

Falls Fellowship

A Prayer God Will Always Answer



I began 2018, as usual, with some soul searching. At the moment, I'm looking at my prayer life. The hurried press of life often consumes me, and my daily moments of prayer sometimes are rambling and disconnected. I plan to spend more time in prayer in 2018.

Anthony DeStefano wrote a book about prayers in which he talks about prayers that God will always answer, like the prayer of the penitent sinner asking forgiveness

and seeking salvation. When I read the book, I was intrigued by DeStefano's prayer asking God to make us an instrument of his mission and purpose. St. Francis wrote a prayer in the twelfth century that is familiar to many of us. It begins with the line, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." This is a prayer that God will answer. Why?

God works through us. God does not manifest himself in a

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Missions Corner

Thank you for your generosity in giving to missions in the first church quarter. We exceeded our goals in each case that we set them and in some cases far exceeded them. Praise God for FBC's wonderful giving hearts! Luke 6:38 (NLT) Give, and you will

receive. Your gift will return to you in full — pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

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Start A New Year Right



You were kind,

thoughtful and generous to Cheryl and me over the holidays. We are grateful for the gift from the church and the gifts from many of you. You completed the profound joy we felt over the holidays as our family celebrated Christmas together. Our daughter was with us for the first time in several years. Thank you for making her and all our family welcome.

I offer my praise and thanksgiving to those who helped us celebrate Christmas in a grand way with beautiful decorations throughout the church, the festival of music, and joy extended in greeting each other. The sights and sounds of Christmas linger in our memories. Perhaps in 2018 when life takes an unpleasant turn for us, and it does sooner or later for us all, we can remember Christmas, relive the scenes of the season

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Missions Corner continued ...

- NC State Missions Offering. NC Baptist Men Disaster Relief Fund. Amount collected: \$3,190.
- Raleigh Baptist Association State Fair workers outreach ministry. 23 hygiene kits collected.
- Baptist Children's Homes of NC. Amount collected: \$1,385
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. 48 shoeboxes full of gifts collected for international children.
- Raleigh Rescue Mission Christmas Blessings Program. Five gifts for homeless adults and 20 gifts for homeless children collected.

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Amount collected: \$2,001
- December Service Work
- Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC. Number of volunteers: 12 people
- Hillside Nursing Home Caroling. Number of volunteers: 15 people

Important Dates:

Wednesday January 10th: Missions Committee Meeting, FBC Fellowship Hall at 7:15 PM. Missions projects planning for the next church quarter.

Sunday March 4th – March 11th: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and week of prayer for local missions.

— Mindy Barham

Commit to Read the Entire Bible This Year!

The evangelism committee is challenging the congregation to commit to reading through the Bible in 2018. If you have never read through the entire Bible, you will experience a blessing and should fully expect to grow closer to God and for the Holy Spirit to enlighten you during the process.

We are presenting three different ways as options for your participation:

First, if you really want to stick to your translation and to your trusty Bible, then we encourage you to use



Event Calendar

January 1 – New Year's Day Covered Dish Luncheon, Noon

January 8 – Deacons' Meeting 7 PM

January 13 – Men's Breakfast 8 AM

January 21 – Quarterly Business Meeting
12 PM right after Church

February 5 — Deacons' Meeting 7 PM

February 10 – Valentines Dinner 6 PM
please sign up!

one of reading aides listed below to assist you.

Secondly, we encourage you to use a "One Year Bible" to assist in your commitment. These Bibles have a reading from the Old Testament (OT), New Testament (NT), Psalms and Proverbs each day and have a built-in schedule for completing the entire Bible in a year. If you have read through the Bible in its entirety before, consider purchasing and reading a different translation.

Thirdly, if reading is difficult for you or if you want to experience the Bible in a completely different way, consider buying an audio Bible on CD to listen to in your car or home each day.

Reading aides are available for free at the church: *Through the Bible in a Year* pamphlet, *Open Windows* quarterly, and *Our Daily Bread* booklet.

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Prayer continued ...



physical presence in today's world, nor does he alter the natural events of his creation to reveal himself. He reveals himself most profoundly through us, his children, as we become instruments of his will. There are many examples of this in the Bible, such as God's calling Moses to lead

the captives from Egypt, God's instructing Samuel to anoint David as King and even Jesus committing his work to an ordinary and fully human band of followers. God does his work through us.

One morning I received a telephone call from a person in deep distress. I did not know him. He called the church where I was working because someone had sent him information about the church and invited him to be his guest. He found the brochure in a stack of old mail. He found the name and phone number of the church during a moment of emotional distress in his life. That was not a mere coincidence. Someone in the church sent a note in which he shared informa-

tion about the church and God used that person as an instrument of his mission and purpose.

Pray this prayer asking God to make you his instrument and see what happens. Don't pray the prayer without sincerity and be ready for action because God will send someone into your life that needs help. Offer the prayer; expect God to use you and then tell me how he used you. I'm looking for stories to share during Lent as we prepare for Easter. This can be part of your journey in the new year. Pray for God to use you and then expect him to come calling on you through a person in need.

— Dr. Tom Jenkins

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.



January Birthdays

- 3 Courtney Mayerick
- 7 Matthew Looper
- 9 Carolyn Odham
- 10 Linwood Barham
- 13 Sara Powell
- 13 Sandra Brown
- 15 Joey Groves
- 20 Frank Powell



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



New Year continued ...

and feel again the profound joy of coming together and worshipping the Savior.

Have you made any New Year's Resolutions? Why not commit yourself to a few aspirations? Here are eight for 2018. (1) Be more thankful, (2) complain less, (3) cultivate a new friend, (4) read the Bible in its entirety (even the genealogy tables), (5) spend more time in prayer, (6) be kind to the disgruntled, (7) smile and laugh more, and (8) start every day with these words from the Psalms, "This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

— *Dr. Tom Jenkins*

Newsletter articles needed

We want to have a newsletter each month in 2018. 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.

In addition, a new website is under development and should be live soon. Look for the announcement!

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

Thanks!

Help Wanted — Make A Joyful Noise!

Scripture tells us in Psalm 100 verses one and two: *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

Falls Baptist Church Choir needs you to help us make that joyful noise. We're gaining new members — come be part of it! Preparations for Easter music are starting soon, new voices are always welcome!

Don't use the excuse you can't sing — most of us can't sing, but that doesn't stop us from making that joyful noise to the Lord.

Choir practice is now on Sundays at 2:00 PM. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!



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