

# Facets of Fellowship

NOVEMBER 2006



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Perspective — Honoring God by Honoring Marriage

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The Virginia Marriage Amendment faces an uphill battle for approval. Opponents argue that the amendment is unnecessary, since Virginia law already bans same-sex marriage and other same-sex domestic partnership arrangements which approximate marriage, and that approval of the measure would serve only to perpetuate Virginia's past history in legislated segregation and the prohibition of interracial marriage. These arguments find traction among large segments of our population. But I would argue that approval is not about our shameful past, which is inexcusable, but about truth and honor for this and future generations.

The truth is that unless the people of Virginia vote to approve the amendment, the homosexual lobby will seek to overturn the current law through the courts, as it has done in other states. The only way to protect the current law (and traditional marriage, which has always and only been between one man and one woman) is to amend the constitution.

The truth is that those who seek to change the law or who oppose the proposed amendment wish to create out of

nothing a definition of marriage which has never existed. In the beginning, it was God alone, as the Sovereign Creator, who established and defined marriage as one man and one woman becoming one flesh by covenant and sexual union (Genesis 2:24). When Jesus was questioned about marriage in His own day, He not only referred to God's original intent, but also affirmed God's continued governance in marriage and used gender-specific language to identify the partners in a marriage (Matthew 19:4-6).

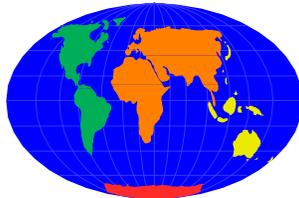
The truth is that there is no such thing as same-sex marriage in the eyes of God. The Bible defines homosexual behavior as a *shameful, unnatural perversion* (Romans 1:26-27). On the other hand, the Bible says that marriage *should be honored by all* (Hebrews 13:4).

The truth is that there is no shame in voting for the approval of the Virginia Marriage Amendment on November 7. Indeed, we have the opportunity to *honor* marriage and to *honor* God by upholding His original intent in marriage and acknowledging His continued governance over the institution He established and defined.

*Marriage should be honored by all...*  
Hebrews 13:4

## International Dinner

An International Dinner will be held at Fellowship on Saturday, November 11 at 5:30 PM. This is a church-wide event and affords us an opportunity for meaningful fellowship with one another. Plan to come and bring a favorite dish to share from "your part of the world". Please use the sign-up sheet in the church foyer.



We have invited our ESL families to attend and hope to learn more about them as individuals, as well as about their cultures. Even if you are not regularly involved in Fellowship's ESL ministry, through this event you can be used to further the cause of Christ in the lives of these families, remembering that God "wants all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4).

## Thanksgiving Project

Throughout the month of November, Fellowship's Awana Clubs are sponsoring a food drive to benefit needy families in our community. Everyone (not just Awana families) is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the box in the foyer.

*Command those who are rich in this present world...to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*  
1 Timothy 6:17-18



## Becoming God's Man

A men's retreat will be held on December 8-9 at Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center in Middletown, MD. Lodging will be in their motel facility. Brochures detailing the retreat are available in the church foyer. Our speaker, Dr. Milo Thompson, will

focus on God's life-training program described in Hebrews 12. Our prayer is that all of Fellowship's men will take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their walk with the Lord and in their relationships with one another. Please plan to come and bring a friend! The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 19.

## Christmas Music Program

It's not too late to join the vocal ensemble that will present a mini-musical during the morning service on Sunday, December 17. Rehearsals are held each Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM.



# Getting to Know Our Church Family

## Susan Hogg

Susan was born in Beaumont, TX and grew up in nearby Sour Lake. She was raised with her one sister, Nancy, by loving parents in an extended family. As a child Susan's greatest lessons were learned through the example of her parents as they cared for her paternal grandparents until their deaths, and as they demonstrated genuine love for each other.

Susan's father, Kelly, worked for Transco Gas Company. Her mother, Millie, was a stay-at-home mom until Susan was 13 when she went to work as a book-keeper for an insurance company.

The Hoggs were active church members. Susan's parents were known for their faithful attendance, and her dad served as a deacon.

Susan accepted Jesus as Savior when she was 13. The Lord used Christian family members

*...be patient, bearing with one another in love.*  
Ephesians 4:2

and the church to help lead her to that decision.

As a child Susan enjoyed playing with friends, reading and doing anything outside. After high school she attended Stephen F. Austin State University, majoring in physical education with a minor in history.

Upon her graduation Susan became a school teacher and coach. She worked one year in Texas, followed by four years at a Department of Defense school in West Germany, before returning to a school in Texas for two years. In 1985 Susan became an Air Force officer. Her assignments have taken her to nine different US states as well as Germany. She began her second stint at the Pentagon in 2005. It was then that she and her dad, Kelly, came to Fellowship.

Susan's gifts include organization, patience and compassion. Her current interests are spending time with her dad, reading and traveling. She asks that we pray for her ability to deal with the stresses of work.

## "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the Lord's faithfulness in providing for the financial needs of our church. General fund giving for the 3rd Quarter exceeded the budgeted need by \$230 per week, and in September and October weekly giving exceeded the need by \$515. We must truly be thankful for the Lord's goodness and the generosity of His people!

As we look ahead to 2007 there are some significant financial needs before us. As our building and property ages there is an increasing need for repair and replacement of substantial items. In 2007 this will include resealing the parking lot. Further, many of our

missionary families have large monthly shortfalls. We need to do our part in providing for the needs of these "sent ones" who are extending our ministry throughout the world. Finally, the budget cuts made in 2004, which had a significant impact on our staff, have yet to be fully restored. The need to assist our Pastors with retirement is especially critical.

The Lord has proven His faithfulness this year. As we look to the future He calls us to trust in His ability to provide while committing ourselves fully to His work.

## Money Matters

October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,239
Weekly Need	\$4,706
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$212,124
Year-to-Date Need	\$207,064
Year-to-Date 50@1	\$5,048

## Calendar



Nov. 8	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Nov. 10	Youth 5th Quarter
Nov. 11	International Dinner (5:30 PM)
Nov. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM) Women's Ministries Label Packing (7:00 PM)
Nov. 18	Church Workday (8:30 AM)
Nov. 25	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)

**Don't miss the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:30 PM!**