



## Pastor's Perspective — Three Little Words

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

There's nothing quite like being forgiven.

To have wronged someone and regretted it, to have felt the rift it created, to have wished back those words or those deeds...and then to be pardoned—what a great feeling of relief, of gratitude! The slate is wiped clean; the relationship is restored.

Those three little words, "I forgive you," are almost as dear to us as the words "I love you." As long as they're said honestly, that is...

Sometimes people say, "I forgive you," when what they mean is, "You're on probation." *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th Edition) says that "probation" is "the subjection of an individual to a period of testing and trial to ascertain fitness." It's "freedom...under supervision." Instead of you feeling liberated, it makes you feel unsettled, watched, distrusted.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*  
*Ephesians 4:32*

Some circumstances do call for caution. When we're not sure the repentance is genuine...when the sentiment is real, but restitution is lagging...when steps haven't been taken to prevent recurrence. But when forgiveness is called for, it should be complete, no holds barred, no grudge held in reserve for future ammunition.

The New Testament has much to say about forgiveness—especially in the gospels and in the letters of Paul. In all that it teaches on the subject, it's clear that a lot is at stake in our practice of it, whether we're the ones that need to forgive or the ones in need of it.

This fall, the Sunday evening message series, "From Forgiven to Forgiving" is designed to help us in that regard. Come and join us as together we learn the ins and outs of forgiveness—and if you know someone who might benefit from the teaching, bring them along.

## Encouraging One Another in Fellowship

Charles Spurgeon once said, "Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation." Indeed Hebrews 10:24-25 states, "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

So let us encourage one another doing something Satan hates! October 14-15 will be our Fellowship in Homes—a time when we meet together in smaller groups in one another's homes to eat, talk, share each other's burdens, laugh and fellowship. Deacons will be contacting everyone with the time and place. Make plans on your calendars to participate.

As Neil T. Anderson says, "Aloneness can lead to loneliness. God's preventative for loneliness is intimacy—meaningful, open, sharing relationships with one another. In Christ, we have the capacity for the fulfilling sense of belonging which comes from intimate fellowship with God and with other believers."



## Women's Retreat: Walk Humbly

"What Does God Require of You? A Daily Life of Surrender to Jesus" was the topic of the Women's Retreat last month. Taken from the passage in Micah 6:8, with guest speaker Erica Gibson, the women studied walking humbly with God, seeking justice and loving mercy. They organized "Thank You" packages for the police and delivered them, as well. Erica is the wife of Josh Gibson, Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Bible Fellowship Church in Sunbury, PA, and the daughter of Kathy and Frank Buckley.



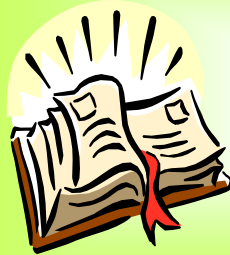
## Men's Retreat: Choices Have Consequences



Our annual men's retreat is a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and study. This year's retreat is scheduled for November 18-19. 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 4.

### OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE



*For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.  
~ Psalm 1:6*



## Calendar

Oct. 9	Youth PrimeTime (7:00 PM)
Oct. 11	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 14-15	Fellowship in Homes
Oct. 15	Youth Kayaking (meet at church 2:30 PM)
Oct. 26	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

## Money Matters

September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,626
2016 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,052
2016 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$183,776
2016 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$197,028

## Fellowship Baptist Church

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