

Facets of Fellowship

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THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Helping by Our Prayers

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The storms of life come and go. They rarely linger. That's the way it is for most of us—but that's not the way it is for the people of New Orleans who survived Hurricane Katrina and continue to live there and battle for survival. For them, Katrina is the "omnipresent storm that keeps on spinning." Witness the words of our friend Dr. David E. Crosby at First Baptist New Orleans:

Not a day goes by—maybe not even a waking hour—that I don't somehow encounter this storm in my memory. Driving [in my neighborhood] I see a new home and think, "They didn't elevate it much. I guess they're betting on the levees." I see a vacant lot where a home used to sit and wonder, "Is that family living nearby or still displaced by the storm?"

I walk our church parking lot and lament the loss of trees, poisoned by salt water, that we worked so hard to keep alive the first year at our new site. I'll think to myself, "Where is that cabinet we used for display?" and then remember, "Oh, yes, we lost it in the storm."

If my surroundings don't remind me of Katrina, the people around me are sure to do it. Every conversation about education, healthcare, housing, economic development, or criminal justice has its Katrina

We are under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure...this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God...On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

component. I visited the Orleans Parish House of Detention a few days ago and was reminded that hundreds of inmates still live in tents—remnants of the great storm.

Someone moves away, and I think of Katrina. Someone new arrives, and I think of Katrina. Is this coming and going related to the storm? Often it is...

The great storm stalled directly above us and continually pumps its downpour on our city. Across the span of our individual and collective lives, we have had precious little relief from this barrage in these three years—and there's more to come...

Am I stuck in this fierce wind forever? Can my mind ever paddle out of this flood?

David's words are a reminder of the profound need for our continued intercession for the people of New Orleans—especially people like him and his church family, who, under the conditions described above, are faithfully striving for the advance of the gospel in that world city. I've written to David to tell him that, and to assure him of ongoing support in prayer. I'm praying that whether the waters overflow the floodwalls or not they would be encouraged and strengthened by the God who is *mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea—the LORD on high is Mighty* (Psalm 93:4).

Focusing on Our Mission

We are expecting our annual Missions Conference, which will take place on September 5-7, to once again be a highlight of the church calendar. Our missionary speakers will be challenging us to be "Fearlessly Focused" on the mission of the church—exalting the worth of Christ and His gospel. We seek to carry out this critical mission both here at home through our outreach to our community as well as abroad through partnership with the missionaries our church has sent out into the harvest field.

Our church family is encouraged to participate in each of the conference sessions from Friday to Sunday, taking advantage of this opportunity to be challenged from God's Word and the testimonies of Larry and Sallie Fogle, Gary and Janet Goodge, and Nathan and Sarah Sloan. Pray for these missionaries as they minister to us, and pray for the Lord to use you as an encouragement to them during this weekend.



Getting Away for a Time of Refreshment

All of the ladies of the church are encouraged to participate in a Ladies' Retreat on September 12-13 at the home of Wendy Marshall in Stafford, VA. Missionary



Jan Ruff will speak on the theme, "How Great the God—How Weak the Vessel." The cost is \$30 (includes the Friday evening and Saturday morning meals). Please use the sign up sheet in the church foyer.

YOUTH... Don't miss the 5th Quarters that will be held at the church following the West Springfield varsity football games on September 5 and 19. Bring your friends to learn the difference Jesus Christ can make in their lives.



Exalting Christ Here at Home

ESL and *Awana* are exciting and rewarding ministries, through which we share the precious gospel message with the people in our community.

The purpose of Fellowship's *ESL* ministry is to lead internationals to Christ and add them to His church through the teaching of English as a second language. We are committed to reaching the nations here in our own community because through His death Jesus "purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). Thursday night classes resume on September 4 (7:00-9:00 PM), and the *ESL* Sunday school class continues throughout the year. Once again the Lord has provided an excellent staff of teachers and helpers. Please pray for the Lord to work powerfully in the lives of the students He brings to us this year.



Awana begins a new year on Sunday, September 14 (5:30-7:00 PM). The goal of this ministry is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. As we do so, we strive to reach entire families in our community, while helping Christian parents to raise their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. We are thankful for our dedicated leadership team and for the new leaders the Lord has provided this year. Please pray this ministry will be effective in training our young people to know and serve the Lord, and in reaching unchurched children and their families.



North Carolina BBQ

A special church picnic, featuring authentic North Carolina BBQ, will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, September 27 at 5:30 PM. Special thanks go to Lee Hoggard for ar-



ranging for the BBQ, as well as for providing special music as we fellowship together. The cost is \$5 per person (make checks payable to the church). Please sign up in the church foyer, and invite a friend or neighbor to join us.

A NEW FLOOR...Much needed replacement of the Fellowship Hall flooring is scheduled for September 8-13. We are looking forward to a drastically improved floor that should service our needs for years to come. Contact Doug Mount if you are willing to help with removal of the old floor on Sunday night, September 7.

Money Matters

We thank the Lord for continuing to supply for our needs! Our church family is responding generously to the need to replenish the Building Fund following replacement of the air conditioning equipment. Donations of \$14,080 thus far will leave a Building Fund balance of \$7,500 after the Fellowship Hall flooring project.

Our General Fund giving continues to outpace the budgeted need, though the recent trend causes some concern. August was the first month that our giving was significantly below the weekly need, and giving for the past 4 months has averaged about \$500 less per week than giving for the first 4 months of 2008.

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,053
Weekly Need	\$5,568
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$200,179
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$194,897
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$10,210

Calendar

Sep. 4	Thursday ESL Classes Resume (7:00 PM)
Sep. 5-7	Missions Conference
Sep. 5, 19	Youth 5th Quarters (approx. 10:00 PM)
Sep. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 13-14	Ladies' Retreat
Sep. 14	Awana Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 27	BBQ on Church Grounds (5:30 PM)
Oct. 4	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)