



The Gateway

Building a Campus of Recovery

(This is the third installment of a three-part series on the 40-year history of Fellowship Hall. The anniversary will officially be celebrated December 21, 2011.)

Any history of Fellowship Hall would be incomplete without mentioning a little-known but important fact: the facility faced tough financial challenges in the mid-1990s. When managed care and HMOs took over the nation's health care system, it drove many similar treatment facilities out of existence. Because of the 28-day treatment philosophy of the Hall, it was ineligible to be a provider under many managed care contracts, and many insurance policies stopped covering residential treatment programs. As a cost-saving measure, the four-day Family Program was downsized to a weekend educational program.

When Rodney Battles was hired as the Hall's Executive Director (the title later was changed to President) on July 1, 1996, he was well aware that Fellowship Hall would find it necessary to change to remain competitive in a dynamic treatment environment. Fortunately, he had been in these types of situations before, having turned around acute-care, substance abuse, and adolescent hospitals in his career, and he came aboard with a plan of action.

"Fellowship Hall as well as my previous employer, Willingway, was founded on the principles set forth by Burton Davis, that this is a disease of the affected and the afflicted, that it is a family disease," he recalled. The Board was eager to reinstate the four-day Family Program, and the original program was resumed.



Soon afterward, the Board took a big chance, at Battles' urging, by retooling the entire program away from the strict 28-day model. In retrospect, that may have been the single most important decision in the Hall's history.

"We had always been locked into 28 days, and I felt we needed to look at that," he noted. "Some people might get the foundation for recovery in, say, 24 days, and others might need to stay a week longer. It's not a day but a program, and the Board agreed. We had to recalibrate the mindset of why we were here. As a result, we started getting managed care contracts back and building our occupancy back up."

By the end of Battles' first year on the job, the Hall was back on sound financial footing. Now it was time for leadership to turn its attention to growing both the physical plant and efficacy of the program itself.

Establishing the Gateway House, a structured living house, was an important addition that gave guests who needed to participate in the Intensive Outpatient Program, but perhaps lived too far away or needed a safe living environment, an

opportunity for more treatment before going back into society. Not only is it now a successful component of the overall mission, but it paved the way for a greatly expanded outpatient program. That was the beginning of building the bridge from inpatient to outpatient to recovery.

Battles also recruited a full-time medical director, which led to an ongoing relationship with the Duke Medical School.

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“That was monumental in the growth of the Hall,” he claimed. “Rather than merely having one part-time, we had a physician who took a daily interest in the guests.”

In 2000, Battles’ also created a Director of Development position, which was an outgrowth of his own fundraising efforts to improve and upgrade the Meditation Trail.

“The Board’s philosophy has always been ‘grow as you go,’ meaning when you do things, you need to find a way to pay for it,” he explained. “The Trail was in need of an upgrade to bring it up to standard, and I was very passionate about it, so I put together a presentation and took it around to foundations, corporations and individuals asking for support. We’d set a goal of \$100,000, and by the end of the campaign had raised \$173,000. I asked the Board, ‘Imagine if I can do this, what we could do if we had a professional, someone who knew what he or she was doing?’ So that was the beginning of the development function.”

That function would soon take on greater significance, when the Hall proposed its largest project during the Battles era, building a new 12-bed wing that included radical renovations to the nurses’ station and other major improvements. A \$3 million capital campaign was launched concurrently with submission of a Certificate of Need to the State, and obtaining the requisite approvals from all regulatory bodies involved.

“It was a massive project that took six years from start to finish,” remarked the University of Alabama graduate who got his MBA from Georgia Southern University. “But what’s so amazing is that we got it done without having to borrow a penny. Fellowship Hall put up a third (made possible through our operational success), philanthropists put up a third, and alumni donated the other third. It was a true partnership of people who believed in our mission.”

Another success has been the establishment of the Fellowship Hall Financial Assistance Fund, which gives guests who’ve begun treatment, but whose financial plan falls apart, the assistance needed to complete treatment. The guest is then expected to repay a portion of the money back into the fund in order to help future guests. It is partially endowed from funds raised by the E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament, which coincides with the Annual Conference. “It’s a unique idea, a way to pay it forward,” said Battles, “and I don’t know of another fund like it.”



Rodney Battles,
Fellowship Hall President

The latest innovation (which will be explained in detail in the next issue of *The Gateway*) has been in the planning stages for over two years and was launched in November. It is an Extended Treatment Program lasting approximately 90-days, designed for people who have issues that have prevented them from attaining long-term sobriety.

“Some people just need more time,” explained Battles. “They have secondary issues, perhaps grief or childhood issues or something that has been a stumbling block to recovery. They may have had multiple relapses and don’t know why, or may be a professional whose licensing body requires a longer stay.”

The Extended Treatment Program is unique in that it is housed in two on-campus residences called Zander’s Place and Hazel’s House, named after one of the Hall’s founders and his wife. They contain a total of 12 beds and are staffed fulltime by a counselor and/or therapy assistant. Twenty-five new lectures and 50 new assignments were prepared specifically for the program.

“This 90-day program allows them more time getting connected and dealing with the issues that have been stumbling blocks,” said Battles. “They’re in a protected environment, while getting heavy doses of the 12-step program at the same time. It gives us another way of building a bridge from treatment to recovery.”

Battles is also building a bridge to the future. Despite the accomplishments and improvements, not only during his tenure but the entire 40-year existence of the Hall, he envisions far more in the coming years.

“What we are doing is creating a diversified campus of recovery,” mused Battles. “It will be devoted to helping as many people as we can, with as many issues as they have, to find a new way of life. I foresee broader outpatient services, an expanded Gateway program, and more education and training opportunities.

“I see us building a Center for Education Excellence that would house the Family Program, all the outpatient services, and a training program, so that the original building would be used exclusively for inpatient and partial hospitalization treatment. I envision this being a center of excellence for the training of anyone willing to carry the message that this program works. By creating a campus of recovery, we can expand without altering our singleness of purpose. We can be the capital of recovery in the South.”

61st Conference Runs Gamut From Laughter to Tears

People in recovery who've ever been to a weekend 12-step conference know well the feelings of camaraderie and fellowship evoked by being in close proximity with one's peers. Likewise, they take with them the experience, strength and hope that the various speakers have shared from the dais.

Using those feelings and the powerful messages of the speakers, as well as attendance figures and ancillary events as a measure of success, the 2011 Fellowship Hall Conference on Alcoholism and Addiction will be remembered as one of the best ever. And that's saying a lot, given the fact that this marked our 61st conference.

The event, held August 5–7 at the Marriott in downtown Greensboro, again used the format of leading off Friday evening's session with an NA speaker. Saturday morning featured an AA speaker followed by a member of Alanon. After a picnic and gratitude sharing at the Hall, everyone reconvened at the hotel for the Saturday evening AA speaker and ice cream social. Sunday morning's AA speaker concluded the weekend.

Leadoff speaker Amy K. was invited to speak at the International Narcotics Anonymous Conference in Barcelona, Spain, and after her address it was easy to understand why. She told of doing drugs from ages 15 to 34, when she finally "crashed and burned" and got some help, and how she was able to turn her life around by helping others.

Ralph W., from Los Angeles, went from being his high school class president to stealing from his wife's purse and daughter's piggy bank to feed his alcohol addiction. "I was scared not of dying," he said, "but of continuing to wake up. He went to four treatment centers before finally hitting bottom on October 11,

1986. The difference that time, he said, was that he "came in walking toward the light, not running from the fire."

The Alanon speaker, Lynda B. from St. Paul, Minnesota, represented a first for the conference — the first time a married couple spoke at the same event, as her husband Bob closed out the event Sunday. "My version of events may be a bit different than his," she quipped, setting the tone for a hilarious yet touching address.

The keynote speaker, Theresa F. from North Hollywood, California gave one of the most moving, gritty and gut-wrenching speeches imaginable, yet still managed to inject some side-splitting humor into it. She literally became addicted to alcohol as an infant, as her mother put liquor in her baby bottle to keep her from crying; she endured physical, sexual and emotional abuse from a very young age. Yet, through all that tragedy, the miracle of recovery and "working with others" has enabled her to get clean and sober and stay that way since March 29, 1990.

If this conference had a familial feeling, it was partly because Bob B., the Sunday speaker, is not only Lynda's husband, but is Ralph W.'s sponsor and is in Theresa's home group. His message was the ideal sendoff for a perfect weekend. He has been sober since 1967. Yet, he claimed, at one point, he was dying on the inside because he had "gotten self-centered instead of God-centered," so he went back to basics and started working the steps all over again. He ended his talk by saying, "The language of God is silence."

And with that, Voice of the Conference Judson bid the 690 attendees a fond farewell until next year, same time, same place - that is August 3-5, 2012.

Record-Breaking Year for Golf Tournament

Congratulations to our 10th Annual E. Raymond Alexander Memorial Golf Tournament Winners – Pat Foy Brady, Patrick Brady, Sandy Brandy and Preston Lilly! Together, we raised a record-breaking \$32,000 to support the Fellowship Hall Financial Assistance Fund and our guests who are most in need!

Thank you to our Chair, Kim Anderson, volunteers and members of the Golf Tournament Committee for all of your help and support. Committee members and volunteers of 2011 are: Carol Alexander, Ray Alexander, III, Jake Battles, Bill Benson, John Chisnall, Pat Clark, Stuart Gordon, Rose Griffin, Catherine Kemppinen, Toni Knight, Chris Matthews, Ogi Overman, Connye Post, Donna Royster, Chuck Royster, Rachel Ryding, Jerry Shelton, Marty Shelton, Tom Smith, Kim Trone, Boyd Watkins, Mike Whaley and Billy Wyrick. Thank you to Rudy Murphy and all of our friends in the kitchen who helped prepare our splendid awards luncheon!

For more information or to volunteer for the 2012 E. Raymond Alexander Golf Tournament, please contact Murphy Sullivan, Director of Development, at: 336.621.3381 or murphys@fellowshiphall.com.



Winning team from left to right: Pat Foy Brady, Preston Lilly, Patrick Brady and Sandy Brandy

The Annual Fund: Cornerstone of Treatment Excellence



What is the Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is a vehicle for providing more than \$50,000 each year in support of Fellowship Hall. Annual gifts are an important source of operational support for treatment excellence at the Hall, including financial assistance for our guests, clinical and family programming, capital improvements, and building maintenance. Annual Fund gifts come from former guests, family members, friends, local businesses, corporations and foundations.

Because Fellowship Hall is fiscally responsible and financially sound, 100% of your tax-deductible gift goes directly to help the people who need it the most.

May I make my gift in memory or honor of someone else this Holiday Season?

Absolutely. Annual Fund gifts may be made in memory or in honor of your relative, spouse, child, parent, co-worker, friend and/or loved one this Holiday Season. We will immediately notify them of your gift. Memorial and honorary gifts are directed to our Financial Assistance Fund, capital improvements, Meditation Trail or “where the need is the greatest.”

When will I be solicited?

Fellowship Hall operates on a fiscal year from October 1-September 30. This fiscal year, our solicitation letters will be mailed in late fall and last throughout the summer of 2012.

ALL Annual Fund gifts must be dated and postmarked by December 31 in order to be credited to the current calendar tax year.

What is a matching gift?

You or your spouse may work for a company that has a matching gift program. Thousands of companies and their subsidiaries will match employee’s gifts to the charity of their choice. Some companies will even double or triple your contribution. Contact your Human Resources office to find out if your company has a matching gift program to obtain the required form. Complete the form, then mail it to us. We will do the rest. The amount of the company match will be credited to your total giving.

What impact does my gift have in comparison to the large gifts Fellowship Hall receives?

Annual Fund gifts have a tremendous impact. They cover a broad range of immediate needs and help us maintain our treatment excellence. In essence, every dollar counts! Major gifts are usually designated for a specific purpose and are often the basis for an endowment that provides interest for the long-term.

Former Guest Finds Unique Way to Give Back to Hall

Guests at Fellowship Hall prior to October 2007 may recall a rather rusted and slightly leaning flagpole out front and, depending on the year and/or time of year, American and North Carolina flags that had seen better days. Then again, given the reasons the guests were there, they may not have noticed it at all. But one guest did take notice, and once he got his life back in order, he took it upon himself to do something about it.

Don Comer spent 21 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring in 1978, so it should come as no surprise that love of country runs deep for him, and with it, a reverence for the symbol of that love. He is a flag-waver in the best sense of the word, and not ashamed to admit it.

When his daughter, brother and sister-in-law held an intervention for him on February 8, 2004, this man who’d made a career fighting for his country, earning a Purple Heart from his tour in Vietnam in 1965, didn’t have any fight left in him.

“My daughter, Laura, said, ‘We’ve tried everything else, so we’ve made arrangements for you to go to Fellowship Hall,’ and I didn’t even try to fight it,” recalled Don. “When I walked in that front door, I felt like I’d come home. I just had this warm feeling. I guess I was ready.” Don completed the program and, at the behest of his counselor, Mike Allen, transitioned into the Gateway House for another three weeks.



Don Comer and Murphy Sullivan, Director of Development, display Hall flag

“That was a good experience, too,” he said. “I highly recommend it.”

By then, Don’s attachment to the Hall was such that he felt the urge to give something back to the facility by volunteering. But he soon wanted to take it a step further, and the thought of that tattered flag and rusty flagpole gave him the answer.

“I broached the subject with the Director of Development at the time, and Rodney (Hall President Battles),” recalled Don. “They agreed that something needed to be done, so I just said I’d handle it. I’m kind of a hands-on guy, anyway.”

He’s also a can-do guy. And he did.

He started by ensuring the new 40’ pole would remain vertical by digging a much deeper hole and pouring 1,000 lbs. of concrete in it. Next he found a company in nearby Hillsborough that manufactures flags and purchased a good quantity of them.

“Enough to get a price break,” he quipped.

Not long after that, Fellowship Hall changed its logo (to the gold shield with the script initials “FH” inside it), and Don hinted to Rodney, “Wouldn’t it be nice if the Hall had its own flag out there?”

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Honorary Annual Fund Drive Chairs of 2012 – Janet and Ogi Overman!

The Board of Directors of Fellowship Hall is pleased to announce our 2012 Honorary Annual Fund Drive Chairs are Janet and Ogi Overman. The couple, married since 1985, is one of the true success stories of the Hall. Janet entered treatment in February 1989 and Ogi came in the day after she got out, and both have maintained continuous sobriety ever since. In 1991 she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, eventually becoming wheelchair bound. But she has never let her disability prevent her from giving back to the program in every way possible.



Janet & Ogi Overman

Both continue to volunteer at the Hall regularly, taking 5th steps, photographing our annual golf tournament, writing for *The Gateway*, gathering raffle items, videotaping our Annual Conference, and doing the all-important behind-the-scenes work of helping other alcoholics and addicts one-on-one.

Janet and Ogi are genuine proof that physical obstacles are no match for the power of recovery. Janet's business card that she hands out to newcomers contains the admonition: "Surrender To Win." That about says it all...

"The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts – it provides the flexible funds we depend on to support our guests, make improvements to our building and grounds, take advantage of new educational opportunities and develop new initiatives."

– Janet and Ogi Overman, 2012 Annual Fund Co-Chairs

"I had to thank each and every one of you! You [Fellowship Hall] played such an integral part in our lives while in treatment. You do it with love and a true sincerity. Thank you from my heart. I love you all! Thank you."

– Anonymous

"Thank you so much for the excellent care that you gave me during my stay at Fellowship Hall. Your kindness, sense of humor and genuine concern for me (and everyone else here) have been such a breath of fresh air to someone who has been used to caring for others but not herself."

– Anonymous

If you have any questions about the Annual Fund, please contact:

Murphy Sullivan
Director of Development
800.659.3381 or
murphys@fellowshiphall.com

For more information about Fellowship Hall or to donate online, please see us at: www.fellowshiphall.com

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Rodney took the hint and, again, Don took it upon himself to make it happen, finding a company that makes customized flags.

"I replace them all twice a year," he said. "They used to take them down every night, but with the spotlight shining on them at night, it really looks good to leave them up."

Don, mind you, has been doing all this out of pocket, saying succinctly, "Best money I ever spent."

But lately Rodney and Director of Development Murphy Sullivan began formulating a way not only to relieve him of the financial burden, but ensure that the flags remain pristine in perpetuity.

"None of this was his idea," stressed Murphy. "He never said a thing about it, and never would, but we just decided that we needed some sort

of 'flag fund' to give former guests a way to give back by earmarking their gift for it."

Rodney made a presentation to the Board of Directors at its September meeting, and an endowment for the flag fund was approved.

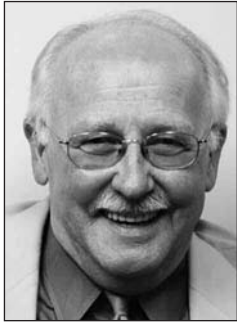
"This is still Don's baby," said Rodney. "He will still administer it; he just won't have to worry about paying for it. But mainly, after seeing what an improvement it made to the appearance of the Hall, and just because it's the right thing to do to keep the flags in good condition, we wanted to make this a permanent thing. This gives others an opportunity to give something back, as well. We can't thank Don enough for all he's done. I wish we could clone him."

For more information about the flag fund or other gifting opportunities, please contact Murphy Sullivan, Director of Development, at: 336.621.3381 or murphys@fellowshiphall.com.

Ogi & The Old-Timers

'When I'm 64' Becomes 'Now That I'm 64'

I can't specifically recall my first impression of the Beatles' "When I'm 64" except that it was the summer of '67 and was part of what may be the greatest rock album of all time, Sgt.



Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. It was the summer after my sophomore year of college and I was already drinking alcoholically but had not yet inhaled that first doobie. It wouldn't take long; however, for them both to merge and become the hand-in-glove forces in my life for the next 22 years. Music, ostensibly the way I would soon be making my living, ran a poor third. Turning 64 was about the least of my worries at the time, ranking somewhere behind

learning that F chord and getting that little red-headed girl to notice me.

Fast forward to October 2011, and that decrepit time of life that seemed so far off that it bordered on the inconceivable, especially to a know-it-all college boy, inexorably came to pass. Those of us on the leading edge of the post-war baby boom are now, in the blink of an eye, nearing retirement age, with an even greater population bulge soon to follow.

I really hadn't given it much thought until a couple of weeks before my birthday. Although I'm a huge Beatles fan, the only thing that separates 64 from being an arbitrary number is the fact that Paul used it in a lyric. But as it approached, I started doing the math and realized it had been 44 years since I first heard it. Again, an arbitrary number, but then it occurred to me that I have been sober 22 years – exactly half of what may be considered my adult life. Somehow, that's a threshold, although I'm not quite sure if it means anything.

Still running the numbers, or in this case, actuarial tables, I know that people who live like I did that first half of my life – meaning drinking around the clock, smoking two packs of cigarettes a day, smoking weed and doing coke whenever it was available, subsisting on bologna sandwiches and tins of tuna, and with exercise consisting of alternating trips to the refrigerator and bathroom – generally top out around age 50. So that means I've been living on borrowed time for 14 years, that everything from then on has been gravy. Or, put another way, I was given a gift.

I'd like to think I've made good use of that gift, and in many ways I have. I've learned that the only measure of a man's worth is how he treats his fellows. I know that my greatest weakness has turned into my biggest asset. While I never dreamed it would turn out this way, I have very few regrets. And I know how fortunate I am to have arrived at this stage of life with my health, my wits and my immediate family and wider support system relatively intact.

While I look forward to continuing to make the most of that gift, I can't help but concurrently look back at all the now-departed people God put in my life who taught me and shaped me and embraced me and nurtured me along the path. I think of Joe Bruner, who took me on my first 12-step call; of Clarence Pritchett, who made me aware that angels exist in the earthly realm as well; of John Kernodle, who taught me that it's OK not to know all the answers all the time; of Lou Huston, who paid me the greatest compliment by asking to reprint a story I'd done in *The Gateway*; and Ray Alexander, the subject of that story, who took me under his wing, took me to the Major League All-Star Game, and took me to a place of grace that I did not know existed.

The common denominator in all of them was that they all had ties to Fellowship Hall, as board members, staff, and/or former guests. Everyone of them would tell you that they were only doing what they'd been taught to do, passing on what

had been so freely given to them. None of them considered their accomplishments exceptional or their lives extraordinary. As Ray would say, "Just suiting up and showing up."

So, if today, the past 22 years, and however many there are to come is a gift, then it's the gift that keeps on giving. I've been given more than my share. And for that reason, 64 is a fine place to be.

(Ogi's not exactly an old-timer, but he does hang around a lot of them.)

"The common denominator in all of them was that they all had ties to Fellowship Hall, as board members, staff, and/or former guests. Everyone of them would tell you that they were only doing what they'd been taught to do, passing on what had been so freely given to them."

Employee Anniversaries

Fourth Quarter 2011

Deborah Andrews	21 years	Adele Harris	22 years
Diane Batchelor	5 years	Velda Macomson	11 years
Jenny Belter	7 years	Diane McCraw	8 years
Esther Combo	17 years	Patricia Scott	19 years
Susan Cook	13 years	Sandra Self	4 years
Jackie Davis	4 years	Deborah Stevens	11 years
Joanna Faw	6 years	Mark Todt	15 years
Brenda French	8 years	Lisa Touvell	1 year
Susan Hardison	10 years	Joni Whaley	24 years
Cindy Harrill	9 years		

Fellowship Hall celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year! Thank you for allowing us to be on your journey of recovery!



Meditation Trail Enhances Hall Experience

Their names are probably lost to antiquity, but anyone who has ever walked the Meditation Trail at Fellowship Hall and felt a twinge of spirituality and/or serenity, owes them a debt of gratitude. A few years after the Hall opened in 1971, some anonymous souls took it upon themselves to clear a path through the woods behind the Hall and create a sort of walking trail.

“Someone literally brought a tractor and bush hog out here and cleared out the underbrush and made a trail,” said Hall President Rodney Battles, “and people started using it. No one seems to know exactly when it became the Meditation Trail, but it was apparently an instant tradition.” Soon alumni were taking it upon themselves to bring plants, shrubs and flowers and placing them around the Trail, and that soon evolved into putting up inspirational signs, benches, bird houses, brick pavers and small embellishments here and there.

Twelve stop areas were identified – groups, families or individuals volunteered to sponsor each one. The design, plantings and maintenance were solely the responsibility of the sponsor.

“One person who can be identified as an early benefactor of the Trail was Hazel McAlister, wife of co-founder Zander McAlister. She brought out a half dozen or so Chinese Geese and placed them in the pond adjacent to the Trail. But eventually they started dying off or getting killed by foxes, and sometime in the mid-’90s another wife, Clara Roberson, who is married to former Dietary Supervisor Ken Roberson, brought out some more geese.

“Some of them reproduced,” said Battles, “and I think a couple of them are still here. The male is still out here, and he’s got to be almost 20 years old.”

Until the mid-’90s, the Trail stayed basically rustic, but, just as those who had gone before, Battles took it upon himself to spruce it up, except what he had in mind was a bit more involved.

“We had some safety hazards on the Trail, some exposed roots and drainage issues,” he recalled, “and I said to the board that we’ve either got to fix it up or close it for awhile. Times were very tight, so I asked them to authorize me to raise money and they did.”

It took four years, but Battles raised well over \$100,000 to renovate the Trail and, as if carrying on a tradition, several other people stepped up and donated time and talent. New Garden Nursery donated all manner of flora, while landscape

architect Randall Romey developed a design for each of the twelve garden areas.

“Each one corresponds to a step,” explained Battles, “so when you’re walking the Trail, you’re essentially going through the steps. Each has a distinct alcove where you can just sit and contemplate your surroundings, or you can take your Big Book and read some passages, or go with a group and share your feelings. It can be a pretty moving experience.” In addition to signs with selected passages, some of the steps are sponsored for people who’ve left their mark on the Hall, such as Ray Alexander and Lou Huston.

“It seemed appropriate to honor them for all the years they spent helping other alcoholics and addicts,” said Battles.

Not long after completing the initial phase of renovations to the Trail, the Hall staff began planning a brochure to describe and embellish the experience of walking it. But that process became almost as massive and

time-consuming as upgrading the Trail itself.

“It took a lot longer than we initially thought, but it had to be something with the same visual and emotional impact as the Trail itself,” noted Battles. “It took a lot of editing and planning; it was a true collaborative effort. The therapy department had to find just the right passages to illustrate each step, and the photography and layout had to be just right. We wanted it to be something you’d take on the Trail with you, but also something you’d want to have as a keepsake.”

Finally, just in time for this year’s annual conference, the brochure was unveiled, and the response has been universally positive.

“This is not a marketing piece, not designed as something that would generate referrals or admissions,” stressed Battles. “It’s an image piece and clearly the goal is to benefit those in recovery, to help them enjoy the Trail and hopefully have a spiritual experience here. We want people to be moved by it, and everybody I’ve talked to, from the board members to the newcomers, have approved it and applauded us for it.”

Never content to rest on laurels, Battles said the next goal is to create a virtual tour of the Meditation Trail for the Hall’s website.

“We’re working on that now,” he said, adding, “but as the Big Book says, ‘First things first.’”



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Email suggestions, submissions for The Gateway, and requests to be placed on our mailing list to markt@fellowshiphall.com



The 10th Annual E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament

Honors the memory of an outstanding member of Fellowship Hall's Board of Directors and a respected friend and mentor to many people in the recovering community. Ray Alexander was an accomplished lawyer and a distinguished judge, who spent his life providing leadership, dedication and personal service to the Triad community.

The 2011 Tournament is made possible through the generosity of:

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Murphy Sullivan
Gloria and Paul Walker
Joni and Mike Whaley

Gifts in Kind

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All Fresh Produce
Bill and Karen Benson
Embassy Suites Hotel
Graffiti's Bistro

Starbucks - Quaker Village
Sysco Foods of Charlotte
Boyd Watkins
Village Tavern

Golf Committee Chairperson - Kim Anderson