

# Falls Fellowship

## Pancakes and Ash Wednesday



**W**hat do pancakes and Ash Wednesday have in common? Pancake Day comes on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday and involves using up your “rich and fatty” foods, such as butter and syrup, before the official beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. In New Orleans the Tuesday before Lent is called Mardi Gras or “Fat Tuesday.” Though the

original idea has been perverted by celebrators in New Orleans, preparing for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday is an old celebration practiced by Christians for centuries. For some Christians, Ash Wednesday begins forty days of fasting in preparation for Easter. The forty days comes from Jesus’

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### Missions Corner

**F**alls Baptist Church upcoming missions projects. Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

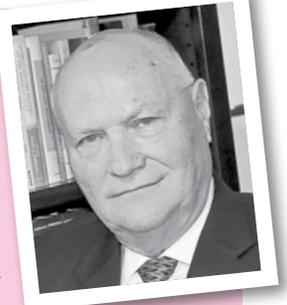
**February:**

- Heck-Jones Annual Offering.
- Women’s Missionary Union of North Carolina is a missions orga-

nization whose purpose is to challenge, prepare and equip Christian believers to be radically involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The FBC Missions Committee has set a goal for the congregation to match the \$500 offered in the 2018 church budget for a total of

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### “Seven Weeks with Jesus”



**O**ur Bible study

on Wednesday nights as we prepare for Easter on April 1 will be, “Seven Weeks with Jesus”. The study will take us beyond Easter since I want to allow time for discussion each Wednesday night. The study is based upon the Seven Signs of Jesus that are found in the Gospel of John. The Seven Signs are miracles that reveal Jesus as the long-awaited Christ and Messiah. The signs reveal that Jesus Christ was the promised Son of God who would become the world’s Savior. Each sign involves a miracle, but the emphasis is not on the miracle but what the miracle means. Each sign has a specific truth to teach about Jesus Christ. C.S. Lewis said that either Jesus Christ was the person he claimed to be, or he was a madman. The signs in John’s Gospel present us with the historical events that prove Jesus is the Christ,

*See Jesus on page 4*

## Missions Corner continued ...

\$1,000. FBC will take up this offering during the week of prayer on Sunday February 11th and Sunday February 18th.

- NC Baptist Children's Home. Recycle and help BCH earn funds to meet the needs of boys and girls. Simply save your old used or expired laser/toner or inkjet printer cartridges, old cell phones and other small electronics (condition does not matter) and place them in the bin in the vestibule now through Sunday April 29th. We will take the donations and drop them off at the workday event on May 5th.

### March:

- Annie Armstrong Annual Offering. North American Missions Board's mission field is the United States, Canada and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. This region contains diverse ethnic groups, languages and religions. Approximately 269 million people in North America do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. FBC will take up this offering during the week of prayer on Sunday March 4th and Sunday March 11th.
- FREE smoke detector battery and furnace filter replacement for the elderly and disabled. The FBC Missions Committee and Brotherhood Committee are teaming up to help the elderly and disabled in our

community on Saturday March 10th. If you need assistance, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the vestibule. This is a community outreach project. Please feel free to refer your local elderly or disabled friends or neighbors to sign up on our new website if they need assistance.

- Easter Egg Hunt candy donations needed. Bring your individually wrapped candy donations or cash for candy and we will shop for you. We will be collecting candy on Sunday March 11th and Sunday March 18th.

### May:

- NC Children's Baptist Homes Spring Workdays Grounds Cleanup. Saturday May 5th 8am – 4pm at Oak Ranch, Broadway NC. ALL AGES welcome to volunteer. Please use the sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you are interested in volunteering.
  - Habitat for Humanity. Saturday May 12th 8am – 4pm in Wake Forest. No experience necessary. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers must be 16+ to participate. If you are interested in participating, you must create an account with Habitat for Humanity at <https://habitatwake.volunteerhub.com/> Enter FALLS BAPTIST CHURCH as the group you are registering with.

## Event Calendar

February 3 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9 AM

February 5 — Deacons' Meeting 7 PM

February 10 – Valentines Dinner 6 PM  
please sign up!

February 14 — Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM

February 18 — Faith and Family Night

March 5 — Deacons' Meeting 7 PM

March 10 – Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9 AM

March 24 — Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 1 — Easter Sunrise Service, Falls Lake Dam

## Children and Youth Education Important Dates

- **Sunday February 18** at 5 pm: Faith and Family Night at Carolina Hurricanes. Church and community youth are going on a fun outing to PNC Arena to see the Carolina Hurricanes play the New Jersey Devils. After the game, Defenseman Jaccob Slavin will hold a post-game chat with the youth groups about how his faith has influenced him as a player and impacted his life.
- **Sunday March 11** at 11 am: Girl Scout Recognition Sunday for FBC Girl Scout Troop 4423.
- **Saturday March 24** at 11 am: FREE Annual Easter Egg Hunt and hotdog lunch. All ages event, no RSVP necessary. Help spread the word by inviting your family, friends and neighbors with children to attend.
- **Saturday May 5** at 8 am – 4 pm: NC Children's Baptist Homes Spring Workday. All ages volunteering event.
- **June 4 – 8** at 6-8 pm: Vacation Bible School. Ages 3-12.

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## Pancakes continued ...



Christ accomplished for us.

We will have an Ash Wednesday service at Falls on February 14. We will begin the evening with a meal in the fellowship hall at 6:00 and then go to the sanctuary for the service at 7:00. Yes, we will have ashes for those who want to have the symbol of the cross etched with ashes on their foreheads, just like you did last year. We will have a time of quiet confession and meditation. We will prepare our hearts for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter Sunrise Service on April 1.

Join us for this significant way for us to prepare to receive the Good News of Easter again — He is alive!

— Tom Jenkins

temptation in the wilderness where he fasted for forty days before Satan tempted him. The Gospels record the event for us. Ash Wednesday begins with confession and repentance of sin. As the body is cleansed through fasting, so the soul is cleansed through confessing and seeking forgiveness.

The broader context in which this is cast is Christians preparing themselves for Easter. If one chooses to give up something for “Lent”, such as some foods, then Easter is the glorious “new beginning” where all things are made new through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday is about leaving behind the sins of the past, the failures, heartaches and disappointments of the past and preparing to celebrate the new beginning that we each find through what

## Please pick up 2018 Offering Envelopes

Members should pick up their offering envelope boxes in the vestibule if you have not already done so. Please see Barbara Barham if you have any questions.



## Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Frank Powell, Vice Chairman	919-604-1285
Julie Allen, Secretary	919-274-7160
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Alan Watkins	919-793-5548
Brandon Long	252-903-4662

## February Birthdays

13	Francine Leclercq
22	Nina Barham
23	Joan Barham
24	Woody Leonard
25	Zoe Davis
26	Demp Jenks
27	Mike Leclercq



## Jesus continued ...

the Son of God, the world's Savior. The claims he made about himself were accurate.

John is the fourth Gospel in the New Testament. It is distinctly different from the first three, called the Synoptic Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke follow the same general outline of the life of Christ. John does not tell of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. None of Jesus' parables are in John and there is nothing like the Sermon on the Mount. In John, Jesus heals no lepers, and demons are never mentioned. The kingdom of God, which is the primary theme of Jesus' preaching in the Synoptics, is scarcely mentioned in John. Instead of the short, pithy sayings that characterize Jesus' words in the Synoptics, John includes elaborate discourses by John. The twelve disciples are not listed, and "the twelve" are mentioned only at the end of John 6:1 and once later (John 20:24). The bread and the wine are not mentioned at the last supper. Instead, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. There are also differences in chronology. In the Synoptics Jesus spends His entire ministry in and around Galilee and makes one trip to Jerusalem, just a week before His death. According to John, however, Jesus made four trips to Jerusalem (John 2:13; John 5:1; John 7:10; John 12:12) and spent a significant part of His ministry in Judea. The Gospel of John, therefore, gives the distinctive signs of Jesus, his words and deeds.

Rather than studying the entire Gospel of John, we will focus on the seven signs. Listed below are the references for the signs:

1. Jesus changes the water into wine (John 2:1-11)
2. The healing of the royal official's child (John 4:46-54)
3. The healing of the lame man at Bethesda (John 5:1-18)
4. The feeding of the multitude (John 6:1-14)
5. Jesus walks on water (John 6:16-21)
6. Jesus heals the blind man (John 9:1-41)
7. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-57)

Robert Browning, the Victorian poet, wrote a poem about the aged Apostle John, the author of the Gospel. John was near the end of his life. He was the only person still living who had known Christ in his earthly ministry. With John's death, the last living link to Christ would be gone. Browning has John say

*What first were guessed as points I now knew stars  
And named them in the Gospel I have writ.*

The Synoptic Gospels only hinted that Jesus was God. John states the truth forthrightly: Jesus was God in the flesh. As John said in his prologue, "*The word became flesh and dwelt among us.*" My prayer is that our study of the Signs in the Gospel of John will open your eyes more fully to Jesus who is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Savior of the world.

— Tom Jenkins

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