



Pastor's Perspective — Changes

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

In my experience and observation, churches that value the Bible have always had three services—Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday night.

For thirty-two years, I've pastored a church with three services, so it's always been easy to make assumptions about churches that don't. But I now pastor a church that soon won't—and it's given me pause because, despite these changes to our ministry program, I know our commitments, and one of them is that we value the Bible.

Our purpose statements indicate "we value relevance; therefore, we apply the unchanging Word of God using culturally sensitive methods." And what that means is that as we see changes in our culture which require changes in us to more effectively communicate the unchanging (and eternally relevant) Word of God to the people of our day, we will embrace those changes, no matter how difficult (and painful) it may be for us to do that. In that regard, I am reminded and instructed by the testimony of the Apostle Paul: "To the weak I become weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)

That we are implementing changes to our ministry program means that changes have occurred in our day and culture which call for changes in us (in the way we do ministry).

One of the changes that we've seen in recent years is the shift in people's minds to attending only one service a week. All the possible reasons for that need not be elaborated, but the result is that, more and more, even those who once might have been Sunday evening and Wednesday night church-goers aren't going any more. This, coupled with the growing number of people who have never had that habit and never will, suggests the need for change.

Many churches that have observed the trend to attending only one service a week, have also noted a strong desire for a vital sense of community among their members, and have found the use of small group gatherings for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth and evangelistic outreach to be an effective way to feed that desire and to stimulate the body-life of their assemblies.

With those things in mind, a small groups ministry is slated to begin at Fellowship in September, with church-wide orientation and training to be provided by

Pastor Stuart on selected Sunday evenings throughout the summer starting June 4. Though small groups may choose to meet any day or evening of the week, they will operate in lieu of both the Sunday evening and Wednesday evening ministry line-ups, including the services and the current children's ministries: Awana, Kid's Korner and Kid's Time.

This is not to say that children's ministries will now take a back seat at Fellowship. On the contrary, they are being moved front and center to Sunday mornings, which is where many churches are shifting their children's ministry emphasis, given not only the trend to people attending only one service a week, but the continued, strong desire on the part of parents to still have a robust, Bible-centered ministry program for their younger children.

In September, we will also launch a new children's ministry called "Building Blocks" for those age 3-grade 6. It will be under the direction of Pete and Tracy English. "Building Blocks" is designed to help parents train children to build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ who is the living Word of God and the source of God's eternal blessings. It will focus on six key spiritual building blocks: trusting, respecting, obeying, loving, serving and growing. It will run concurrent with the morning service and tie nicely with a revamped Sunday School program for that same age group.

The changes described above are big.

Thank you for being on board with them, even if they are difficult for you to think about.

In the months ahead we will need "all-hands-on-deck" and a lot of wisdom from God to make these changes successfully and to His glory. Let's be praying and working toward those ends.

Small Groups Training Kickoff!

On **Sunday evening June 4, 5:30 PM**, we'll meet as a congregation for a **light dinner** followed by a time of **discussion** centered on the morning Bible message and its application to our lives. This will be a great opportunity to learn and **grow together** as a community of believers, as we **build one another up** in our walk with the Lord. Mark your calendar, and we look forward to seeing everyone here!

Spring Festival

Spring is here! And with spring comes an exciting opportunity for us as a church body to work together in the community outreach Spring Festival.

The festival is on Saturday, June 3, from noon until 4:00 PM. It is "a highlight of the church calendar," according to Brian Platt, Deacon for Outreach.

"It provides a great setting in which to meet new people in our community, with the goal of getting to know them and opening up opportunities to minister to them," he said. "It's also fun to work together as a body to pull it off."

The festival attracts hundreds from the neighborhoods surrounding the church and includes cake walks, games, crafts, free hot dogs and beverages, as well as tables to distribute literature about the church and share the Gospel. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby.

"We need lots of volunteers," Brian reminded. Volunteers are needed to help with the games and crafts, with serving food, with giving out prizes and talking to people about the church and the Lord. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food and to make cakes and cupcakes for the cake walk—a very popular event. And volunteers are needed in setting up, taking down and cleaning after the event. There is certainly a place for anyone and everyone who has a heart to help. Most importantly—and something everyone can do—we need people praying that God will use the event to accomplish His will for His glory.

Money Matters

April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,817
Weekly Need	\$5,015
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$82,625
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$90,270

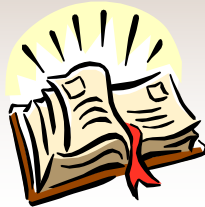


May Calendar

May 9	Nursing Home Ministry, 2:00 PM
May 13	Mother's Day Brunch, 11:00 AM
May 17	Missions Prayer Meeting, 7:30 PM
May 19	Clothing Swap Drop-Off, 7:00 PM
May 20	Clothing Swap, 8:00-11:00 AM
May 21	Awana Award Ceremony, 6:00 PM
May 25	ESL Class Party, 8:00 PM
May 28	Memorial Day Lunch (No PM Ministries)

2017 Bible Memory Project May Verse

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7



We Now Offer Three Convenient Ways to Give to Fellowship...



Cash or Check when the offering plate is passed. Offering envelopes can be obtained from the church office, if desired.

Online via Credit Card or eCheck, one-time or recurring giving. Use our website and click on "Give", or go directly to www.easytithe.com/fbcva. You can also download the EasyTithe mobile app.

Text your desired gift amount to 703-270-0277 (credit card only). Text "help" for more info, or text "funds" to see a list.

Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152