

Falls Fellowship



Another Cancellation

I listened Wednesday to the announcement by the NC Commissioner of Agriculture that the NC State Fair is canceled for this year. This has happened only twice in the past, during the War Between the States and during World War II. The fair is another economic engine for the state which will not produce revenue this year. The fair brings in over six million dollars each year. Commissioner Troxler said the fair is self-supporting; it does not receive funds from the General Assembly. He reminded us of the many people across NC who will be impacted by this decision. I thought about the children who spend countless hours each year preparing to exhibit at the fair. There will not be the state's largest watermelon or pumpkin on display

this year. Some growers have spent countless hours nurturing their exhibit providing the right amount of shade/sunlight, fertilizer, water and, of course "loving-tender-care." I am disappointed because trips to the state fair were always a highlight of my fall activities. As you know, my wife works for the fair and so there is some personal concern at the Jenkins' household. I understand Troxler's reasoning: the risk of exposure to the coronavirus is too high and, besides, a survey revealed sixty-five percent of the people who typically attend have reservations about attending in 2020. I agree with Troxler: the risk is too great.

Cancellation of the NC State Fair is another example of the

See Cancellation on page 2

Our Primary Mission Field

When I was director of missions for NC Baptists,

I encouraged our more than 4,000

Baptist churches to support missions.

I always emphasized that as we think about

missions, we need to remember North Carolina is our primary mission field. World missions must begin with missions in North Carolina. Our concern about the lost of the world begins with our concern for the lost people in North Carolina.

To help facilitate our work within our primary mission field, North Carolina, we support the NC Missions Offering each September. The money given to the offering goes directly to support Baptist missions work in our home state. One of the agencies the offering helps support is Baptists On

See Missions on page 3



Cancellation cont' ...

changes produced by the Coronavirus. At Falls, we know what that means. We moved our Wednesday Bible study to Zoom, cancelled worship services in the sanctuary for weeks and when we returned it was with much caution and concern for the safety of those who attend. We do not sing from hymn books. Our service is shorter in length. We are encouraging our members who cannot attend to join us for our live streams.

My personal contacts with church members have been limited. I use the telephone to make “pastoral calls” rather than showing up in person. I keep a list of those who I think are most affected by the pandemic and pray for them. I thank God Falls continues to bear witness in our community to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Every time I hear music coming from our steeple, I am reminded that God has not forgotten us, and the work of our church and the Kingdom of God continues.

I am spending more time reading the Bible and I am discovering again the therapy provided by consistent, daily, intentional Bible study and prayer. God is revealing to me new truths. For instance, on Wednesday nights we have been studying in our Zoom conferences I John. I read again “And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know he hears us in whatever we ask, we know we have obtained the requests made of him” (I John 5:14,15). God hears us when we pray and answers our requests — what does that mean? Can I expect God will grant every request I make of him? Here is the answer: He answers the requests we make that are consistent with his will and how do we know what is consistent with his will? The Bible tells us. I am re-learning that effective prayer is prayer which is biblical in orientation. Prayer is to be informed by the Bible. We are to pray according to God’s Word, and we learn what to pray for through consistent reading of the Bible. Have you been praying and not receiving an answer? You need to turn to the Bible and read it and ask if what you are praying for is consistent with the teachings of the Bible. Prayers consistent with the truths of the Bible are answered.

— Tom Jenkins

RBA Training Extravaganza 2020

Vital and Virtual in a Covid-19 Context

TE 2020 will be conducted online beginning August 15. Tune in to the RBA’s YouTube channel (going live soon) or go to www.raleighbaptists.org

These learning experiences will be available for your viewing and downloading of resources at your convenience.

TE 2020 Conference Listings

- The Deacon and Social Distancing — Keith Dixon
- Shifts in How Adults Learn — Jerry Chiles
- Now, What Will a Church Leader/Adult Teacher Look Like? — Steve Zimmerman
- Leaders Confronting Change for a New Day — Steve Zimmerman
- What to Do When Adult Small Groups Have Left the Building — Jerry Helderman
- Ready, Set, Go! Children’s Ministry — Cheryl Markland
- The Challenge of Student Ministry — Rebekah Gordon & Christian Davis
- Taking Care of Yourself — Alison Keene
- Incorporating Technology into Ministry — Simon Touprong
- Caring for the Least of These, Matthew 25 Ministry — Cynthia Thelen

Other conferences may be added for your viewing ...

August Birthdays

- 2 Mary Young
- 7 Trey Davis
- 12 Sharon Young
- 13 Sunny Hammons
- 18 Sandra Leonard
- 26 Sandra Ray
- 29 Kaleigh Young



Continued from page 1

Missions continued ...

Mission, also known as North Carolina Baptist Men (NCBM). Disaster Relief is a ministry of Baptists On Mission. Whenever a disaster occurs — hurricane destruction, flooding, you name it — Baptists On Mission is there. Men and women from all over the state converge and miraculous work is accomplished by their tireless efforts.

When you think about it, the Coronavirus is a disaster. Baptists on Mission, NCBM, has responded like they respond to other disasters. “Since the end of February, Baptists on Mission has helped churches love their neighbors and one another during these stressful days. Hundreds of families have been connected with local churches who are ministering to them. And volunteers have been picking up and distributing food at 185 churches and community centers across the state to help those in need” (From Promotion of NCMO for 2020). Distribution of food is one of the many ways Baptists On Mission is responding to the pandemic. Food challenged families are being fed.

Want to help with this worthy missions’ program? Next month, September, we will receive our annual North Carolina Missions Offering. That money helps to fund the programs, like food distribution, of Baptists On Mission, North Carolina Baptist Men. If you use our envelope system for giving your offering to the church, look in your box of envelopes and you will find one for state missions. If you do not use the envelope system, use whatever system of giving you are accustomed to — cash, checks — and designate to the NCMO.

— Tom Jenkins



Worship Precautions During August

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has the virus, we are aware you could have the virus and be without symptoms. Therefore, we are requesting that all follow these guidelines:

1. If you are ill, please do not attend until all your symptoms have disappeared.
2. Maintain 6 feet social distance except for family members living in the same household.
3. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.

Continued on page 4



Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Hubert Jenks, Vice Chairman	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Kevin Barham	919-618-4214
Brandon Long	252-903-4662
Mike Harris	919-746-5697

Worship Precautions cont' ...

4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.

5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposal masks will be available for those wishing to use them.

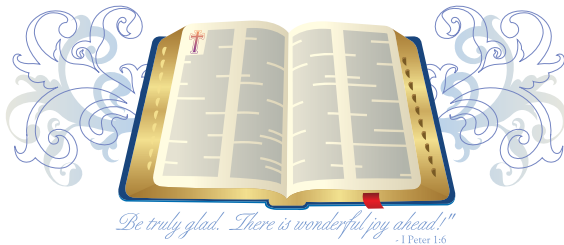
6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.

7. Boxes to receive tithes and offerings are placed at the doors so we do not have to handle offering plates.

Some members fall into the category of having underlying conditions which make them uncomfortable to be in groups. We understand they may not be willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services. During the month of August we will ONLY have 11 AM services in person. Wednesday Bible study will continue on Zoom.

We will reevaluate everything near the end of August and pray we can resume Sunday School and Wednesday meals in September.

— Linwood Barham



Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past 2 ½ years.

But, we need news and articles from all of our committees to let everyone know what you are doing and when you are doing it.

Our website is generating interest and bringing people into our church. Please bookmark it at www.fallsbaptistchurch.org. In addition, our mobile app is in use by 92 people in five countries at this writing — China, Japan, Nigeria and Puerto Rico in addition to the United States! It is available for Apple and Android devices, so search for Falls Baptist in your App Store or you can use the link on our website.

Communication is very important, so send your news and articles to Frank at fbpowell@mac.com
Thanks!



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