



## Pastor's Perspective — Reflection for the Start of a New Ministry Year

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

For our church, the month of September marks the start of a new ministry year. This is true in Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Bible Study, PrimeTime, Kids' Korner, ESL and Awana. Therefore, I should like to use the occasion of this "Pastor's Perspective" to especially speak to the leaders and teachers of these ministries—to remind you of the character of Paul's ministry as set forth in Colossians 1:29, and to urge you to emulate it.

Paul said: *I labor, struggling!*

**This is devotion.** *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* defines *devotion* in this way: "A profound dedication; consecration; an earnest attachment to a cause, person, etcetera; an assignment or appropriation to any purpose or cause; theologically, the ready will to perform that which belongs to the service of God."

Once, when asked the secret of his success, the great English novelist, Charles Dickens, answered: "Whatever I have tried to do in life, I have tried with all my heart to do well. Whatever I have devoted myself to, I have devoted myself completely."

It was the same with Paul. Paul worked hard (with whole hearted devotion) in view of the charge God had

given to him with respect to the gospel and the teaching of God's Word—that the lost would be saved, and the saved brought to maturity in Christ.

Paul also said: *I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me!*

It needs to be  
all about Him.

**This is dependence.** Paul recognized that the God who called him and entrusted to him the work of the ministry did not leave him "to go it alone," but went with him to work through him to accomplish the work He gave him to do. For that reason,

while Paul worked hard, he did not labor in his own strength, but in full dependence on the Lord to achieve through him the work that needed to be done—the work of saving people and helping him to bring them to maturity in Christ.

As we enter a new ministry year, my prayer is that those of you who are leaders and teachers in our church would resolve to emulate Paul's devotion and dependence in the areas of ministry God has entrusted to you. For what you do will either be all about you, or all about Him.

It needs to be all about Him.

## Be a Light on Culture's Dark Night

Colorful leaves. Crisp apples. Jackets and sweaters.

Yes. It is fall again. The seasonal reprieve from the heat of summer is a welcomed sight. But around the corner is what has become a controversial event among Christians: Halloween.

The National Retail Federation predicted last year that Americans would spend—including candy, costumes and decorations—about \$7.4 billion on Halloween. The candy costs alone for the last few years have been about \$2 billion and Americans spend about \$350 million on pet—yes, pet—costumes. It is a popular holiday in our country, obviously.

But some Christians have become increasingly negative about participating in the ever-popular event. Some darken their houses to indicate their non-participation. Some churches have alternative celebrations for their children. But some have decided to use the night when neighbors come to their homes, to share the Gospel.

The American Tract Society says that Halloween is,

traditionally, one of its highest-demand seasons. ATS President Dan Southern has said, "Our Halloween program provides what the average Christian is seeking—easy, non-threatening and culturally relevant evangelism tools and a way to start a meaningful Christian Halloween tradition."

The society typically receives orders for about 3 million Halloween pieces, and local Christian bookstores offer seasonal tracts specifically for children, as well.

"When but Halloween do we have folks coming up to our doors? All we have to do is answer with more than they are asking — a Gospel tract and a candy treat," Southern said.

According to the society, there are more conversions through the use of tracts during Halloween than any other holiday. They report that hundreds of people each year contact them to say that their faith began with a Halloween tract.

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## The Bible and Culture: Living for God in Man's World

Our annual men's retreat is a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and study. This year's retreat is scheduled for November 20-21. Missionary Jim Ruff is our speaker. The retreat takes place on Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, Maryland. Depending on traffic, the drive takes about 75 minutes.



The cost of the retreat, including food, lodging and materials, is \$80. Registration is needed by November 6. Contact the church office if you have questions.

## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is a time set aside for honoring those who shepherd God's flock (1 Peter 5:2), keeping watch over you as men who must give an account (Hebrews 13:17). Take time to show our pastors and their families they are appreciated and loved!

## Identifying Men to Serve as Deacons

Fellowship is in the process of selecting deacons to begin service in 2016. Please turn in your Request-for-Nominations forms by October 15. Your input plays a role in helping the Clearing Committee to identify those men the Lord would have serve in this important church office.



## Calendar

Oct. 3	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Oct. 9-10	Fellowship in Homes
Oct. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct 16	Women's Game Night and Silent Auction (7:00 PM)
Oct. 24	Lunch & Movie Time (1:00)
Oct. 28	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

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Statistics show that 80 to 90 percent of children go trick-or-treating in America each year. And the International Bible Society reports that 83 percent of those accepting Christ are between the ages of four and 14 years. While it may be very difficult to attract people to come to an evangelistic event, every Oct. 31, our neighbors are coming to us.

When taping tracts to treats (which, ideally, would be a generous size) make sure there is a contact number where the receivers could get more information. And pray for the children and families that will receive the Gospel message.

We have an opportunity on this dark holiday to be lights...simply by leaving our lights on and passing out candy with the Gospel message. It just might be the most effective evangelistic tool you have to reach your own neighborhood for Christ.

## Fall Picnic Photos



### OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE



For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever."  
1 Peter 1:24-25

## Money Matters

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,985
2014 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$4,933
2014 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$185,393
2014 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$192,387

## Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152