



March/April 2007

The Messenger

A Publication of the Fellowship Baptist Church - Easton, Pennsylvania



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The Pastor's Pen

Make Your Move

Have you ever played a game where one person just cannot seem to ever take their turn in a timely fashion? I have a long-time, close personal friend in Texas whose very name has become synonymous in my social circles with indecision and inactivity in games. It doesn't matter which game is being played or how much time he is given for a turn; he is slower than frozen molasses. No one really minds when a person needs a few extra minutes to think through something once in a while. But when an extra minute or two turns into lots of minutes and every once in awhile turns into every turn, it can get frustrating. For me, the most frustrating part of these scenarios comes when game after game gets started and only some of them get finished. We run out of time and there is no satisfactory conclusion to the game at hand. It's one thing when you just run out of time but it is completely different when one player eats up all the time so that the game cannot be finished.

Like the person who won't make their move in a game, indecision and inactivity frustrate and often halt any progress an individual or a church body seeks to make. Under what we believe to be the leadership of the Holy Spirit, our church has begun to take several bold steps to make our mark in our community as well as touch the ends of the earth. First, through our strategic planning process, we have identified and defined six core values of our church. The next phase is to include some others we see as important and put these in a form that will help communicate who we are to our community. The reason for all this work on core values is not only to help us define who

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Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Each year, we honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the annual offering for home missions named after her. As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annie believed in Christ with all her heart, but it was her hands that expressed that belief in tangible ways. She spent a great amount of time typing and handwriting letters in support of missions. Many of these letters were quite lengthy and all were filled with conviction that more could and should be done in our mission efforts. In 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters! Annie also never hesitated to use her hands to reach out to hug a child or distribute food and clothing and the Word of God to those in need. Her hands held her own Bible as she studied to know how best to share God's love with others. And, most important, Annie was a woman of prayer, folding her hands in prayer to intercede for the missionaries and for those they were helping discover Christ.

Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more, and do more for reaching people for Christ. As we continue to unite to make her vision a reality in North America today, we can be confident that her legacy will also be ours.

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were are but also serve as a guidepost as we seek to reach the nearly 9,000 households within a 1 mile radius of our church facility. Second, we have voted to hire two summer youth interns this year. Justin and Greta have both committed to some lofty goals in working with our youth this year and have generated some terrific ideas concerning ministering to the youth this summer. Third, we are striving to update our ministry of worship and praise on Sunday mornings. (I cannot tell you how pleased I (and others who have talked to me about it) have been with the quality of the music on Sunday mornings. Between the return of the bass along with the guitar, new keyboard, and drums, there has certainly been a more joyful noise being raised up to the Lord in recent weeks.) We have been praying to start a new Sunday School class, either to young adults or a new members/new believers' class or some mixture of the two. However, there are a few obstacles to successfully seeing all these (and the many other lesser ones) come to fruition. We still need a video projector for the sanctuary to complete some of our goals for our worship service. The youth intern program is going to require \$3,000 before summertime. The core values statements are meaningless unless we also spend and resources to invite those who live around the church to the events we want to host in hopes of reaching them for Christ. As you can see, inactivity and indecision are not going to help us reach those goals.

To reach these God-sized goals, there are some attitudes upon which we must value, cultivate, and then act boldly. The first of these stems back to our salvation. According to Ephesians 2:10, one of the



Youth Activity Calendar

Friday, March 9th, 6:30 –11:00 PM - Pizza and the movie, “Facing the Giants” at the Carroll’s home. This is the story of a high school football coach who is facing seemingly insurmountable personal and professional crises. He is tempted to just give up until an unexpected stranger issues him a challenge. Please bring a bottle of soda and a snack to share.

Saturday, March 17th – Philadelphia Kixx Soccer - If you and/or your friends and family are interested in going with us, please let Miss Sally know. Everyone is welcome! The owner, assistant coach and several players on this professional indoor soccer team are Christians, and this is their annual “Christian Night.” There will be speakers, player testimonies and the Chris Colletti Band will play, in addition to a fun pro soccer game. It is a great opportunity to experience professional indoor soccer for the low price of \$15! It will be held at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia, and game time is 7:00 PM. We will leave from the church at 4:30 and will stop somewhere for fast food. We should be back at the church no later than midnight. Please have your money to me by Sunday, March 4th.

Saturday, March 31st – Community Service - Details to follow. We will hopefully be preparing and serving a meal for

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purposes of our salvation was to do good works. Philippians 2:12 tells us to “...work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” In other words God does what He alone can do but then He invites us to become involved with Him in His work. At that point, we are expected to join Him by faith and do the good works He’s re-created us to do. If you expect to grow spiritually, then you must work your salvation (your sanctification - the present tense, daily growing in grace to be more like Christ - not the initial act of receiving God’s grace and being born-again) through service to the Lord. To do this each believer has been given at least one spiritual gift (maybe more). A spiritual gift is not a thing. A spiritual gift is unique way the Holy Spirit chooses to work through a believer. If someone has the spiritual gift of teaching, then it is the Holy Spirit doing the teaching through that person (at least it is the Spirit to the degree the person is submitting to the Spirit’s leadership of his or her life). So when you exercise your spiritual gift, you are experiencing God working through you. Thus, it is when you exercise your spiritual gifts when you will experience the presence of the Lord, His joy and satisfaction, the most. Spiritual gifts were given to believers to build up the local church body. Too many Christians fail to utilize their spiritual gifts and as a result miss out on the joy and satisfaction God wants them to experience. The first key for us as a church body to reach any of the God-sized goals this year is to be active in serving the Lord in the church. Every member needs to analyze his or her role in the church and seek to use his or her spiritual gift(s) to build up the church. We need each other as none of us have all the gifts or have all the energy necessary to do

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Safe Harbor in Easton, which is a homeless shelter for men and women. Details are still being worked out, but please keep this date open!

Friday, April 13th, 7:00 PM through Saturday, April 14th, 10:30 AM – Game night and lock down in the church. Details to follow!

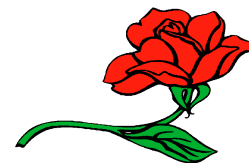
Saturday, April 28th – Youth on the Road - Details to follow; Save the Date!!

Men’s Ministry



You’ll be happy to know that the Men’s Ministries will present “Happy Wife, Happy Life - Part Deux.” Stay tuned for further information as to time and place, as soon as schedules are available!

LADIES! Please save Saturday, May 12th for our annual Daughter’s Luncheon! Mark your calendars now....Details will follow!



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everything that needs to be done. However, we all have some time and some energy to put to the task before us. If you will be faithful “making your move” this year you’ll find yourself experiencing a lot more joy and satisfaction in life and in relation to the church.

Let me share a few places where faithful servants are or will be needed in the near future. We are looking for a few people to re-start TEAMKID on Wednesday nights. This is an activity-based missions education and character development program for our children. We need to be faithful to our smallest members by providing them discipleship on their own level. Another immediate need is that is Mary looking for a person to rotate teaching Sunday School to the youngest children in our church. The last need for a servant I’ll share here concerns a need on the near horizon. Travis and Esther Rafferty are moving to Montana in early March. Together, they have orchestrated the music ministry of the church for many years now. They have been incredibly faithful, reliable, and hard-working in this ministry. Filling their shoes will be tough. We need to be praying, as a body, for their replacement to be raised up. Of course, there are other areas where we need to continue making our move, such as: praying, disciple-making, tithing, and witnessing but if there are no people serving, then none of these make much difference. Remember, growth is assuming space you previously didn’t occupy. To grow you must be willing to go places and do things that you previously hadn’t done or even considered (in some cases). This year actively seek where God wants you to serve in the church and then watch Him use you to accomplish His will. Make your move.

Pastor Barry

Monthly Fellowship Dinners

Please note the upcoming dates for our monthly Fellowship Dinners! Sign-up sheets will be posted each month; please sign up to bring a dish to share. *We urge you to please use the sign-up sheets to avoid duplication of dishes and also, so we’ll know how many tables to set up.*

Wednesday, March 21st - Southern Food (postponed from last year!)

Wednesday, April 18th - Breakfast for Dinner

Wednesday, May 16th - Soup & Salad Bar



Come and bring your friends!
Remember our motto:
ya gotta eat anyway!

Two Dates to Remember

Sunday March 11th is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed on March 10th.

Sunday April 8th is Easter Sunday. Begin praying for and inviting your unchurched friends and neighbors and co-workers to come to church with you on that day. You’ll be surprised how many people will accept an invitation to church if given in a timely manner. Start preparing for the big day now.



English as a Second Language

Everything is in place to begin our “English as a Second Language” outreach on Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 PM. In January, Pastor Barry led a small group of potential teachers to Laurel, Maryland for two weekends of intensive training (not to mention some fun time with the Hallmarks!) Now we’re ready to go! We’ll be holding an open house for students, doing their preliminary evaluations and getting to know one another.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the Good News while providing a service to our community. You can help by distributing ads to places where Internationals might shop or see them. Please keep this project in prayer! †

Church Finances

- December Offering - \$9,099
- January Offering - \$6,158
- February Offering - \$6,730
- Benevolence - \$198
- Lottie Moon - \$1,054
- Youth Intern Program - \$300
- Monthly Need - \$8,000



Nursery Rotation

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| March 4 th | Carol H. & Dayna |
| March 11 th | Sue & Courtney |
| March 18 th | Carol M & Tommy |
| March 25 th | Kelli & Cassy |
| | |
| April 1 st | Janet & Daniel |
| April 8 th | Kelli & Brenna |
| April 15 th | Flo & Dayna |
| April 22 nd | Carol H & Courtney |
| April 29 th | Sue & Tommy |



New Sunday School Class Coming Soon!

During the Strategic Planning Process, one of the needs identified was to begin a new Sunday School class. After prayer and observation, it’s been decided that we will begin a Young Adults Sunday School Class. It will be open to anyone who is post-high school through age 29. It doesn’t matter if you’re married, single, have children or no children, you’re welcome to this class. The Pastor will be leading, and it is hoped that the class will go beyond the walls of the church and include various activities and times of fellowship. Please be in prayer for the Pastor as he searches for the right curriculum. Classes will begin soon, so----
STAY TUNED!!!

More Annie Armstrong Facts

What Your Money Goes For~~

\$1



- Refrigerator magnets for advertising a new church
- Evangelistic tracts to be used in an evangelistic event, such as a sports clinic
- Soft drinks for students at a college snack bar, thus providing an opportunity to share the gospel with them
- Three meals for a homeless person

\$50



- Scholarship for new student to participate in a collegiate retreat
- Meat to feed 125-150 people barbecue, promoting a new church start

\$7



- Shelter for a mother and two children in a Baptist center

\$75



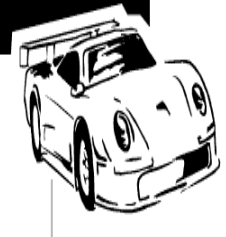
- Rental of a building for one Sunday for a church start
- 10 books to be used in an outreach Bible study

\$15



- Bulletins for a week for a new church
- 500 copies of printed material to promote a Bible study in a new area

\$100



- Refreshments and materials for a community gathering to introduce a new church
- 500 evangelistic NASCAR racing schedules with testimonies from Christian drivers to be given to race fans

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