

# Facets of Fellowship

MAY 2009



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Perspective — Ministry in the Midst of Crisis

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I don't have any special insight into what's going to happen with the swine flu. The death toll may be in the hundreds or the thousands. Some of us or none of us will contract the disease. But whatever the outcome, I can tell you that our response as Christians must manifest the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that sickness, disease and death are reminders of sin and point to the need of a Savior. As those who know the Savior, we may suffer sickness, disease and death along with the rest of humanity, but for us the fear of death has been removed by our sin-bearing, wrath-absorbing Savior. Death has no hold on us because it had no hold on Him. This frees us to minister with calm, compassion and confidence even in the face of death. Peter talks about people asking the reason for the hope that is in us. This presupposes that hope is seen.

**"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"**  
*Matthew 25:40*

Martin Luther lived his life in the midst of recurring onslaughts of the bubonic plague, which usually killed people within a couple of days of onset. In fact, Luther lived through three outbreaks in Wittenberg—in 1527, 1535 and 1539. This was the same plague that killed anywhere from a third to half the population of Europe from 1347-1350. Luther urged his congregation to never leave the sick. He reminded them that those who love the Lord also love their neighbors. As far as Luther was concerned, such ministry was either a denial or an affirmation of faith—there was no middle ground. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46 agree.

I pray that God would spare us the experience of ministry in a time of pandemic outbreak of swine flu. But if He should call on us to love our neighbors in such a day, I pray that we would be prepared to do so in a way that speaks of our confidence in God, manifests His love and points the lost to Jesus.

**We Need You...** to help with the 4th annual Spring Festival on Saturday, May 16 (NOON to 4:00 PM). Broad participation by our church family is vital to this outreach effort. Please sign-up in the foyer and invite friends and neighbors to attend. Please also pray for good weather, and for many visitors from our community—that some would come to Christ through the gospel presentations and literature, and that the Lord would open doors for further ministry in the lives of those who attend.



## Using English to Share the Gospel

*All are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall on May 14 from 8:00 to 9:00 PM for our ESL end-of-year party.*

Through the ESL ministry, God continues to provide wonderful opportunities to share the message of salvation with people from around the world. This spring we were thrilled to be able to confirm that one of our students has placed his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.



and Laurie Cuddington have provided beginner students with valuable one-on-one instruction. More than ever, the Thursday night classes have drawn internationals to the ESL Sunday School class and, in several cases, into the church services and other activities.

The spring semester will conclude on May 14. Attendance has been roughly equal to that in past years, generally between 25 and 35 each week. We are thankful for our dedicated teachers and helpers. Sherry Wasserstein joined the team this year, and she

The Sunday school class continues during the summer months, and our Thursday night classes will resume on September 10. Please continue to pray for the Lord's work in our students' lives. See Brian Platt if the Lord is directing you to help with this ministry.

## Building Lives on the Word of God



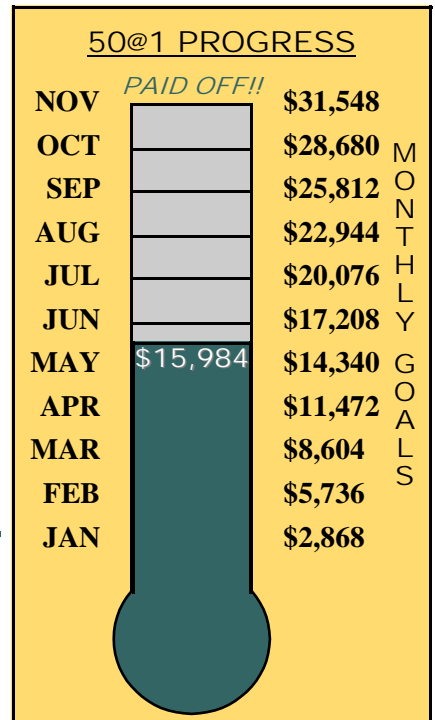
The annual Awana Award Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening, May 17 at 6:00 PM. This event is held to recognize the achievement of our clubbers as they have invested much time memorizing and studying God's Word. The Award Ceremony is also an opportunity to reach out to Awana parents who do not have a church home, and to express our appreciation to those who have served in this ministry of reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and training them to serve Him. The conclusion of this club year marks the end of Frank Buckley's service as our Awana Commander. We thank the Lord for Frank's many years of faithful and effective leadership.

# Money Matters

We are already over halfway to our goal of raising \$31,548 in special giving in order to eliminate Fellowship's mortgage by Thanksgiving. We praise the Lord for providing, and are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead..

April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,341
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

Average weekly General Fund giving continues to lag behind the budgeted need. Please pray the Lord will enable us to close this gap in the months ahead.



## Missions News

**Church Graduation:** Dean and Julie Blood's church-plant, Peters Creek Baptist Church, has called its own pastor and graduated from missions status on May 3. We praise the Lord for the establishment of this local church! This is the first church planted in Alaska through Dean and Julie's ministry, adding to the four churches that Dean's parents, George and Arlene, have helped plant.

**A New Doctor:** Congratulations to Jim Ruff who graduates from Baptist Bible Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) on May 8. Jim's doctoral project is producing a basic theology course that will be used to train new missionaries lacking formal Bible training.

**Supplemental Support:** Fellowship is providing Jim and Jan Ruff with an additional support supplement of \$250 per month for the remainder of 2009 to help with several financial needs that have arisen this year.

**Furniture Giveaway:** A team is being organized from Fellowship to assist Paul and Geri Briggs with their annual furniture giveaway at Purdue University in August. See Pete English for further details.

## Mother's Day Luncheon



Women's Ministries is hosting a Mother's Day luncheon in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, May 9 at 11:30 AM. Neita Lindholm will be our speaker. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend. Please bring your mothers and daughters as well. You can sign up in the church foyer or call the church office to register.

## Memorial Day Sunday

Chaplain Steve Szasz will provide a special Memorial Day message during the morning service on May 24. This will be Steve's last Sunday with us at Fellowship. After the morning service, everyone is invited to participate in an opportunity to fellowship with a portion of the church family. We are seeking families to host a luncheon for a group in their home. Please register in the church foyer and indicate if you are able to serve as hosts. There will be no evening ministries that Sunday.



## Calendar



May 9	Mother's Day Luncheon (1130 AM)
May 12	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
May 14	ESL End-of-Year Party (8:00 PM)
May 16	Spring Festival (NOON to 4:00 PM)
May 17	Awana Awards Night (6:00 PM)
May 20	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
May 24	Lunch Fellowships (NOON) No Evening Ministries