

# Facets of Fellowship

OCTOBER 2006



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Perspective — An Appeal to Punctuality

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Recently announcements have been removed from the morning and evening services on Sunday. These are now projected on the wall in a repeating loop beginning fifteen minutes before those services. They also continue to be provided in printed form in the published service program. By removing the announcements

from the service proper and

**"Our hope is to provide a more meaningful...worship"**

using video projection, our hope is to provide a more meaningful and varied worship.

For those who never heard the announcements being given in the past because it's not your practice to arrive to the service until the service is well underway, notice of the change probably makes little difference. But it does afford me the opportunity to appeal to you (the "you" being about half of our church family) to not only arrive on time for the services, but to make every effort to be early.

When Neita and I go to a high school football game, we get there early and find our seats. To arrive mid-

way through the first quarter or half would be completely unacceptable to us and somewhat disorienting. We want to be there from the opening kick-off. We wouldn't dream of having it any other way.

It should be the same for our occasions of gathered worship. All of our services are carefully (read "prayerfully") planned from beginning to end and

those who lead us spend hours each week in

preparation for whatever part they might play in directing our hearts toward the Lord and His service. Seen in this way, the prelude music is just as important as the song we sing as an invitation at the end; the congregational singing as the special music; the opening prayer as the message from God's Word.

Years ago, one of my seminary classes was entitled "Building a Church that Changes Its Culture." But when it comes to the above, I submit to you that it would be best to change the culture of the church.

PS: Next month, I'll be addressing the length of the Pastor's sermons. ☺

## Leading Internationals to Christ

Thursday night ESL classes began a new year on September 7. The average attendance thus far has been 45. Our four levels of instruction include 70 registered students from at least 17 countries. Brian Platt continues to serve as Director. This year's teachers are:

Ramiro & Yelka Esquivel (Literacy Class);  
Brian Platt & Mary Ann Monk (Beginners);  
Deanne Mahoney & Pete English (Intermediates);  
Nancy Gardner & Pastor Lindholm (Advanced).

Kathy Buckley, Sheryl Jordan & Neita Lindholm help with registration, assessments, administration and hospitality.

The ESL Sunday school class also continues to meet each week, with Brian Platt serving as the teacher. About 5 students were consistently a part of the class during the summer months. Those who registered for Thursday classes this fall have been encouraged to come on Sunday morning as well. This has resulted in a significant increase in attendance, with 9-12 stu-

dents coming the past three weeks. A number of these students are also participating in Sunday morning worship services.



Please continue to pray for God's powerful working in the lives of our ESL students. We long to see them become children of our heavenly Father and partners with us in the cause of Christ.

Fellowship's ESL ministry was recently featured in the Summer 2006 issue of *Message* magazine (to read the article go to [message.abwe.org](http://message.abwe.org)), as Pastor Lindholm was asked to write an article about our church's efforts to reach internationals with the gospel. This exposure has resulted in requests for information from churches located throughout the United States. This has given Fellowship the privilege to assist and encourage others to reach out through the development of an ESL ministry.



## Youth 5th Quarters

On October 6 & 20 and November 3 & 10, after watching the West Springfield football game, youth are invited to Fellowship for food, fun activities, and a gospel presentation. Nine young people attended the first 5th Quarter on September 15. Please invite teens you know and pray this ministry will reach youth outside our church for Christ.

**Don't miss the Quarterly Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 PM!**

## Reaching Boys and Girls



Awana clubs resumed on Sunday, September 17. Average attendance has been 59 children for the first three weeks. Frank Buckley continues to serve as Director. The majority of our leaders have been serving faithfully in this ministry for many years. This year the Lord has provided four new leaders—Ramiro and Yelka Esquivel, and Bob and Sheryl Jordan. Seven young people are also serving as leaders-in-training.

Our Cubbies, Sparks and T&T Clubs are a ministry of Fellowship Baptist Church (not of Awana). Please support this ministry of our church by praying for the Lord's work in the lives of our clubbers and their families, and by inviting children (two years pre-K to 6th grade) in your families and neighborhoods to attend this exciting outreach program.

## Crossing Cultural Barriers

Fellowship's annual Missions Conference held on September 8-10 was a challenging and encouraging experience as our missionary participants taught us about reaching across cultural boundaries in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ both at home and abroad. We are so thankful for the ministry of Paul Briggs, Larry Fogle, and Jim and



Jan Ruff as they shared what the Lord has shown them over many years of missions experience. In addition to gaining a better appreciation of the work of our missionaries, Fellowship was equipped to reach the diverse population in our own community. A generous love offering of \$2,762 was received for the Briggs, Foggles and Ruffs.

## Women's Retreat



The ladies of the church will be at Wendy Marshall's home in Stafford, VA on October 13-14 for a retreat. This year's speaker is Neita Lindholm. She will be sharing what it means to serve the Lord "With All My

Heart". Please pray this experience will help our ladies to grow in their walk with the Lord and become better encouragers of one another as they serve together in our church.

**A Critical Selection Process:** Fellowship's members are in the process of selecting Deacons to begin service in 2007. Please remember to turn in your Request-for-Nominations forms by October 15. Your input plays a key role in helping the Clearing Committee to identify those men the Lord would have serve the church in this office. Pray that God will provide additional Deacons to serve in the coming year. These servant-leaders fulfill a critical ministry in helping the Pastors to coordinate the various aspects of the church's life and ministry.

## Money Matters

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,203
Weekly Need	\$4,706
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$185,952
Year-to-Date Need	\$183,534
Year-to-Date 50@1	\$4,627

## Calendar



Oct. 6, 20	Youth 5th Quarters
Oct. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 13-14	Women's Retreat
Oct. 25	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)
Oct. 27/28	Fellowship-in-Homes
Oct. 28	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time for honoring those "shepherds of God's flock" (1 Peter 5:2) who "keep watch over you as men who must give an account" (Hebrews 13:17). Take time to show your Pastors and their families they are appreciated and loved!