

# Facets *of Fellowship*

NOVEMBER 2007

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



## Pastor's Perspective — A God-Centered Resolve

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The surgery didn't go well. I didn't get the promotion. The homeowners accepted someone else's bid. My roommate is a bear. My dog just died. The neighbor's tree fell on my car. My spouse has been unfaithful. The doctor says I have cancer. My child has rejected the faith. There's a leak in my roof. My commute is difficult. I didn't do well on my SAT. I'm suffering with a chronic disease. I got benched by my coach. I lost the scholarship. I didn't get into the college of my choice. My coworkers' have taken credit for my work. We never have enough money at the end of the month. We're about to lose the house. Everything I've tried to do to solve the problem has been ineffective...

I struggle to give thanks.

The surgery went well. I got the job. We got the house. My roommate is wonderful. I got a new dog. My neighbor cut down that worrisome tree. My spouse has always been faithful. The doctor says it's a very treatable condition. My child accepted Christ as Savior. The roof is fixed. My commute could be worse. I did well on my SAT. I've never been healthier. I finally made the

first string. I got the scholarship. I was accepted into all three of my top colleges. My hard work is always recognized. We have the money we need to meet our financial obligations. We just bought a vacation home. The first thing I tried to solve the problem worked...

I find it easy to give thanks.

In which paragraph do you find yourself? We need to be reminded of the Scriptures. They instruct us to give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and for everything (Ephesians 5:20). This means that in and for every circumstance that attends our lives we are to be giving thanks to the Lord—no exceptions allowed. When we give thanks in this way, we make much of the Lord who is not only greater than our circumstances, but also controls and directs those circumstances for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28).

Resolve that in and for everything you will give thanks to the Lord this Thanksgiving and all year long.

*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:18



## International Dinner

An International Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 17 at 5:30 PM. This church-wide event 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." We have invited our ESL families to attend and hope to strengthen our relationships with them and learn more about their cultures. Even if you are not regularly involved in our ESL ministry, through this event you can be used to further the cause of Christ in the lives of these families.

## Focus on Youth Ministries — Part Two of Three

By Stuart Odom, Associate Pastor

There are two regular weekly gatherings for the youth designed to accomplish the goals described in last month's article. Youth PRIMETIME meets on Sunday evenings and is an informal time designed to build relationships between the teens, instilling in them the need for our lives as Christians to be centered on Christ and fellow believers. Currently, there are 8 to 12 participating. At times, we go offsite for PRIMETIME, perhaps out to dinner, putt-putt golf, or bowling.

The Wednesday evening Bible studies are a time of discipleship training. I consider this to be the most important aspect of Youth Ministries for it is during that hour that the young people all gather in one place to study God's Word. All of the young people hear the same counsel from Scripture, enabling them to encourage each other in living out God's Word. And the youth are challenged with respect to their relationship with Christ, the world, and each



other. The studies are diverse, but always grounded in the Bible. For example, we've done study series on biblical decision-making, the book of Revelation, spiritual disciplines, the Minor Prophets, Bible interpretation, a survey of the inter-testamental period, and 1 John. At present, there are between 8 and 12 teens involved. However, there is the potential for greater attendance.

Other Youth activities include day-trips, amusement park and ski outings, 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters, and all-nighters.

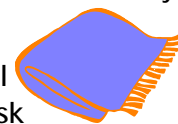
The main purposes of each of these activities are relationship-building and outreach. This month we will be participating in an all-nighter with some fun things to do (like bowling and laser tag) that will also provide an opportunity for evangelism.

Our young people are active in other areas as well, such as ushering, AWANA, Junior Church, and worship service music. It's great to see our young people's vision move beyond the bounds of their age group, and minister to their church family in these ways.

## Women's Ministries — Service and Fellowship

Women's Ministries is currently receiving contributions for use in purchasing gift cards for Fellowship's college students. Through this expression of love and concern we hope to be an encouragement to our students as they pursue their studies. The deadline for contributing to this project is Sunday, November 11.

All of the ladies are invited to a blanket-making party at the church on Friday, November 9. We will be making baby blankets for Assist Crisis Pregnancy Center—a pro-life, Christian ministry to at-risk women in Annandale, VA. The blankets are easy to make and do not require expertise as a seamstress. An information sheet, explaining what materials to bring to the party, is available on the information table in the foyer.




Women's Ministries annual Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 7. Please put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.

## Expressing Our Thanks

Throughout the month of November, the congregation is encouraged to demonstrate our gratitude for the Lord's goodness and faithfulness by contributing to a Thanksgiving offering. This will be used to further pay down Fellowship's mortgage. As shown in the table to the right, the 50@1 program and the use of excess General Fund monies to pay down the mortgage have enabled the church to make great strides in reducing our indebtedness. Our desire is to eliminate the mortgage, freeing up funds that might be used to increase the impact we are having for Christ in our community and around the world.

<b>Mortgage Indebtedness</b>	
2000	\$476,617
2001	\$442,101
2002	\$408,220
2003	\$374,310
2004	\$332,415
2005	\$288,940
2006	\$232,193
2007 (to date)	\$178,928

## Special Services

 In recognition of Veteran's Day, which falls on Sunday this year, a special service will be held on Sunday morning, November 11. Our speaker will be Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) Robert Van Laan, Chaplain Candidate Manager in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains. He will be joined by his wife Sharon. Some of our own veterans will also participate in the service.

A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, November 21. This informal gathering affords the opportunity to share with one another concerning the Lord's faithfulness over the past year in meeting our needs as individuals, families, fellow church members, and American citizens. Please plan to attend!



## Money Matters

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good..." (Psalm 107:1).

October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,241
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$229,405
Year-to-Date Need	\$225,234
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$7,107

## Calendar

Nov. 9	Women's Blanket-Making Party (7:00 PM) Youth Super Bowl (All-nighter)
Nov. 10	Church Workday (8:30 AM)
Nov. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Nov. 14	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Nov. 17	International Dinner (5:30 PM)
Nov. 21	Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:30 PM)

***Our fall workday is on Saturday, November 10. Please come out and give us a hand!***

***Christmas ensemble practice begins on Sunday, November 4 at 4:30 PM. If the Lord has given you the ability, please consider serving in this music ministry!***