



## Pastor's Perspective — Responding to Those Who Seek to Hurt You

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Enemies come in many shapes and sizes. We may not have to match wits with a Professor Moriarty like Sherlock Holmes did, but we may have to handle a coworker who makes us look bad in front the boss, a relative who tears us down emotionally or a neighbor who slanders us to others.

An enemy can be anyone who deliberately seeks to hurt us. How should we respond to such people? Should we stand up to them, or turn the other cheek? The following questions can help us decide:

Should we stand up to them,  
or turn the other cheek?

**Is the issue worth it?** Is this a minor offense I can forgive and let go, or is something deeper at stake? Try to pinpoint the real issue. If anything is clear from the example of Jesus in this regard, there are times when it is necessary to speak up (as when in Matthew 15:1-9 He faced down the self-righteous Pharisees; or when in Matthew

16:23 He stood toe-to-toe with Peter, who had wrongly rebuked Him; or when in Luke 19:45-66 He threw the moneychangers out of the temple with His strong carpenter hands), and there are times when it is appropriate to remain silent (as 1 Peter 2:23 notes Jesus did with His accusers at the time of His trial and crucifixion).

**What is best for the other person?** Jesus commands us to love our enemies (Luke 6:27). Confrontation can be a powerful form of love. Is it time to let an enemy know how much his or her actions are hurting me and others?

**Is my motive revenge?** As noted above, Jesus stood up to His enemies, but He never traded insult for insult, lie for lie or hurt for hurt. Am I trying to defend myself, or strike back?

If you are struggling with a person who actively works toward your harm, ponder these questions—and think about one more: How can I honor Christ and uphold His name in this? That, perhaps more than anything else, will help you to keep the balance between truth and grace.

## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Begun in 1994 by Focus on the Family, it's purpose was to remind churches to thank their pastors for all their dedication and service. They wanted to "remind congregations that it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staffs and pastoral families throughout the year, but suggesting they set aside the month of October for a special tangible tribute," the organization said.

1 Timothy 5:17 says, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."

Our pastors are truly worthy of double honor. Thank you, Pastors, for your cheerful obedience in leading our church body. Thank you, Neita and Denise, for your love and service for this body, as well. We are grateful!

## Fall Picnic



## Men's Retreat



The annual Men's Retreat is a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, and study. It will be held November 21-22, and will be led by our missionary partner Paul Briggs. The meeting takes place Friday evening and continues on Saturday through the afternoon, and will be held at its usual location, the Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, MD. The drive out to the conference center takes about 75 minutes, depending on Friday afternoon traffic on 270.

"The men's retreats are delightful," said Ron Wasserstein. "The location is beautiful, the accommodations and food are fine, and the Bible studies are terrific. What has really delighted and encouraged my heart are the times of worship together, men raising their voices together to sing praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The cost of the retreat, including food, lodging, and materials, is \$80. Registration is needed by November 7. Contact the church office if you have questions.



## Identifying Men to Serve as Deacons

Fellowship is in the process of selecting deacons to begin service in 2015. Please 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 in this important church office.

## Calendar

Oct. 4	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Oct. 10-11	Fellowship in Homes
Oct 12	Choir Practice Begins (4:30 PM)
Oct. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 17	Youth 5th Quarter (after game)
Oct. 25	Lunch & Movie Time (noon)
Oct. 29	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

## Christmas Cantata Rehearsals Starting Soon

Believe it or not, we're rapidly approaching the Christmas season once again. Music has always been a major part of the celebration of Christ's birth, from "Joy to the World" to "O Holy Night." And each December, our church family has the joy of hearing our annual Christmas choir sing spiritually uplifting songs of the season. This year, we will be presenting Tom Fettke's cantata "The Christmas Story." It's a musical program consisting of traditional Christmas carols, as well as original compositions. The cantata will be presented in the evening worship hour, Sunday December 21. There will also be some special vocal and instrumental selections by members of our church family.

We will begin rehearsals for our cantata on Sunday, October 12, at 4:30 PM. We'll rehearse each week up until the night of the cantata. Anyone can be a part of this. If you like singing, and you like Christmas music, then you're invited to be a part of this ministry. Even if you don't read music, it's okay. We will practice each part separately and together so you will learn the music with no problem! If you have any questions at all, please see Pastor Odom.

We look forward to how the Lord is going to work in the life of our congregation through this annual ministry in music. Invite your friends, neighbors, and other loved ones to the December 21 program. And let's pray that God will use this Christmas season to change our hearts and our lives as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE



*Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*  
*Luke 5:31-32*

## Money Matters

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,886
2014 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,131
2014 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$179,709
2014 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$200,109

## Fellowship Baptist Church

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