

Facets of Fellowship

NOVEMBER 2004



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — First Things First

Struggling to get those priorities in order? Three times in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us what to do first.

"First go and be reconciled to your brother" (5:24). The Christian life has both horizontal and vertical responsibilities. We can't be right with God if we're not right with men—and we can't separate one from the other. If a man says he loves God, he will prove it by loving his brother. Jesus makes it clear that our acts of worship are of no value unless our hearts are right with each other. This is a reminder that the judge and only valid evaluator of our worship is the Lord, who looks on the heart.

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" (6:33). The context has to do with worrying about and being consumed with the temporal things of life. Jesus is saying that these kinds of things are not to be at the center—God is. When He says, "and all of these things will be given to you as well," He's reminding us that

the things that typically occupy our centers are not unimportant to God. He wants us to know that God is already committed to providing those things—and that He will make room for them and help us to give them their proper place when we put Him first.

"First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (7:5). It never ceases to amaze me, at times, how ready I am to point out the flaws and failings of others, but how unprepared (and unwilling) I am to admit and correct my own. Have you ever noticed that we tend to be the harshest on others in those areas where we are weakest ourselves? Jesus uses the present tense. Next time you have that urge to offer a harsh critique, resist. You're probably overdue for a trip to the surgeon. We need unobstructed vision to do the gracious ministry of Christ.

Put first things first.

Acknowledging God's Faithfulness



God has provided for the financial needs of our church in a wonderful way this year. As a result, the church has been able to restore some of the budget cuts made this year. We can only praise the Lord for His goodness, and for the faithful-

ness of His people! As we come to Thanksgiving some may be looking for a special way to express their gratitude. With this in mind a special offering will be received on November 21 and 28 to help reduce the principle on our mortgage.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever.

Psalms 136:1

A Look at Youth Ministries (Part one of a two-part series)

Fellowship's Youth Ministries seeks to provide biblical training for our Jr. and Sr. High students—those ages that constitute the "youth group". Currently there are 16 teens in that age range, representing six different schools. There is a good spread over all school grades, including two seniors and three seventh graders.

Through this ministry Pastor Odom is helping our young people develop spiritual disciplines, such as daily Bible reading, prayer, Scripture memory, church ministry, and witnessing. He is also seeking to equip teens for the challenges of today and the future by ensuring they are firmly grounded in God's Word. He wants to see the youth grow into a unified, cohesive group, evidenced by loyalty to each other and the

church. Another goal is to instill within them those qualities that will enable them to one day assume leadership positions in the local church.

To accomplish these goals Pastor Odom leads two regular weekly youth gatherings—*PRIMETIME* which meets on Sunday evenings, and the Wednesday evening Bible study. The purpose of *PRIMETIME* is to build stronger relationships between the teens. It is well-attended and usually held at the church, but also includes outings to restaurants, putt-putt golf or bowling.

The mid-week Bible study, being a critical means of discipleship training, is of particular concern to Pastor Odom. It seems that the busyness of life has crowded out this important time, and attendance is sparse. Please pray for greater participation in this important aspect of our Youth Ministries.

Other youth activities include retreats, amusement park trips, ski outings and all-nighters. The main purposes of these events is relationship building within the youth group and outreach to unsaved friends.

Missions Project Offering

Through the offering received on October 24 \$893 was provided to assist international students at Purdue University with the cost of a three-day Christmas retreat led by our missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs. Thank you! Please pray for many to be saved.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Ollie Dickens

Ollie was born and grew up here in Washington, D.C. She was the youngest of six children and lived in rented homes in DC until 1939 when her folks bought their first home in Northwest. Her father drove the street cars and then buses, while her mother was a homemaker. The family attended the Church of the Brethren in Southeast. She had three uncles who were ministers in the Shenandoah Valley area.

Ollie's activities were limited because of the large family's financial needs. They had to earn money for the movies on Saturday afternoons by collecting and selling old newspapers. Movies were 15 cents and they could watch them over and over. She enjoyed Girl Scouts, church activities and games on the playground.

Ollie did not graduate from high school because she married at a very young age, but in 1967 she took the GED test and passed it on the first try. She worked as a bookkeeper for a jewelry store in DC during World War II. Then in 1948 after her second child was born, Ollie took the Civil Service test and began a career in the procurement field, primarily at the Pentagon. She retired in 1981 after 30 years of service.

In February, 1941 a friend introduced her to Calvin Maxwell Dickens (Max). The two married in June, 1942 in the parsonage of a Baptist Church in

Rockville, MD. Ollie was saved during a revival at a Baptist church in Alexandria, VA in 1954. Max was saved and baptized in 1974. Ollie recalls praying for her husband and says, "His salvation was such a blessing and we worshipped together for 14 years before he went to be with the Lord."

She and Max were blessed with two sons, David and Ronald. Both are in the commercial printing business located in Newington, VA. In addition to her sons and their wives, Ollie is blessed with 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren (4 girls and a boy) all of whom live in the area.

Ollie enjoys china painting (which she did for 20 years) but has been forced to give it up. She asks us to pray for improved strength in her right arm and leg which were weakened by a stroke last year. She plans to begin painting classes this month at the Greenspring Village community she now calls home. Ollie also enjoys crocheting, reading and singing.

A charter member of Fellowship, Ollie serves as secretary for her Sunday school class. She states, "It is difficult to put into words how much my church family means to me. Everyone is so helpful to take me places and see that I get back home. Thanks to all of you. It was quite an adjustment for me to be without my car but the Lord also gave me a peace about that."

Now about brotherly love... we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.
1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Money Matters

October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,594
Weekly Need	\$4,590
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$211,816
Year-to-Date Need	\$201,960
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$8,405



Calendar



Nov. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Nov. 19	Youth All-Nighter
Nov. 20	Church-wide Work Day (8:00 AM)
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:30 PM)
Nov. 27	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)
Dec. 3	Women's Ministries Christmas Party

Serving Through Music



Music is an integral part of the church's worship experience. God uses those with musical abilities to lead us in expressing our praise to Him. If you are one such person, please come out on Sunday after-

noons at 4:30 to practice, under Beverly Johnson's direction, with other individuals and/or groups who are a part of our music ministry. You don't have to be a professional musician. All you need is the ability to sing (or play), and a heart to serve the Lord.