

Falls Fellowship



The Season of Advent

Advent Season begins with the Sunday which is the closest to St. Andrew's Day, November 28, and continues for four Sundays. This year Advent began on December 2 and concludes on December 23. The word Advent literally means "coming." It is about God's love for his world that compelled him to send his

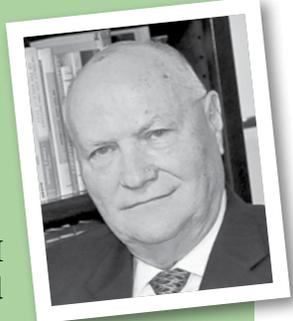
Son, Jesus Christ. It is marked by lights and shadows as it reminds us of the One we call the Light of the World and how he dispels the darkness of our separation from God. The Advent Wreath with its candles symbolically reminds us of the movement between light and shad-

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It's Official!

It's official: I am now your pastor, the pastor of Falls Baptist Church. Cheryl and I are humbled you would choose us to journey with you as pastor and pastor's wife. My pastorates have always been joint ministries. I am the pastor, but she is my right hand, advocate and strongest supporter. The task would be impossible for me to perform without her help. So here we are, starting a journey with you which will unfold only as God determines. Where it leads and when it ends are in his hands. My task is to be faithful to him and serve him by serving you.



Let me share some information with you about my work schedule and how you may contact me. I plan to be at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, although having written that I realize the holiday season may

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Missions Corner

The FBC Giving Tree is located in the vestibule and full of Christmas gift options for needy families. Follow the instructions below to participate: **Sponsoring a family for Christmas.** FBC is sponsoring a family in need for Christmas. This is a local family referred to us by an outreach organization. A single mom, teen daughter

and two young sons have recently escaped from a terrible domestic violence living situation and are working to get back on their feet. You can help by choosing a STOCKING ornament from the FBC Giving Tree in the vestibule. Purchase and wrap the gift requested, attach the

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Missions Corner continued ...

stocking ornament as a tag and place it under the giving tree no later than Wednesday, December 19th.

- Mom wears: size small tops, size 0-1 bottoms and size 6 ½ women's shoe. Needs: work out shoes, pants and any kind of long sleeve shirt or sweater for winter and board games the family can play together.
- Teen daughter wears: size 14 pants, juniors XS or S tops, size 5 ½ - 6 size women's shoe. Likes: the color teal, feather accessories, necklaces and temporary hair colors. Needs: tennis shoes and winter/waterproof boots, twin sheets and blankets.
- Son 1 wears: size 6 pants and tops, size 12 youth shoe. Needs: tennis shoes and winter/waterproof boots. Likes: small Lego sets, things to build/put together.
- Son 2 wears: size 4 clothes and size 10 youth shoe. Needs: tennis shoes and winter/waterproof boots. Likes: Small Lego sets, things to build/put together.

Target, Walmart and Grocery Store Gift Cards are always helpful for basic needs such as food and toiletries. Please see Angie Harris if you have questions regarding this outreach.

Raleigh Rescue Mission Christmas Toy Drive

This year we're approaching Christmas presents for those at the Mission a little differently than we have in the past. Instead of sponsoring an individual child, we're asking you to donate, either money or items, so parents can have the joy of choosing the gifts for their own children. We all know giving feels good — so now we're asking you to give so our parents can give ... It's a win-win.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. The single Mothers and Fathers who are living at the Mission will be given vouchers in the amount of \$75 and will get to shop for their children at the annual Pride for Parents toy and gift sale. Through donations of new and gently used toys and gifts, Pride for Parents offers quality affordable merchandise to families in need in Wake County. At the event they sell—not give— toys and gifts to families who can afford to pay a small price. This approach is based on instilling dignity, not dependence. It supports our New Life Plan approach by allowing our parents to be financially responsible and involved in budgeting and planning.

Adults will also receive a gift card, in the amount of \$150, which can be used to purchase items they want and need for themselves such as clothing, personal items, or gas for their car so they can travel to work.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP. You can give:

- Toys, bikes, helmets, games, books, clothing for infants thru teens
- Money and we will purchase needed items for the kids, and gift cards for the parents.

If you would like to participate, please select a BALL ornament from the FBC Giving Tree. Pur-

Event Calendar

- December 2 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM
- December 8 — Church Christmas Dinner Party 6 PM
- December 9 — Children's Christmas Party **CANCELED DUE TO SNOW**
- December 12 — Christmas Caroling at Hillside Nursing Home 7 PM
- December 15 — Food Bank of NC 9 AM
- December 23 — Sanctuary Choir Cantata 11 AM
- December 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 5 PM
- January 1 — New Year's Covered Dish Luncheon 12 Noon

December Birthdays

- 3 Mindy Barham
- 4 Cheryl Jenkins
- 9 Parker Jenks
- 15 Mark Young
- 15 Taylar Bub
- 20 Barbara Barham
- 20 Phil Jackson
- 21 Rebecca Davenport
- 24 Sarah Tart
- 28 Nikki Creech





chase the gift and place it under the Giving Tree (unwrapped) with the ball tag attached no later than Sunday, December 16th. Please see Mindy Barham if you have any questions regarding this outreach.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2018

FBC will be taking up this annual offering during the month of December.

Every Church. Every Nation. It's more than a catch phrase. It's at the core of what we do. We believe every church—and every church member—has a critical role to play in bringing the gospel to the world. Your church's participation in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a key part of that.

Your Gifts Transform Lives. Because you and your church give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, IMB missionaries can take the gospel to unreached peoples around the world. Every dollar you give makes a difference, because 100 percent of the money collected goes to the work of reaching every nation.

The Story of Lottie Moon. In the 1800s, a mission-

ary named Lottie Moon wrote letters from China urging American churches to fund more overseas workers. After Lottie's death on the mission field, an offering was started in her name. The offering was established to empower international missions efforts for Southern Baptists.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming service opportunities:

- Wednesday December 12th 7-8pm: Christmas Caroling at Hillside Nursing Home. Join the Falls River Girl Scout Troop in spreading Christmas cheer to the residents at Hillside Nursing Home. Volunteers needed! See Mindy Barham for more information.
- Saturday December 15th 9am – 12pm: Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC. Volunteers needed! 1924 Capital Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27604. See Alan Watkins for more information.

Mindy Barham Cell/Text 253-632-8383
E-mail: Mindy@barhamweb.net

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ows that plays out across the theme of Christmas.

Another word important to Christians is “Marantha” which means “Come, O Lord.” It is the word that early Christians often exchanged in greeting each other. The word speaks of the hope of Christ's return. Sometimes we refer to Christ's birth as his First Advent and his coming again as his Second Advent. The pendulum of history swings between these two poles: Christ came, and he is coming again. We live in the intermediary time between these two events.

At Falls we will celebrate Advent and the entire Christmas season as a time of light, joy, laughter and profound reverence in the presence of our God who sent the Babe in the Manger. Begin to prepare your hearts and minds through the reading of the Scriptures and prayer. Why not purpose to read the entire book of Isaiah during November? The words of the prophet are filled with hope amid prophecies about the impending captivity of Judah which occurred in 597 BC. Isaiah gives us glimpses of the coming Mes-

siah whom we call Christ. Isaiah's words written 600 years before Christ was born can help us live with hope in this interval of time between Christ's first coming and his second coming.

— Tom Jenkins



Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Hubert Jenks, Vice Chairman	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Kevin Barham	919-618-4214
Brandon Long	252-903-4662

Official continued ...

run havoc with my plans. Tuesday, I will be there from 10:00 until 1:30. I often have a luncheon meeting on Wednesday and then spend the afternoon and evening at the church through Wednesday's church activities. I also visit on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. You may want to call me at (919) 812-6675 if you want to come by the office to be sure I am there. I visit the hospitals when needed. Also, I am available at other times as needed; just give me a call, preferably before 10:00 PM. After many years of serving churches, I have learned that prevailing circumstances and needs often pre-empt plans I make. I ask you to make room for my humanity for I make mistakes, such as Sunday when I got the Advent Candles out of order. Nancy Marema, the minister of music at a church that I served in my distant past, gave me an ugly little doll which looked like the legendary Troll who lived under a bridge. He held a sign that read, "Be patient with me; God is not finished with me yet." Many years later, the sign is still appropriate.



Be patient with me and I will be patient with you.

We are now on the annual



journey which ends at the manger in Bethlehem where Mary placed the baby, Jesus. Falls offers many opportunities for us to celebrate the season as a family of faith. We believe the most significant event in human history occurred 2,000 years ago with the birth of Jesus and we intend to shout the news from the proverbial rooftops and run down the hills gleefully singing the songs of the season. Join us on this timeless journey as we gather in our brick building on Fonville to share the message of the season, bask in its joy, and remember the words of the angels, "today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Hallelujah. Amen.

— Tom Jenkins



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