

Facets *of Fellowship*

MARCH 2009



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Late Winter Storms

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

This morning I was reminded of how tough a late winter storm can be on the trunks and limbs of plants and shrubs. When I went outside to shovel the sidewalk and driveway, my attention was immediately drawn to the ornamental trees in our yard. Many of them were bent low to the ground—to what would seem nearly their breaking point—under the weight of the heavily watered snow.

Ordinarily I wouldn't have been especially concerned. After all, God has made the trunks and limbs of trees, even relatively delicate ornamental trees, to be enormously flexible and resilient. Under normal conditions, including most late winter storms, I would have every confidence that they would do just fine. But while I was shoveling the sidewalk, still bothered by the observed strain being borne by those trees, a neighbor gave me reason to think differently. He told me that the forecast was for moderating temperatures during the day, followed by a



hard-freeze overnight—the kind that might add just enough weight to those already strained trunks and limbs to shatter those trees that I've worked so hard to carefully shape and feed over the years. And I couldn't let that happen.

As I was clearing the snow from those limbs and branches, I was reminded of the Father's unfailing care for us. The storms of life can be devastatingly severe, but the Scriptures teach us that we must not fear that they will shatter us or impose upon us weights that by His grace we cannot bear.

They cannot. He is not willing to let that happen. The One who created us and planted us in His yard knows how fragile we are and so controls the storms of our lives that they will never exceed our capacity to bend without breaking. *"God is faithful; He will not let you be [tried] beyond what you can bear. But when you are [tried], He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13).



Amy Cuddington will give a report concerning her missions trip to Thailand during the evening worship service on Sunday, March 22. Please pray for Amy as she prepares her pictures and presentation, and please plan to attend!

Partnering with Our Missionaries

The 12th annual International Student Ministry will be held on March 14-19, as Fellowship hosts international students from Purdue University during their spring break. This partnership with our missionaries, Paul and Geri Briggs, enables international students to visit our nation's capital, while affording us the privilege of sharing Christ with them.



This year 24 students and chaperones will be coming. Each evening the students will participate in a Bible study designed to plant and water the seeds of the gospel in their lives. Please pray for the testimony of our host families, and for Paul Briggs and Pastor Lindholm as they lead the Bible studies.

A love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs and family will be received at Fellowship on Sunday, March 22 for the purpose of helping this missionary family with their \$818 shortfall in monthly support. Please pray the Lord will enable Fellowship to cover this shortfall for several months.

Celebrating Our Seniors

The first of a series of events to celebrate our seniors was held on Saturday, February 28. Seventeen people enjoyed a theater-style atmosphere in Fellowship Hall, complete with popcorn and movie candy, and watched "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." This classic was selected by our seniors, but several younger members also attended.



The next Seniors "Night" will be on Saturday, April 18. This time, we'll find out some of the favorite games (board games, card games, etc.) of our seniors, and everyone will be invited to the church for games, food, and fellowship. Seniors: let Ron and Sherry Wasserstein know your favorite games. And everyone: stay tuned for further details.

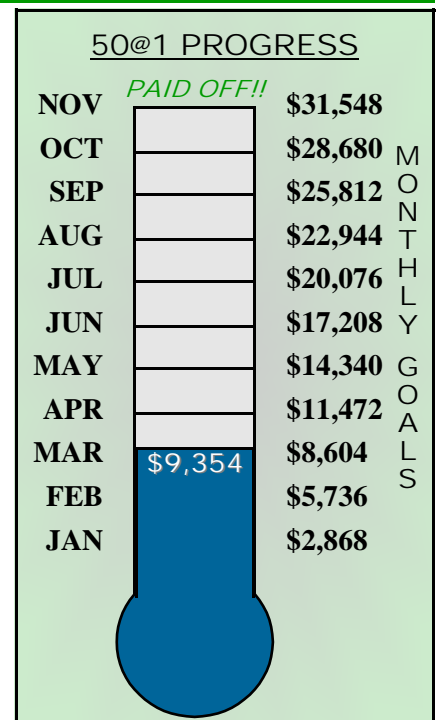
Congratulations to our Awana clubbers who participated in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games on Saturday, February 28! Our Sparks team placed fourth, and our Truth & Training team won their event. The players from Fellowship were Walter Cuddington, Michael and Rachel English, and Rebecca Odom. Through this exciting event, the gospel was shared with clubbers and their family and friends.



Eliminating Our Mortgage – Expanding Our Ministry

Fellowship's goal is to raise \$31,548 in special giving in order to eliminate the mortgage by Thanksgiving. Assuming 40 families participate, we would need them to give an average of \$789 between January and November (\$72 per month). ***So far the Lord is providing wonderfully, as \$9,354 has come in—putting us a month ahead of schedule!*** Please continue to prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you help with this need.

The most exciting part of eliminating the mortgage is the potential for doing more to expand Christ's kingdom at home and abroad. With this in mind, the Pastors and Deacons have begun to consider how the church should reallocate the resources currently devoted to the mortgage once it has been eliminated. Among our greatest priorities are increasing Fellowship's commitment to world missions, and expanding our classroom and multi-purpose space. The church's long-standing goal is to devote 33% of the church budget to missions, whereas only 16% of the current budget is set aside for this purpose. Further, greater classroom space will be of great benefit to our Awana, ESL, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School ministries. And increased multi-purpose space will enhance our Awana program, facilitate church-wide fellowship gatherings, and open the door to developing additional outreach ministries. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's wisdom and provision for Fellowship's future.



Serving our Men



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 8:00 AM. We had a great turnout at our January breakfast, and Ron Wasserstein challenged us from Hebrews 10 to have a greater ministry of encouragement in the lives of one another as we gather together as brothers in Christ. We hope to see even more of our men and young men out for this next time of fellowship and encouragement from the Word.

Money Matters

Average weekly General Fund giving increased from \$5,122 in January to \$5,502 in February, putting us much closer to where we need to be to meet the 2009 budget. Please pray the Lord will enable us to eliminate our current \$377 weekly shortfall.

February Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,502
Weekly Need	\$5,689
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$42,496
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$45,514
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$321

Encouraging Our Students

Thank you to all those who donated to the college student project sponsored by Women's Ministries. A total of \$375 was received, enabling Fellowship to give each of our 15 students a \$25 gift card. We trust this expression of loving concern will be an encouragement to them. Please remember to pray for: Sarah Buckley, Sarah Cuddington, Will Gardner, Corey and Whitney Howell, Justin Jenson, Matt and Russell Mahoney, Zach Martens, Mykella Martinez, Jim and Matt Ray, Justin Siemens, and Grace and John Wasserstein. Pray also for Wes Martens as he completes submarine training with the US Navy in Groton, CT.



Calendar

Mar. 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Mar. 14-19	International Student Ministry Missionary Paul Briggs
Mar. 22	Love Offering for Paul & Geri Briggs Thailand Missions Trip Report (Amy Cuddington – PM Service)
Mar. 28	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM) Women's Concert Outing (depart at 1:00 PM)