved to Freeport, Long Island. His father, an Italian immigrant, had his own cabinet-making business. Charlie comes from a Catholic background but never attended church as a child.

Becky was born in Greenwood, SC where her family belonged to a Methodist church. She grew up with three sisters and two brothers.

During the Great Depression she moved to Clinton, SC where her father found work at a cotton mill. There they attended a Presbyterian church. Becky was always impressed with the importance her father placed on church involvement. She was baptized as a child, but did not learn until later in life of her need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

After graduating high school in 1942 Charlie attended Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. It was there he met his future bride while at an ice cream parlor one Sunday. The couple married in 1943 before Charlie went off to serve in the Army. After military service Charlie and Becky moved to Long Island where Charlie worked for Doubleday Book Company.

In 1950 Charlie and Becky experienced the loss of their young child Philip. In that trying time the Lord gave to Charlie a book that changed his life. As a result of reading "The Greatest Story Ever Told", about the life of Christ, Charlie accepted Jesus as Savior.

In 1958 the Sparinos moved to Northern Virginia, with Charlie taking a job with the Arlington County Government where he worked until his retirement in 1984. Becky also worked in Arlington for a time before becoming a full-time homemaker, a job she thoroughly enjoys.

In 1972 someone Becky met at work encouraged them to begin attending Immanuel Baptist Church in Springfield. For the first time in their lives Charlie and Becky were at a true Bible-teaching church. This led Becky to confirm her personal faith in Jesus. They were both baptized at Immanuel in 1973.

Charlie and Becky came to Fellowship in 1983 during those early days when the church met at Robinson Secondary School. One of Charlie's most memorable and rewarding experiences was helping with the construction of Fellowship's church building, which was completed in 1990. Over the years Becky has enjoyed serving in the church choir. Charlie is currently helping with the Awana Sparks club.

Charlie has a great desire to see Fellowship's mortgage eliminated and our facilities expanded. Becky asks that we pray for wisdom as they make important decisions in their later years.

*...We should love one another.
1 John 3:11*

Additional upgrades were made to the church's sound system in February. Special thanks go out to Richard Benham for donating several components.

Money Matters

Praise the Lord! February giving nearly eliminated the general fund shortfall caused by bad January weather.

February Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,829
Weekly Need	\$4,691
Year-To-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$41,355
Year-To-Date Need	\$42,219
Year-To-Date 50@1 Giving	\$946

Youth Notes

Sarah Buckley, a Junior at West Springfield High School, was named Student of the Quarter in the Culinary Arts program she attends at Edison High School.

Justin Jensen, also a Junior, is in West Springfield's History Honor Society that will be competing in the History Bowl at Georgetown University on March 19.

Celebrating the Resurrection

Don't miss the opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to worship the Lord with us on Easter. Pray that many visitors would be in attendance. Remember that we will have an early service at 8:30 AM.



Calendar



Mar. 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Mar. 12	Awana Games @ Temple Baptist (2:30 PM)
Mar. 12-17	International Student Ministry
Mar. 19	Youth Mall Mania (2:00 PM)
Mar. 26	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)
Mar. 27	EASTER (Early Service at 8:30 AM)
Apr. 2	Awana Quizzing @ McLean Bible (9:00 AM)
Apr. 3	George & Arlene Blood at Fellowship