



# The Gateway

## Life Has Come Full Circle for 2010 Voice

When John Tesh gives his AA talk, he makes a point to give credit to the fellowship that saved his life — Alanon. Huh?

No, he is not misspeaking, not having a mental lapse, and is too young to be having a senior moment — he means what he says. John, a member in good standing of AA since June 28, 2005, realizes that if his ex-wife had not had the courage to face up to the problem their marriage had become, he would've remained in denial, perhaps until it was too late.

"I could've missed all the gifts AA has given me," he said. "I had everything I could need, yet I was miserable and took it out on my family. I was an angry, raging alcoholic, and they just couldn't take it anymore."

Although John's wife of 27 years had given him a couple of ultimatums, she'd never mentioned that she'd been going to Alanon. In fact, he did not find out until he was already in treatment at Fellowship Hall.

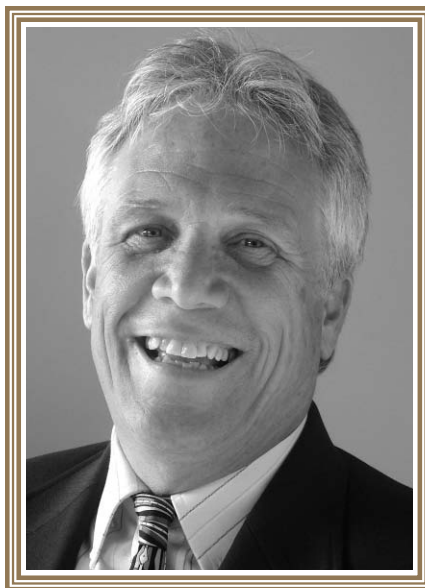
"It was my first phone call, and she let me know that I wasn't going to be coming home," he said. "That's when she told me she'd been going to Alanon for a year. I hung up and began crying harder than I'd ever cried in my life. Susan and Cindy (a counselor and a nurse) saw me and followed me into my room. I told them that my wife had been going to Alanon for a year, and Cindy looked at me and said, 'Ooh, that's not good for you.'"

Of course, with the benefit of five years of sobriety, what seemed like the end of the world at the time is now the biggest blessing he's ever received.

"If she hadn't done what she did, I have no doubt I'd be dead today."

Today John and his ex are still friends; he has a loving, caring relationship with his three children — Ali, 13, Brandon, 24, and Brian, 26 — and is fully immersed in their lives;

and, in yet another by-product of recovery, in March got engaged to Corinne.



John is involved in service work on all levels and says, "I love volunteering for the Hall and AA. It's easy to give back to the program that saved my life.

"I feel like I've come full circle," he smiled. I met Corinne doing service work while shopping for the '07 Founder's Day picnic, and we've been together ever since.

I'd given up a career (as a well-known commercial photographer) and now I've found another one that I love: Earthstone Products, a granite recycling center, all because I got on my knees and asked God to put something in front of me where I could be of service."

God also put something else in front of him. John will be the Voice of the 2010 Fellowship Hall Conference. And that too is a blessing he feels happened only after he put his Higher Power in charge.

he put his Higher Power in charge.

"I'd just gotten out of the Hall and went to my first conference the year Clancy spoke," he recalled. "I remember seeing all these people walking around with these badges and ribbons and thinking it would be an honor to do that, but it's not something I ever pursued. It just came to me. Same with the Voice. When I was asked, my reaction was, 'Oh my God, are you kidding me?'"

They weren't kidding.

"Not only is it a great honor," he continued, "but it's helping me further my own program. I've gotten to listen to tapes of all these great speakers from all over the US and Canada, some of them several times. It was really tough making a decision, there are so many excellent ones, and then when we finally did, it's just as tough figuring out which one to make the Saturday night speaker."

But, like he does with most other important matters, "I put it in God's hands."



### In This Issue

Spotlight: David Spillman	2	This Date in AA History	4	Hall Happenings: Wally H.	7
Ruby Johnson Retires	3	Conference Registration	5	New Website	7
Employee Anniversaries	3	Staff Thanks Board	5	Golf Tournament	8
Spotlight: Shelley Kirkman	4	Ogi & The Old-Timers	6	Tournament Registration	8

## Counselor David Spillman Learned From The Best

One of the phrases one will hear routinely around the rooms of recovery is “Stick with the winners.” Early on, David Spillman not only took the adage to heart, but the winner he decided to stick to was one of the genuine legends in the treatment field, Bryant Bivens. In 1968, Bivens founded Hope Valley, a much-respected treatment facility in Dobson, N.C., and was still its executive director when David made his way through its doors on August 29, 1992.

“I entered Hope Valley reluctantly, believe me,” chuckled David. “I had lived my life exactly the way the Big Book describes it, ‘self-will run riot,’ and Mr. Bivens became one of my early mentors and remained so until he passed away in 2006. I owe more than I could ever repay to that man.”

Yet, David had already begun repaying that debt many years before.

“I had benefited from an Indigent Client Fund,” he explained. “I didn’t have two nickels to rub together, but Mr. Bivens put me through treatment anyway. In my exit interview, he told me to take what I’d learned here and put it to work so that I wouldn’t forget how to help other people. He said one day I might even be able to help him out.”

That day came around five years later. Bivens needed help in raising funds to keep the Indigent Client Fund solvent and called on David.

“I could hardly say no,” he said, “since that’s how I got sober. It was a great thing. It opened my eyes to just how well-thought-of he was in the community. People wouldn’t even ask questions; they’d just whip out their checkbook and ask how much I needed.”

Then, two years later, Bivens called on him again, this time offering David either a position on the Hope Valley Board of Directors or a position on the counseling staff. He opted for the staff position, contingent, of course, on his completing 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and 270 classroom hours to be certified by the state.

“I had been in the jewelry business most of my career, and he said that anybody who could sell shiny rocks for thousands of dollars ought to be able to impress upon people the virtues of recovery,” laughed the 55-year-old Pilot Mountain native.

David remained on the Hope Valley staff for a year after

Bivens’ death, but when he heard that Fellowship Hall was expanding, decided to apply.

“I was very much aware of Fellowship Hall and had always been impressed by its level of professionalism and knowledge,” he said, “so I decided to update my resume. I felt like it was time to go learn from my peers. They hired me and I started March 3, 2008, and I’m extremely grateful for the opportunity. Fellowship Hall is a pretty special place, all the way from the kitchen to the boardroom.”

The primary counselor credits his introduction to AA to yet another winner, a hugely successful businessman, Paul W., who 12-stepped him without his even knowing.

“He recognized that I had a problem long before I did,” he said, “and was so skilled and crafty about it, he said if my drinking ever became a problem he knew some people he thought could help me. And when I finally did have that moment of clarity, I remembered what he’d said. I had looked up to this guy for all the wrong reasons, because he was so materially well off, but all he was doing was spreading the message like we’re supposed to do, just two alcoholics talking to each other.”

David and his wife of 33 years, Janet, reside in Winston-Salem. Always quick with a quip, he said, “When I give my AA talk, I always thank my wife for 33 years of wedded bliss ... and she always thanks me for 17.”

Then, growing serious, he added, “I am amazed at how nearly perfect everything in my life seems to be working out.”



*David, holding Big Book, demonstrates counseling technique for recent website photo shoot*

*“He recognized that I had a problem long before I did,” he said, “and was so skilled and crafty about it, he said if my drinking ever became a problem he knew some people he thought could help me. And when I finally did have that moment of clarity, I remembered what he’d said.”*

*Fellowship Hall*  
2010 Conference Speakers  
August 6-8

**Vito L.**  
Hallandale, Florida

**Aaron J.**  
Charlotte, North Carolina

**Danny B.**  
Houston, Texas

**Mari G.**  
Ontario, Canada

**Dick A.**  
Lithia Springs, Georgia

## Hall's Senior Staff Member To Retire

Everyone who passes through Fellowship Hall, whether guest, family member or staff, leaves with a pocketful of memories, almost always fond ones. Yet, of the thousands who've passed through its portals, no one but no one will have left with more memories than Ruby Johnson. In terms of service, her more than 29-year tenure ranks her as No. 1. And when she leaves, probably around the end of May, it will mark the end of an era.



*Longtime board member Mose Kiser presents the Hall's retirement gift to Ruby*

"My official last day was supposed to be March 31," she said, "but it will take some time to train my successor. I know they've interviewed a number of candidates, and whomever they choose will have to work a notice, too, so I told them I'd work as long as they need me to."

Although Ruby's title is the same as when she was hired, the job description has grown with the Hall itself.

"It's a totally different world now than it was back then," she recalled. "Not just in size and services and amenities but the whole industry itself. Back then it was either a 28-day program or a six-week program, and everybody fit into one of those. We filed the insurance and were reimbursed. But as the years have gone by, the insurance companies have developed the managed-care concept, and there are numerous treatment options. It has evolved from a few being able to do it, to numerous people being needed."

In terms of staff requirements, Ruby was essentially a one-woman operation.

"It was me, an admissions counselor, secretary, and a receptionist to answer the phone; that was it," she smiled.

"Now I supervise five people: payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, a financial counselor for the guests, and a receptionist."

But aside from her supervisory role, she serves as the financial advisor to the president, the board of directors and all the department managers.

"I work closely with Rodney (Hall president Battles) on the budget and all money issues," she said. "I do all the financial reports that keep him and the Board abreast of our financial position. Plus, I work with all the department managers to let them know how they're doing with budget and if there are areas they need to watch."

No wonder Rodney is being very selective on her replacement.

With retirement looming, Ruby has a list of projects that she is eager to tackle. She and husband Elwood own a cattle ranch in nearby Browns Summit, with between 50 and 60 head of beef cattle.

"Utmost on my list is remodeling the house," she said. "I plan to start in one room and go room by room until I'm finished. Then there are some buildings on the farm that need attention. I also love gardening, both flower and vegetable, and now I'll be able to devote more attention to that. I've got more than enough to keep me busy."

She also said she'll be available if and when she's needed at the Hall.

"Some of what I do is on an annual or semi-annual basis, I've told them I'll help out when these things come up. I'll still be around to some degree, if nothing else to come visit," she said. "The staff and board have been the most wonderful people to work with. Everyone here has always been supportive, both professionally and personally, and there aren't many places like that anymore. People may come and go, but that's the one thing that hasn't changed over the years."

## Employee Anniversaries Third and Fourth Quarter 2009

Deborah Andrews	19 years	Cindy Harrill	7 years	Gordon Rayle	7 years
Diane Batchelor	3 years	Adele Harris	20 years	Stephanie Reffey	1 year
Rodney Battles	13 years	Ruby Johnson	29 years	Mat Sandifer	6 years
Jenny Belter	5 years	Amy Kasdorf	1 year	Patricia Scott	7 years
Paul Carter	9 years	Elizabeth Ladd	21 years	Sandra Self	2 years
Ester Combo	15 years	Harold Ledford	16 years	Deborah Stevens	9 years
Susan Cook	11 years	Velda Macomson	9 years	Mark Todt	13 years
Jackie Davis	2 years	Diane McCraw	6 years	Fabiana Troxler	1 year
Joanna Faw	4 years	Lea Moniz	2 years	Karen Tucker	7 years
Brenda French	6 years	Rudy Murphy	3 years	Joni Whaley	22 years
Linda Goode	9 years	Yvonne Oxendine	1 year	Mike Whaley	19 years
Susan Hardison	8 years	Connie Post	27 years	Willie Williams	18 years



## Human Resources Position Had Shelley Kirkman's Name Written All Over It

If ever a person were well suited for a position, then Shelley Kirkman would have to be that person. So tailor made is she for her job as Human Resources Assistant at Fellowship Hall, that it was actually created with her in mind. In fact, years before she came to work at the Hall, she remarked to one of her candidates, only half in jest, that one-day she was going to work there.

That one-day came in February 2008. You see, for 20 years, Shelley worked for Graham and Associates, a well-known Greensboro staffing agency. For much of that span, it was the preferred source that Hall president Rodney Battles utilized when there was a job vacancy. And the person within the agency who normally handled that account was — you guessed it — Shelley.

"I've sent clients out here in almost every department," she said with a smile. "Accounting, receptionist, fundraising, dietary, nursing, you name it. I got to know a lot about the good work being done here; all the feedback I received from people I would send out here was positive, even if they didn't get the job."

Then, in 2008 when Fellowship Hall was in need of an Admissions Counselor, Shelley took the leap and applied for the position. And the words she'd uttered not too long before became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"I felt like I knew the place already. I remembered what I'd told my client, Rudy, who's now a chef here, and a few years after I'd sent him here I followed him myself."

Shelley was hired to work in the admissions department,

where she stayed almost two years. But when the position of board secretary was added to the already-demanding job description of the Human Resources Director, Elizabeth Ladd, it became obvious that she needed an assistant and — viola! — the solution appeared and it was Shelley.



*"I've sent clients out here in almost every department," she said with a smile. "Accounting, receptionist, fundraising, dietary, nursing, you name it. I got to know a lot about the good work being done here; all the feedback I received from people I would send out here was positive, even if they didn't get the job."*

"She was the perfect fit," smiled Elizabeth. "It's been an easy transition." Shelley is a native of Rocky Mount, N.C. She came to Greensboro to study at UNCG, earning a degree in childhood development and family relations, with a minor in psychology, "and I just never left," she laughed. She and husband Delbert have two daughters, Lauren, 27, and Ashley, 25. Her sources of enjoyment include going to the beach, walking, being outdoors, playing with her dogs and pulling for the Carolina Tar Heels basketball team.

"I've added another activity recently," she disclosed. "My daughter Lauren just got engaged so we're planning a wedding. She lives in Tampa so we'll be spending some time in Florida soon." Although not in recovery, Shelley finds her role at the Hall quite gratifying and rewarding.

"I don't have as much interaction with the guests as I did when I was in admissions," she said, "but I have more with the family members. And the appreciation they show you when they're leaving

is amazing.

"I think we all feel like we have a vested interest in Fellowship Hall. At the end of the day, we've all made a difference."

### This Date in AA History

May 3, 1941 — First AA group was formed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

May 4, 1946 — Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 5, 1940 — Washington, DC, *Sunday Star* reported the formation of first AA group in the District of Columbia.

May 7, 1956 — The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8, 1971 — Bill Wilson was buried in a private ceremony in East Dorset, Vermont.

May 11, 1935 — From the Mayflower Hotel, Bill Wilson called Walter Tunks who referred him to Henrietta Seiberling, who introduced Bill to Dr. Bob. They met the following day.

May 15, 1961 — Bill Wilson's mother, Emily Strobell, died.

May 19, 2000 — Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 29, 1980 — *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, AAWS biography of AA co-founder and a history of early Midwest AA, was published.

May 31, 1938 — Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.

June 1, 1949 — Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

## Fellowship Hall Annual Conference

August 6, 7 & 8, 2010

Marriott-Downtown Greensboro  
336.379.8000 or 336.387.8007

For more information, call 800.659.3381 or register online at [www.fellowshiphall.com](http://www.fellowshiphall.com) or simply fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

**Fellowship Hall Conference**  
**P. O. Box 13890**  
**Greensboro, NC 27415**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration cost for all sessions is \$15 per person or \$10 per person per day. Enclosed is my check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Make checks payable to Fellowship Hall.

Note: Registration at the Conference for all sessions will be \$20 per person or \$10 per person per day.

Name(s) to be printed on badge(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Hall picnic \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$5 per person payable at the picnic)



## Staff Thanks Board

Working at Fellowship Hall is very rewarding, regardless of the department or specific job. While the staff is taking care of the guests, the Board of Directors is taking care of the staff, with generous benefits and working conditions. When the Christmas party was approaching, the staff was eager to show its appreciation to the Board, and decided to do so by contributing to the Annual Fund in the name of the Board. This year, more than \$10,000 was donated by the staff, raising the 2009-2010 Annual Fund total to almost \$46,000.

The staff gift was earmarked for the Treatment Completion Scholarship Fund, which is within 10% of being fully funded and able to begin dispensing funds to deserving guests whose financial plan is disrupted during treatment. With only a few more months of the campaign, we are hoping that people who have not yet contributed will use the pledge form below and help us reach that milestone. Even the smallest gifts are greatly appreciated and add up to the opportunity to save a life and share the gift of sobriety.



## Fellowship Hall Pledge Card



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (c): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to support Fellowship Hall**

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250

\$500     \$1,000     \$2,500     \$Other

**My gift will be paid by:**

Check     M/C     Visa     Gift of Stock

**Cardholder Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cardholder's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer's Matching Gift:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to be personally contacted regarding:**

Annual Fund     Scholarship Fund     Gift Planning

Other

Please return with your gift/pledge to: Fellowship Hall, P.O. Box 13890, Greensboro, NC 27415. Contact Connye Post at 336.621.3381 x 3022 or via email at [connyep@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:connyep@fellowshiphall.com). Fellowship Hall is a registered 501C3 non-profit charitable organization. Your gift is tax-deductible.

June 10, 1935 — The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 17, 1942 — New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY-area meeting. 424 heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 21, 1944 — The first Issue of the *AA Grapevine* was published.

June 28, 1935 — Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson (AA No. 3) at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30, 1941 — Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

June 30, 2000 — More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.

## *Ogi & The Old-Timers*

### **The Work Is The Miracle, The Miracle Is The Work**



Sometimes I think we overuse the word “miracle.” Not to downplay the miraculous nature of life itself, but there are occasions when we tend to attribute explainable events to some mystical power. I know this is going to ruffle some feathers so, remember, this is just one alky giving an opinion. I suspect mine may be the minority view within the fel-

lowship, and if proven wrong I’ll “promptly admit it,” but for the moment this is how I feel.

What prompted my giving some thought to this issue was the occasion of my most recent AA anniversary. I posted a message on Facebook inviting friends to the meeting that evening and, as always, couched it in vague terms so as not to break anonymity. Rather than blurt out that I was picking up a chip, I phrased it along the lines of helping me celebrate a transformation that was “rather miraculous.” I could have used the word “miracle,” but chose instead to temper it a bit. And here’s my reasoning:

If I — or you — got sober purely as the result of a miracle, the work that goes into recovery is taken out of the equation. If I woke up one morning and thought, “Jeez, I wish I never had to take another drink in my life,” and, poof, the obsession was immediately removed, that would be a miracle. If all God had to do was respond to a wish by summarily granting it, without our having to understand the spiritual path that leads to recovery, then that, brothers and sisters, would be a miracle.

I’ve told the story many times in my AA talk of my first few days at Fellowship Hall. Utterly clueless about AA, and not exactly understanding what was going to happen over the next three weeks or so, I think I was waiting for some wizard or something to merely sprinkle some monkey dust on me and make me well. I honestly did not understand that there was going to be some intense work during that treatment span and, further, that the work would continue for as long as I wanted to remain sober. It was only when my counselor sprung those steps on me and said he expected me to write something about each of the first three that I began to realize that my stay here would consist of more than ping-pong, 9 ball, Scrabble and the Meditation Trail. And by the time he dropped the bomb on me about the 4th Step, the enormity of the undertaking started to

sink it.

Now, you may ask, if we remove miracles from the picture, does that not necessarily remove God? Nope, not at all. First, I’m not removing miracles. There is a partnership here, a tandem between your Higher Power and your willingness to do the work. The work alone won’t make it happen, otherwise any “white-knuckle” drunk who tries his very best to stay sober by his own methods would make it.

I had an old friend and drinking buddy who would set a goal to stay sober on his own for a year, pride himself on it and take all the credit for it — and then celebrate his accomplishment, all his hard work, by going out and getting drunk. He did that several years, but the last time the celebration never ended. He’s dead now.



*"There is a partnership here, a tandem between your Higher Power and your willingness to do the work. The work alone won't make it happen, otherwise any "white-knuckle" drunk who tries his very best to stay sober by his own methods would make it."*

So, by work, what we mean is working the steps. Staying sober is not about work and work alone; if it were, my friend would be alive now. Plus, that would remove God and spirituality from the equation. The other half of the tandem is the spiritual component, and that is the “rather miraculous” element in recovery. It’s as if God opens the door but it’s up to us to walk through it. Or, in Biblical terms, “faith without works is dead.”

Another way to explain how miracles fit into this whole process of recovery is in what our dear friend and trusted servant Ike K. refers to as “IBM’s — itty-bitty miracles.” The miracle is not necessarily the fact that we were able to get and stay sober but the events that led up to it and kept it going. Each of us can point to a series of events that, had they happened slightly differently, would’ve led us down a different path that would not have included getting sober. If we had not picked up the phone or met a certain person or taken a certain job or any number of seemingly random occurrences, we may not have found the rooms. If Bill Wilson had run out of nickels before he got to Henrietta Sieberling’s number, would any of this have occurred? Perhaps that’s the IBM that was the precursor for the greater miracle of the formation and fruition of AA.

Finally, I think it is perfectly legitimate to expect the miracle, to wait for the miracle, even to refer to yourself as a walking miracle. But for any of that to occur, you’d best do the work.

*Ogi’s not exactly an old-timer, but he does hang around a lot of them.*



## Hall Happenings

### Harrelson Receives State Award

Longtime Fellowship Hall board member Wallace C. “Wally” Harrelson has received the Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award. It is presented annually to an individual or organization whose contributions have demonstrated the highest commitment to genuine professionalism and the highest standards of legal ethics.

Harrelson is Guilford County’s first and only public defender. He was appointed to the position in 1970, where he remains today. Now 73, he says he has no intention of retiring just yet.

The 1962 Duke Law School graduate began his career as a prosecutor, but found defending the accused, rather than prosecuting them, more to his liking. He went into private practice for several years, and part of his caseload included indigent court-appointed work, which set the stage for his appointment to the public defender post. Since then, his office has grown from a staff of four handling around 1,000 cases a year to 35 staff members working on 9,000 cases.

Among his accomplishments, he is the founder and past-president of the N.C. Association of Public Defenders. Wally was elected to the Fellowship Hall Board of Directors on 9/17/85, making him one of the longest-serving board members.



*Chief Justice Sarah Parker presents Wally with his award*

[ABOUT US](#) [PROGRAMS](#) [ADMISSIONS](#) [SUPPORT THE HALL](#) [ALUMNI](#) [LOCATION](#) [NEWS / EVENTS](#) [HOME](#)



[NEWS/EVENTS](#) / [PRESS RELEASES](#)

### Hall Launches New Website

Fellowship Hall is excited to announce that our new website has been launched on to the world–wide–web! In keeping with the ‘keeping it simple’ concept the site was designed to be classic, clean, informative, and easy to navigate.

A Focus Group was convened and was asked to review other prominent national and regional alcohol and drug treatment providers’ websites. The group was then asked to review Fellowship Hall’s site and make some comparisons. Some exciting feedback included: “The new landing page just oozes peace and serenity. It is very welcoming with its beautiful photos and simple message.” “Easy to navigate, clean and uncluttered.” Eighty-six percent of the group’s members said they liked the Hall’s site best!

Gratitude and appreciation goes out to: participants of the Focus Group for their time and effort, Mark Barnett of Barnett Photography, [www.barnettphotography.com](http://www.barnettphotography.com), for his magic with the camera, David Graves of Graves Marketing & Design, [www.gravesstudio.com](http://www.gravesstudio.com), for his artistic layout out, design and vision and Pete Oerter, [pete@frostandfire.com](mailto:pete@frostandfire.com), for skillfully programming the site onto the internet.

Please take some time and go to [www.fellowshiphall.com](http://www.fellowshiphall.com) and visit us on the web. The site will be updated routinely so drop by now and again to check it out. Feedback is welcome; please contact Mark Todt at [markt@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:markt@fellowshiphall.com) with any comments or insights.



[Home](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

## Golf Tournament

Fellowship Hall was fortunate to have a Board member who played hard, laughed often, dedicated himself to helping alcoholics and addicts, and combined it all into a game of golf. E. Raymond Alexander ("Ray" to his many friends) loved spending time with other Friends of Bill, and thought there was no better place to do so than on the golf course. It is in this tradition, and to honor his memory, that the Fellowship Hall Conference begins with a tournament on opening day at Crooked Tree Golf Course.

For the past eight years, up to 132 golfers have gathered to enjoy the fellowship, fresh air, and challenge of competing for the "Judge's Jug" trophy and bragging rights for the rest of the weekend's activities. All skill levels are welcome to participate, and mulligan packages are available to improve the scores. "We're not trying to give people the golfing experience of a lifetime," said Mike Whaley, Director of Outreach Services, "but we are trying to share the fun of recovery and celebrate sobriety."

Following the golf, a picnic is held and the awards are presented. It will be interesting this year to see if Dr. Jerry Davis' team can win it three years in a row. Win or lose, the goal of the tournament is to raise money for the Treatment Completion Scholarship Fund, and to have a great time. So far, past tournaments have raised a total of \$113,000; the laughs have been too numerous to count.

So, in memory of Ray, gather up your friends and fill out the registration form or register online at [www.fellowshiphall.com](http://www.fellowshiphall.com) to reserve your tee time on August 6. The tournament has sold out in past years, and the Golf Committee is working hard to make this event the best ever.

### Ninth Annual E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament August 6, 2010

Cost per player is \$80, including golf shirt, green fees and cart, post-tournament picnic and awards ceremony at Fellowship Hall. Fill out the form and send to:

**Golf Tournament/Fellowship Hall  
P. O. Box 13890  
Greensboro, NC 27415**

• Or register online at [www.fellowshiphall.com](http://www.fellowshiphall.com) or by calling 800.659.3381

**Last year, the tournament sold out! Register early to reserve your spot!**

**Registration Deadline: July 1, 2010 (limited to 132 Golfers)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other golfers on your team\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

\*If the names of teammates are unavailable when you register, please contact Connye Post at 800.659.3381 or [connyep@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:connyep@fellowshiphall.com) when you have the names. Shirt sizes must be provided. If not, XL will be ordered.

*Email suggestions, submissions for The Gateway, and requests to be placed on our mailing list to [connyep@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:connyep@fellowshiphall.com)*

**Address Service Requested**



The Gateway is published by Fellowship Hall, Inc.  
P.O. Box 13890 • Greensboro • NC 27415



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Greensboro, N.C.  
Permit No. 264