

Facets *of Fellowship*

MARCH 2010



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Looking Back, Looking Ahead

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

When the construction of our church building was completed, the congregation gathered in celebration. They gave the glory to God and dedicated themselves and these facilities to the service of the gospel. Some of you were there. The date was October 21, 1990.

This Sunday, March 7, 2010, we will gather in celebration of the retirement of our mortgage. As in that first service, we will give the glory to God and rededicate ourselves and these facilities in service to the gospel.

For those who were in that first service, this Sunday's celebration will have a ring of familiarity. This is by design. The disciple-making mandate of our Lord has not changed in these nineteen years. We are on the same mission today as then.

One of the people that I will personally miss in this Sunday's celebration is my predecessor, Dr. Ollie Goad. He is in poor health and therefore unable to attend. It was under his leadership that the entire project was undertaken and then brought to a conclusion in that service of dedication.

In that first service of dedication, Pastor Goad challenged the church to be intentional in its ministry. He reminded the church of the many times in the New Testament that we read of Jesus that He said or did something to this or some particular "end"—meaning purpose or goal. By my count there are almost a dozen

such references, beginning with Luke 18:1 and entailing, among others, passages such as John 18:37 and Romans 14:9.

On the occasion of this Sunday's celebration, I should like to give Pastor Goad a voice "to the end" that we might be challenged afresh and anew to embrace the purposes for which God has given us not only our facilities but also our existence and ministry as a body. Looking at the facilities on that Sunday and then speaking to the church, Pastor asked: "To what end, all of this?" He cited five purposes: 1) to the end that the name of Jesus Christ might be magnified and worshipped in this place; 2) to the end that we might meet the needs of the people that God sends our way and help them in the name of Jesus; 3) to the end that the gospel might be proclaimed and that many might believe in and come to know Jesus Christ as Savior; 4) to the end that we might be a voice for God in a world that is in rebellion against Him, where sin and darkness, unbelief and injustice reign; and 5) to the end that we might be visibly at work for the Savior as we eagerly anticipate and await His return.

On this Lord's day, may we rededicate ourselves to these ends, which are God's purposes, as once again we gather to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness and to give God the glory for the great things He has done. May we also humbly remember that our future as our past rests entirely in Him.

AWANA GAMES



On Saturday, March 6, Fellowship's Awana clubbers will participate in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games at Christian Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA. The Sparks competition begins at 9:30 AM and the T&T games at 12:30 PM. Plan to come out and cheer on our teams! A small entrance fee is charged to help offset the cost of the event. Please pray for a fun and safe event, and for children and family members to be won to Christ through the gospel presentation.

Partnering with Our Missionaries

Each year Fellowship's missionaries, Paul and Geri Briggs, arrange a spring break trip for international students from Purdue University, where the Briggs serve with Salt & Light Christian Fellowship International. Fellowship assists with this outreach by hosting the international students during their time in the Washington, DC area. It is amazing to realize that this will be our 13th year of this ministry. It is always a highlight on the church's calendar, and we rejoice in what the Lord has been pleased to do in students' lives through this trip.

This year Paul will be bringing a group of 19 visiting scholars and 5 other American chaperones. They will arrive on Saturday evening, March 13 and depart on Thursday morning, March 18.



Host families have the joy of demonstrating Christ's love for the international students, engaging them in gospel-centered conversations, and leading the students staying in their home in a brief Bible study on Tuesday evening. The students are excited to come and visit our nation's capital, and we are excited to share the gospel with them. Please consider helping with this ministry by hosting students in your home this year!

Please pray for safety as the group travels, for good discussions around the Word in the Bible study each evening, and for Paul, Pastor Lindholm and the host families as they lead the studies. Pray the Lord will be pleased to draw students to Himself as we plant and water the seeds of the gospel.

A love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs and family will be received at Fellowship on Sunday, March 21 for the purpose of demonstrating our love and appreciation for this missionary family while helping them with their shortfall in monthly support. Please pray the Lord will enable Fellowship to cover the Briggs' shortfall for several months.

MORTGAGE VICTORY CELEBRATION

Just a year ago we had quite a long way to go to reach our goal of eliminating Fellowship's mortgage by Thanksgiving 2009. But the Lord provided in a wonderful way, and we met our goal ahead of schedule! Please plan to join us on Sunday morning, March 7 for our Mortgage



Victory Celebration, a special time of worship and thanksgiving for what the Lord was pleased to accomplish through the faithfulness and generosity of His people. We are excited to have Don and Jan Fanning, our first pastor and wife, join us for this celebration.

Encouraging Our College Students

Women's Ministries is currently collecting monetary donations to be used toward the purchase of gift cards for our college students. Through this project we aim to remind our students of our love and concern, while helping them with some college expenses. The deadline for contributing is Sunday, March 14. Please put your gifts in the offering plate, and make checks payable to the church.



Also remember to pray for: Jamie Briggs (Ivey Tech Community), Zach Briggs (Purdue), Sarah Buckley (George Mason), Sarah Cuddington (North Florida), Will Gardner (George Mason), Corey Howell (George Mason), Matt Mahoney (Virginia Tech), Russell Mahoney (George Mason), Jim Ray (John Brown), May Ray (Columbia International), Justin Siemens (Huntington), and Beth Wasserstein (Hutchinson).



2010 Bible Memory Challenge

Our verses for March are Colossians 2:6-7: *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

Money Matters

Average weekly General Fund giving was slightly above the budgeted need in February, and has exceeded the need by \$134 per week for the year thus far, this in spite of low attendance on January 31 and cancellation of services on February 7 due to snow.

In addition, generous love offerings were given for three missionary families, with \$1,006 received for Ted and Dawn Siemens, \$1,156 for Dave and Julie Ray, and \$960 for Brian and Jo Anderson.

February Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,300
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$48,820
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$47,612
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$170

Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 27 at 8:00 AM. We had a record turnout at our January breakfast, and missionary Ted Siemens challenged us to consider more fully the meaning and significance of Christ's coming to earth to be our Savior. We hope to see even more of our men and young men out for this next time of fellowship and encouragement, as we seek to equip our men to serve the Lord in the home, church, community and workplace. See Pete English or Pastor Lindholm if you are willing to help with this ministry.

Calendar



Mar. 6	Sparks-A-Rama (9:30 AM) Awana Games (12:30 PM) Christian Fellowship Church, Ashburn VA
Mar. 7	Mortgage Victory Celebration (AM Service)
Mar. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Mar. 13-18	International Student Ministry Missionary Paul Briggs
Mar. 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 21	Love Offering for Paul & Geri Briggs
Mar. 27	Men's Breakfast