

# Facets *of Fellowship*

NOVEMBER 2008



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Perspective — Serving Confidently in a Time of Change

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Both candidates in this year's presidential race are promising change. There is nothing new about that. Elections are always about change—the changes that will happen if one candidate is elected, the changes that won't if the other is chosen. But I don't recall an election in my lifetime fraught with as much fear concerning the outcome as this one.

The changes that result from Tuesday's election may be significant and they may be fearsome, but as Christians we must not become caught up in that fear. Our sufficiency is not tied to a particular political party nor is any able to contain the advance of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18). If in any election or endeavor we should lose track of these things, we will be quickly off-message and sadly found indistinguishable from our anxious, fear-filled world (Matthew 5:13).

The outcome of Tuesday's election is not in doubt—though, depending on when this article is read, it may not be known to us at the moment. The Bible tells us that the currents of history, the place of nations and the events of our lives are directed by God for His glory—"that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:26-27). This means that outcomes of elections and all else are not left to chance (Ephesians 1:11). God "sets up kings and deposes them" (Daniel 2:21). "He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No

one can hold back His hand" (Daniel 4:35). This means that whoever is elected to office on Tuesday will serve at God's pleasure. Pray that they truly recognize the source of their authority and seek His wisdom in its exercise, for those who walk in pride He is able to humble (Daniel 4:37).

Just as important for us to remember is that no matter who wins the election, and no matter which party is in the majority, none of our responsibilities will change as servants of the King of kings and Lord of lords, nor will our country suddenly become more or less Christian. It will always require courage to live for the Lord Jesus Christ in this sin-darkened world (John 15:18-25). This world is not a friend of God, even less the message of the gospel that confronts people with their need to be reconciled to God and points to faith alone in Christ alone as the sole means and source of that reconciliation. But this is no reason for fear. On the contrary, it is reason for courage and hope. It was on the eve of His crucifixion that Jesus told His disciples: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The changes most needed in our nation and world are changes in the heart of man. Christ alone is able to effect these changes—to lift sin's penalty and dominion from our lives and to take away our bent to sinning. Moreover, Christ alone is able to bring to account everyone and everything in this world and universe. Listen to Him. Trust Him. Follow Him. These are great days in which to serve Him!

## International Dinner

An International Dinner will be held at Fellowship on Saturday, November 8 at 5:30 PM. This church-wide event gives 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 and hope to learn more about them and their cultures. Even if you are not regularly involved in Fellowship's ESL ministry, through this event you can further the cause of Christ in the lives of these families, remembering that God wants all men to be saved.



## Adding to Our Missions Team

Travis and Becky Gravley officially became a part of Fellowship's missions team by church vote at the October Quarterly Business Meeting. We are delighted to have the privilege of serving as one of Travis and Becky's sending churches. Please pray for them as they continue in their pre-field time, being used of the Lord as they minister in local churches. Travis and Becky



currently have about 40% of their required financial support. They have a full schedule of meetings in churches this fall and are seeking to schedule more meetings in 2009. Their goal is to be at 60% support by the end of 2008 so they can attend Baptist Mid-Missions Launch Seminar in January. They would like to be able to leave for Romania by the fall of 2009.

**5th ANNIVERSARY:** The first "Facets" was published in November 2003 to keep our church family better informed and encourage their participation in the life of our church. We hope that this newsletter is beneficial to you. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved in producing *Facets*, please contact Pete English.

**CONGRATULATIONS...to Colonel Susan Hogg on her retirement from the Air Force after nearly 24 years of service. Susan and Kelly will soon be relocating to Cookeville, Tennessee where Susan plans to pursue her interest in gardening.**

## No Man Is an Island

A men's retreat will be held on November 21-22 at Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center in Middletown, MD. Lodging will be in their motel facility, and the cost is \$65 per person. Our speaker, missionary Jim Ruff, will focus on the church as a community,

challenging us concerning our rugged individualism. We hope all of our men will participate in this opportunity to grow in our walk with the Lord and in our relationships with one another. Please sign up in the church foyer, and invite a friend to come along!

## 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 that will be used to further pay down Fellowship's mortgage. The 50@1 program and the use of excess General Fund monies have enabled the church to make great progress 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. We are excited with the very real possibility of seeing the mortgage fully paid off sometime in 2009!

<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	\$158,185
2008 (to date)	\$101,177

## Encouraging Our Brother

Ray Brown has been deployed by the US Air Force to Sembach, Germany for four months. In order to be an encouragement to Ray and his family while he is serving our country overseas, Women's Ministries will be receiving contributions toward a gift card that Ray can use at the Base Exchange (BX). This project will run from November 16-30. Please make checks payable to the church.

## Money Matters



October Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,558
Weekly Need	\$5,568
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$243,930
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$239,445
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$11,113
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$15,107

## Calendar

A Thanksgiving Eve service will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, November 26. Please plan to join us as we celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness, expressing our gratitude to the Lord through the singing of songs, reading of Scripture, and sharing of personal testimonies of thanks.

*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.* Psalm 107:1

Nov. 8	International Dinner (5:30 PM)
Nov. 9	Veteran's Day Sunday – Chaplain LTC Steve Szasz, US Army (AM Service)
Nov. 11	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Nov. 14	Women's Game Night and Soup Label Project (7:00 PM)
Nov. 15	Church Workday (8:00 AM)
Nov. 19	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Nov. 21-22	Men's Retreat
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:30 PM)

***Our fall workday will be held on Saturday, November 15. Please come out and give us a hand! We will be raking leaves, trimming trees, washing windows, clearing gutters and drains, repairing the shed, and touching up the paint in Fellowship Hall. See Doug Mount for more information.***