

Facets *of Fellowship*

OCTOBER 2009



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Meaningful Music

By Stuart A. Odom, Associate Pastor

For some time now there has been a serious controversy in the body of Christ over music. It has been going on for years and still divides churches, perhaps more than any other issue. In addressing the controversy, there are some churches that have eliminated the hymn book from their worship time, in favor of more "modern" music, that "relates" to people in our age. I find this to be a disturbing practice, as it ignores the rich tradition and doctrinal teaching in the great hymns of the faith. On the other hand, we should also avoid the extreme which says, "If it's not in our hymn book, we won't sing it." This philosophy ignores the fact that there are many wonderful worship songs still being written today.

Like many of you, I enjoy listening to Christian music. Music is an integral part of worshipping the Lord, both in the Old and New Testaments. And there are a number of Christian writers today who are composing songs that are both musically beautiful and replete with deep theological truth. I am especially grateful for those of the newer songs that have become part of our congregation's regular repertoire – songs such as "Power of the Cross," "Ancient Words," "He Gave Him-

self," and "We Preach Christ." They have made those gatherings more meaningful, with words that honor Christ and build up His body.

With these thoughts in mind, and whatever our individual tastes, let us keep in mind three (and there are more) biblical principles for music. First, music should always glorify God, not man (Revelation 5:8-10). Second, music should serve to edify the body of Christ, and reflect an attitude of thanksgiving toward God (Ephesians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:16-17). And third, music should teach spiritual truth (the entire book of Psalms!).

The challenge here is to let the music we sing and hear in our worship gatherings be an important part of that time for you. It's certainly important to God. He delights in *all* aspects of our worship of Him: the Word, the offerings,...*and* the music.

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:19-20

Adding to Our Missions Team



Due to the loss of one of our missionary families, the Missions Committee has been searching for a new family to add to our missions team this year. Gary and Janet Goodge, who have participated in two of our previous missions conferences, were identified as candidates. After several years in missions administration, Gary and Janet are returning to church-planting ministry in France with Titus International.

The Missions Committee interviewed the Goodges on

July 17 and found them in full agreement with Fellowship both doctrinally as well as in their understanding of the missionary-sending church relationship. Gary and Janet presented their ministry in France to the church on July 19.

It is the recommendation of the Missions Committee to send out the Goodges as missionaries to France supported initially by Fellowship for \$250 per month. This recommendation, which has been approved by the Pastors and Deacons, will be brought to the congregation at the October quarterly business meeting.

Proclaiming Christ to Our International Friends

By Brian Platt, ESL Director



On September 10 we began a new year of Thursday-night ESL classes. Twenty-six students came that night. Among these students were some familiar faces, but many of the students were attending for the first time. Once again, our students come from all over the world, representing every continent except Australia and Antarctica (we are somewhat pessimistic about our prospects for the latter!).

This year we plan to maintain 4 different levels of classes, and we have a pair of instructors teaching

each class. We also have a team of helpers who assist with a variety of essential tasks, from welcoming and registering new students to setting out cookies for break time. I am proud to work with such a dedicated group of people. Our common goal is to share with our students the gospel of Christ. We strive to do this by instructing them in His Word and by displaying the love of Christ in our interaction with them.

This is the seventh year of our ESL ministry. We are grateful for the many students that God has brought into our classes over the years, and we are excited to see what He will accomplish through this ministry.

Mortgage Payoff Goal Met!!!

We praise the Lord for His wonderful provision of \$30,630 in special giving toward our mortgage payoff effort from January to September 2009! These funds, together with our regular mortgage payments in October and November, will enable Fellowship to accomplish our goal of eliminating the mortgage by Thanksgiving. The Lord is good! Through our 50@1 early mortgage pay-down program we have saved over \$216,000 in interest payments and will pay off the mortgage 4 years prior to the loan maturity date.

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,930
Weekly Need	\$5,689
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$204,957
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$221,882

In light of meeting our mortgage goal, the church family is encouraged to designate any further over-and-above giving for the remainder of the year to the Building Fund, which was greatly reduced in 2008 due to costly replacement of air conditioning equipment. Please also be in prayer for our General Fund, that we would reduce the current shortfall and finish the year strong.

Reaching Children with the Gospel of Christ

By Doug Mount, AWANA Commander

On September 20th our AWANA ministry kicked off it's 2009-2010 year with 66 children participating. Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed (AWANA) is one of our key Outreach ministries directed to children age 3 to grade 6 with a focus on Bible verse memorization. After 15 years in AWANA, Frank Buckley has stepped down as AWANA Commander this year and I have taken over. Also new for this year is Gina Irving as the Cubbies



Director (ages 3/4) and Nancy Gardner as the Sparks Director (K/1st/2nd grade). Pete English will continue as the Truth & Training Director (grades 3-6). Serving with these is a team of 12 leaders and 7 leaders-in-training (LITs). Please be in prayer for this important ministry as we strive to reach lost children for Christ and train young believers to grow in their knowledge and appreciation of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Church Life Activities



By Ron Wasserstein,
Deacon for Church Life

Our next **Fellowship-in-Homes** event will be Friday evening, October 16, or Saturday afternoon, October 17. We'll be forming three groups from the interested participants, and the groups will be assigned to one of the three homes whose households have volunteered to host. A signup sheet is in the church foyer. Please indicate if you prefer Friday or Saturday. If you've attended these before, you know they are a great time of fun and fellowship. If you haven't, this would be a great time to join in!

The fourth and final event to **celebrate and honor the senior members** of Fellowship will be held on Saturday, October 24 at 2:00 PM. We'll gather for snacks and fellowship, but the special purpose of this event is to honor our seniors through the gifts and talents the Lord has given. We invite you to sing, play, recite, etc., to entertain and edify. The event is open to all, not just seniors, and not just those who volunteer to share their talent. Just by attending you will be a great encouragement to our older members. A signup sheet is in the foyer, or please call Ron or Sherry Wasserstein with questions.

Calendar



Oct. 11	Love Offering for Jim & Jan Ruff
Oct. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 16/17	Fellowship in Homes
Oct. 24	Seniors "Night" (2:00 PM)
Oct. 28	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

Missions Project: A love offering will be received at Fellowship on Sunday, October 11 to assist our missionaries Jim and Jan Ruff with the cost of ministry trips to South America and the Philippines planned for 2010.