

## July—August 2008 Newsletter

# Fellowship Presbyterian Church

1105 Old Spartanburg Road ~ Greer, SC 29650

Rev. Martin D. Martin, Pastor

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### “Kindness”

by Martin H. Martin



Whatever happened to genuine kindness? As I was recently studying the fruit of the Spirit, and the description of love we find in 1 Corinthians 13, I was particularly struck by the fact that **love is kind**. It prompted me to ask the question, am I really kind? In our culture we are very good at being *nice*. We are very polite, we wave at people as they pass, even smile and say hello. But being nice, polite, pleasant and even affectionate is not the same thing as being kind.

**What does true kindness look like?** It helps to realize that the Greek word conveys the idea of being useful to someone, of being a genuine benefit to them. In other words, kindness involves acts of care, provision and service. Giving half of your lunch to the classmate who forgot and left his at home, even though you are hungry and would really like to eat it yourself, would be an act of kindness. Staying up through the night with someone gravely ill, making sure they do not enter life-threatening distress, cleaning up after the indignities of their disease would all be an example of kindness. Taking the time to include someone who is awkward and lonely, even though you have plenty of friends and would enjoy having them to yourself, would be another manifestation of kindness.

**So why aren't we more kind?** I think one reason is our isolation. In today's culture we scurry frenetically from one isolated activity to the next, seldom noticing the needs around us and not feeling we have the time to meet them when we do. I think a second reason, in conservative Protestant circles, is that we feel we need to always be confronting and correcting something. We think “always faithful” means “always fighting”. It's in our ecclesiastical (church) heritage – those who went before us fought for the gospel that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone, and that the ultimate authority for the Christian is found in the Bible alone. It's in our national heritage – we fought for years to throw off what we believed to be an oppressive regime. Of course there is a time and place to stand against error, but it should never be to the neglect of kindness; and the greatest test of kindness is in how we make ourselves of use to those who do not appreciate and even fight against us!

**So what are some of the opportunities and occasions to demonstrate kindness? Let me suggest three areas:**

**In body of Christ there are opportunities for kindness all around us.** It might be taking someone to a medical appointment, providing relief from

certain things while they are recuperating, anonymously providing for some need that has arisen or taking the time to call and include one of the less “plugged-in” folks in some upcoming activity. You will probably also find that people have much more profound needs, spiritual struggles regarding their walk with Christ, that they will begin to discuss as they get to know you better and see how you are striving to be faithful yourself. They usually do not need some brilliant theologian, or even a pastor, to help them – they just need a Christian friend who loves Christ and is endeavoring to walk with Him.

**Neighbors, both Christian and non-Christian, provide opportunities for service as well.** It might mean cutting the grass for the neighbor who is getting too old to do it, or walking over to help with a repair or project. It may mean helping to look after their children, and even treating them like they were your own. Especially for those who are transient or new to our community, neighbors become a sort of surrogate family, and it is a wonderful opportunity for Christians to demonstrate kindness.

**But perhaps the greatest test of kindness and opportunity to show the love of Christ is to be a true benefit to our enemies!** Think for a moment – who are your enemies? Many of us would say we don't actually have any “enemies”, but who would you say just doesn't care for you? Perhaps it is the kid in class or at the pool who seldom gives you the time of day. Perhaps it is the coworker down the hall with whom you have had a strained working relationship. Let me suggest you give prayerful consideration as to how you might show them acts of kindness. Can you think of some need they have that you can provide? Some burden currently in their life which you can relieve? I would suggest you not offer to help – just go ahead and do it! And when another opportunity comes along, act kindly again! Don't make a big deal about it; in fact, don't look for affirmation or reward at all. But don't be surprised to see how your kindness begins to have a cumulative effect on your enemies for the glory of Christ.

So are you kind? Are you currently being of use to anybody?

~Marty

Church-Wide / Family Retreat  
at Look Up Lodge

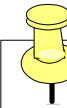
October 3rd—4th

(supper-time on Friday thru Saturday afternoon)

Speaker: David Sinclair

During teaching sessions, supervised activities for children (4 yrs & up); infant nursery available.

Save these dates!!



## Church Notes:

*The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, during evening worship and Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, during morning worship.*

**Picnic Supper, Games & Fireworks!!**  
**Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM (until dark)**



Details TBA

**Nursery Help Needed:** *If you are not currently on the nursery rotation, please contact the church office ([office@fellowshippres.org](mailto:office@fellowshippres.org) or 877-3267) or Kathy Way ([inmanways@yahoo.com](mailto:inmanways@yahoo.com) or 864-814-1908).*

~Thank you!!

**Ladies' Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Shepherding a Child's Heart**



**Meets Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 AM**

(at the church; nursery provided)

**For details, contact Susan Wayne (967-8464 or [waynedwop6@charter.net](mailto:waynedwop6@charter.net))**

*The current monthly editions of **TABLETALK** are available (free of charge) to all members and visitors; pick up your copy (in the narthex) today!*

**QUARTET PRACTICE—SUNDAY, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 5:15 PM**



*A Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER AND ACTIVITIES  
WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>!**



**September Newsletter deadline is Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**FROM THE DIACONATE:** *for everyone's safety and the security of our facilities, please keep all exterior classroom doors shut/ locked at all times (except in case of an emergency), enter/ exit the building through the front or side doors only, and please do not prop open/ block the side door.*

~Thank you for your cooperation!



**FPC LIBRARY—COMING SOON!**

## Family and Youth Corner:

by Breno Macedo

### “Attributes of God”

*For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,  
and His faithfulness to all generations. ~Psalm 100:5*

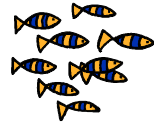
It is everywhere. In songs, on greeting cards, on bumper stickers, on t-shirts, on notebook covers. There is a universal acceptance among God’s believers concerning this rational statement. We Christians can differ in many areas like eschatology, soteriology, or ecclesiology but there is a specific point among all different theological perspectives and that is: **God is good.** The real question instead is: **have you ever proved His goodness?**

The Scriptures invite us constantly to prove God’s goodness. In Psalm 34.8 it is written: **“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!”** And when we spend time meditating on it, the first thing that comes to our minds is His beneficence, the things which He has given us. From the “all things created” to more particular things like our home, family, work, college, marriage and others is where the examples of God’s goodness toward believers are generally taken. I truly do not recall once (even myself while thinking through this article) that I’ve heard as a first example of God’s goodness our Lord Jesus Christ, His perfect obedience, His utmost painful sacrifice, His glorious resurrection and His eternal presence with the Church. Well, the truth is that if God the Father have not given us any other thing except for His Son, His goodness would be proved in its fullness there! Christ is all that we need and He has given himself completely to us, God’s chosen. Yet, we fail to look for His counsel in times of confusion. We fail to seek His comfort in times of pain. We fail to taste of our Christ.

The second part of the Psalm 34.8 is characterized by a hidden invitation: **“Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”** The psalmist invites the one who is suffering to prove Gods goodness in his own suffering by hiding himself in the Lord. There is no promise of lack of suffering, but there is a guaranteed shelter. “Let us therefore be so convinced of His goodness as thereby to be encouraged in the worst of times to trust in Him”, said Matthew Henry. In other words, God’s goodness is also demonstrated by the things we consider as bad. You are maybe thinking that you have heard that innumerable times but did you quit hearing and start listening and thinking about it? Do you face the suffering and affliction in this world as part of God’s goodness even not understanding it? Do you see God’s goodness in the suffering and affliction of your own life? Are you grateful for them and do you look for the benefits the Lord is bringing to you through them?

John Dagg, a Baptist theologian, wrote once: “to comprehend this vast subject, we need the infinite mind of God himself”. Dagg was right. And the best part is that comprehension is not required from us, only trust. **“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.”** Jeremiah 17:7.

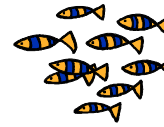
~Breno



MISSIONARY MISSIVE

**Bill & Pam Weidlich**

by Carolyn Root



The Wycliffe Bible Translators Northwest Regional Office is scheduled to close August 31. Some of the 25 employees will continue to work from their homes, some will relocate, and a few are seeking alternate office space. Bill Weidlich is in this last group, as his work in keeping the Raiser’s Edge Recruitment database accurate seems to be a never-ending task. In fact, he has a large backlog of changes to make. Pam would love to continue as receptionist, but the new office will probably not require one, as everyone will have a phone line.

The work at Willamette View continues. Pam serves on the Resident Council as dining room chairman; that is, liaison between the administration, staff, and residents concerning food service. This is a topic of interest to all the residents, who may choose a plan with one, two, or three meals per day. The buffets are fantastic! Paid for by friends and families of the residents, the buffets are served twice a month. The other meals are usually great too, but occasionally Pam has to deal with a few complaints, as the staff is trying to conserve in an effort to keep food prices down. So part of Pam’s job is to communicate and soothe, which she says is fun but tiring.

They also enjoy the weekly Bible study, which is growing. Once a month they show Christian films, and occasionally they have an outside speaker.

The Weidlichs are thankful for your prayers and support. So far this has been a good year for them. If you have time to drop them a line, they would love to hear from you at this address:

**Bill and Pam Weidlich**  
12705 S.E. River Road, 509-D  
Portland, OR 97222  
503-652-6441  
[pam\\_weidlich@wycliffe.org](mailto:pam_weidlich@wycliffe.org)  
[billweidlich@wmconnect.com](mailto:billweidlich@wmconnect.com)



## MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER BREAKFAST:

**Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>; 7:00—9:00 AM**

### SERVING IN JULY:

*Elder of the Month: Larry Poole*  
*Deacon of the Month: Bill Wilder*  
*Greeters of the Month: Jeff & Susan Wayne*

### SERVING IN AUGUST:

*Elder of the Month: Ron Hughey*  
*Deacon of the Month: Sam Stubbs*  
*Greeters of the Month: Gib Dyer, Bill Wilder*

*Ushers: Troy High & Bill Wilder*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**1105 OLD SPARTANBURG ROAD**  
**GREER, SOUTH CAROLINA 29650**