

Facets of Fellowship

MAY 2007



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Taking Responsibility for One Another

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

When the Korean community learned it was a Korean who carried out the massacre at Virginia Tech, the response was one of profound shame. To its horror, one of its own had murdered thirty-two people in cold-blood. Though he had pulled the trigger, in their minds, they were responsible. He was a product of their community. "Where did we go wrong?" was the question that gripped their hearts. "We are so sorry, please forgive us" were the words uttered from their lips.

Such shame and corporate solidarity is unheard of in our day and culture. To be American in reference to such crime and failure is to blame the individual and ignore the group. I'd like to be kinder in that assessment and say that we "spare" the group, by which I would mean that we at least see the connection between the individual who acts and the group that produced the person, but we don't—and so I use the word "ignore." We see no connection between the action of the individual and the enculturation provided the individual by the group. This saves us a lot of grief, throws shame out the window and allows us to express outrage and indignation instead. "Give us new laws! New laws are what we need!" No, the problem is deeper than that.

Though Nehemiah and Daniel were not the triggermen in their days, when they approached the Lord in prayer

and confessed the sins of their people, they included themselves among the transgressors as they mourned and wept and fasted in sackcloth and ashes (Nehemiah 1 and Daniel 9). When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, he implicated the entire crowd of people gathered as having put Jesus to death. Though not all actually participated, all were nevertheless involved. When Paul spoke to the church about the sinful failure of one of its brothers, he spoke of their corporate solidarity and described how their

failure to grieve over his sin and to correctively act upon it impacted all of them (1 Corinthians 5).

There are lessons to be learned from the response of the Korean community to the events at Virginia Tech. As a body of believers at Fellowship,

our task is to make disciples of Christ. When we fail to do that because a marriage crumbles, a brother or sister falls into sexual sin, a young person wanders from the truth or when other vows to the Lord are set aside and broken—or for whatever other reason, there ought to be a sense of corporate responsibility and shame that drives us to our knees to confess sin and to search for answers: "We have responsibility here. Where did we go wrong? What did/didn't we do? How can we safeguard against this happening again? Lord, we need your help." As I said, there are lessons to be learned. Let's pray that we learn them.

...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:25

Serving Our Young Adults

Plans are underway to provide a new Sunday school class for college and career age young adults with a projected start date in June of this year. Please pray for God's direction as this new ministry emphasis is developed, and for the Lord's provision of an individual or couple to lead this class. Our desire is to provide our young adults with a forum for Bible study and application, and to encourage fellowship among the participants. All of our young adults are urged to make this new Sunday school class an important part of their schedule. To learn more please see our Deacon for Christian Education, Frank Buckley.



Wrapping Up Another Year of Ministry

Thursday Night ESL

The school year for Fellowship's Thursday night ESL classes will conclude on Thursday, May 10. An end-of-year party will be held from 8:00 to 9:00 PM that night. Everyone is invited to come out and help us demonstrate Christ's love for our students. Pray also that our students will be drawn to Christ as we share with them from God's Word during these final weeks.



Awana Clubs

Our annual Awana Award Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening, May 20 at 5:30 PM. Through this event we recognize the achievement of our clubbers, as they have invested in the memorizing and studying of God's Word. This is also an opportunity to reach out to those Awana parents who do not have a church home.



Reaching Out to Our Community



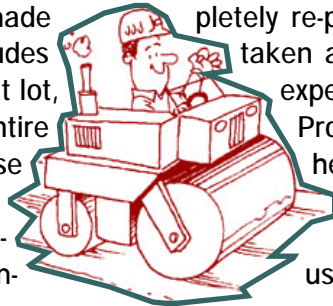
Preparations are being made for Fellowship's 2nd annual Spring Festival to be held on the church grounds on Saturday, May 19 from NOON to 4:00 PM. This year's festival will include a moon bounce, petting zoo, games for all ages, crafts, food and prizes. We will also be adding a gospel booth, where a short gospel presentation will be given and New Testaments will be distributed. These New Testaments explain the plan of salvation using the illustration of the cross of Christ as the bridge between sinful man and our holy God.

Broad participation by our church family is absolutely crucial to the success of this outreach effort, as this event requires many volunteers. Please use the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. By investing just a few hours of your time you can help us touch lives for all eternity. Flyers are also available for use in inviting neighbors, friends and family. See Pete English for further information.

Please pray for good weather, and many visitors from our community—that some would come to Christ through the gospel presentations and literature distributed, and that the Lord would open doors for further ministry in the lives of many of those who attend.

Parking Lot Improvement

Much-needed repairs are currently being made to the church parking lot. This work includes paving the problematic "fingers" in the front lot, filling the extensive cracks, resealing the entire lot, and re-striping the parking spaces. These repairs should enable the church to avoid, at least for several more years, the significantly higher expense associated with com-



pletely re-paving the parking lot. Church action was taken at the April Quarterly Business Meeting to expend Building Fund monies for these repairs. Provided the church's General Fund remains healthy, the use fee paid by the Korean church that meets in our building will be used to replenish Building Fund monies used for the parking lot project.

Mother's Day Luncheon

Women's Ministries is having a luncheon at Tracy English's home on Saturday, May 12 at 11:30 AM. All ladies are invited. Bring your daughter, mother, or friend...all are welcome. Please also bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is in the church foyer.



Money Matters

The Lord continues to provide in wonderful ways. Though our April General Fund giving per week was a bit low, average General Fund giving for the first four months exceeded the weekly need by \$120.

April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,991
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$91,089
Year-to-Date Need	\$89,046
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$3,625

Calendar

May 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
May 10	ESL End-of-Year Party (8:00 PM)
May 12	Mother's Day Luncheon (11:30 AM) Tracy English's Home
May 19	Spring Festival (NOON-4:00 PM)
May 20	Awana Award Ceremony (5:30 PM) No Other Evening Ministries
May 27	Memorial Day Sunday (AM Service) Potluck Luncheon (NOON) No Evening Ministries

There are no evening ministries on Sunday, May 27. Instead, a potluck luncheon will follow the morning worship service. Please plan to stay for the luncheon, and bring a dish to share.