

Falls Fellowship



Serving God in Unconventional Ways

When someone says they are serving God, we normally conjure up images of working at church, doing things for the poor, or visiting the sick. But there are many ways to serve God, and not all of them are necessarily obvious or conventional.

It's definitely not obvious, but I am serving God in the photo on page 3. Specifically, I am brushing out a microphone windscreen — it had rained a little and I had just dried it with a blow dryer. I was working on a film set with the audio department for a faith-based film called *Ordinary Things* which will be out in February, 2024. Now, I've done things like this several times in the past, but this was the first time I was able to do something like this where it was specifically serving God in the process. I also got to meet a LOT of other Christians doing the same thing I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise.

Some of these unconventional ways of serving God can be very subtle. A few weeks ago, I went with Trisha to a doctor's appointment. I don't re-

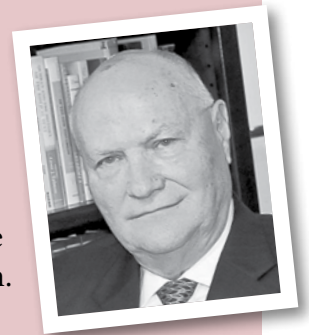
See Serving on page 3

Taking An Inventory of Life's Treasures

Most evenings when I am at home, I

turn on two cut glass lamps at each end of the Hunt Board in the dining room. The lamps belonged to

my mother and were on the end tables on each side of the sofa in the living room when I was a child. When I turn them on, I often see in their glow her face and I am touched again by her love for me. Just beyond the Hunt Board is the dining room table where we have special meals. It is always set with either my mother's China or the hand painted China crafted by Cheryl's mother. We rotate the chinaware, silverware, glasses and serving pieces between settings from my mother and Cheryl's mother. Some nights after Cheryl goes to bed, I



See Treasures on page 4

Ladies Breakfast and Bible Study

The ladies and friends of Falls Baptist Church got together for Coffee and a Movie. We had fellowship with friends around the table. We shared coffee, fruit, doughnuts, cake, and beagles.

The movie was *War Room* — written and produced by the Christian Kendrick brothers. It reminded us all we are to pray and let God fight our battles, not us.

Our next meeting is Saturday, July 29 for Breakfast and Bible Study. Hope to see y'all there!

Falls Baptist Church On Mission

We are going to participate, in the month of July, in Backpack Buddies — in conjunction with the Raleigh Baptist Association. Select the items you would like to donate and we will drop them off at the RBA by August 2nd.

All Ages:

Backpacks (sturdy, high-quality bags to ensure extended use)

Elementary Children:

- #2 pencil pack
- Pencil pouch (no boxes)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Pocket folders
- Composition Notebook
- Highlighter
- Binders
- Spiral notebook

July Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 6 | Johnny Ray |
| 12 | David Young |
| 21 | Alan Watkins |



Middle/High School:

- Flash drive
- Pen pack
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Highlighters
- Loose-leaf paper
- Spiral notebook – multi-subject
- Post It Notes
- 3-ring binder
- Composition Notebook

Also: We are going to honor our friend Cathy Scott (husband Carl) who has collected pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries out of Cincinnati. Cathy has been collecting and sending the bottles to support third world countries. Unfortunately Carl and Cathy must leave us for a year to help with family. The Women's mission and fellowship want to continue this mission while we wait for our friends to come back home to Falls Baptist Church. Please remove the labels and wash before bringing your empty bottles to Church.

— Women's Mission and Fellowship

Food Donations

We continue to collect food for Tri-Area Ministry each month. Our participation makes an important difference to helping families in need in our area.

Some items needed: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken), Chef Boyardee, Cereal, Grits, Rice, Dried Beans, Oatmeal, Mac 'n Cheese, Pasta / Noodles, Crackers, Canned Soup.

Nominating Committee meeting

Our nominating committee is meeting and will be calling members to see if they are willing to serve on various committees during our upcoming 2023-2024 fiscal year.

When, not if, you are called, please give serious consideration to serving our church. We have ambitious plans to grow and spread God's word through our areas and we need everyone to help!

Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of May 1, 2023 — May 31, 2023.

Tithes - \$14,275.00

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33

Actual expenditures - \$9,985.46

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51

Additional paid out:

Annie Armstrong - \$1,545

— *Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer*

Event Calendar

July 2 — Independence Day Celebration 6 PM

July 3 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

July 8 — Men's Breakfast 8 AM

July 9 — Communion

July 11 — Marketing Task Force Meeting 6 PM

July 16 — Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM

July 29 — Ladies' Breakfast & Bible Study 10 AM



Continued from page 1

Serving continued ...

member what I was doing, but I had laid the pen I was using down and as we left, I turned around to get it, remarking to Trisha that I almost forgot my pen (I didn't realize it was a Falls Baptist pen). She said, "You should 'forget' it. Maybe someone who needs it will pick it up." So, I 'forgot' the pen on the table. Sometimes the opportunity finds you instead of you finding it.

When you're looking for things to do to serve God or do His will, look outside the box. Sometimes you can find ways to serve Him by doing things you're already doing in some other capacity or things you had just never thought would present such an avenue.

— *Alan Watkins*

Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past four 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.

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 and was recently updated, so you need to update your phone to use it. 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!

Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman	919-880-1888
Mike Harris	919-746-5697
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099

Treasures cont' ...

will take one of the cups on the table, either from her mother's hand painted China or my mother's blackberry pattern and fill it with "Sleepy Time" tea hoping to induce slumber. I take the cup of tea to the den where I place it on the round table, that belonged to my mother, next to my chair. Not far away is a small chest with my mother's Bible on it. My father's Bible is on a table in the living room.

Between my study at home and our storage unit there are hundreds of books and dozens of file boxes with sermons and other documents collected during fifty-eight years of Christian ministry. Among the books are many which have been with me since childhood such as the "Handy Boys Book" whose pages introduced me to elementary photography. I was recently rifling through the files and came across a sermon I preached when I was eighteen years old and the ordination certificate I received the same year.

Then there are the photos collected over the years from various sources or the many I made with my ancient Kodak box camera to today's sophisticated digital cameras I feel fortunate to have acquired. One old photo shows my father and his family standing on the front porch of the unpainted frame house they lived in at the top of a sandy hill. The photo was taken by a traveling photographer. My father and his oldest brother were wearing shirts with ties but in the photo, as delivered by the photographer, they were not wearing shoes. They didn't have any. On the copy I have my father had used a pencil to draw shoes on his feet and

his brother's.

These and many other remnants of my life make up what I call my "Magic Kingdom."

These are treasures to me, but perhaps worthless to anyone else. I know, deeply within my aging body, that it is time to review. What should I keep? What should be discarded? What should be left for Cheryl and my children and grandchildren to sort through? Is there anything they would like to keep from my Magic Kingdom? An old proverb says, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

On a higher plane, I am thinking about my spiritual treasures as I take an inventory of my life. I am a Christian, saved by the grace of God, distinctly gifted and blessed by his Spirit. His grace overwhelms me; his gifts sustain me; his investment in me is immeasurable, greater than the gold in all the world's gold mines. Like the accumulations of the world's goods in my "Magic Kingdom" I hope to pass these on to my family and friends. These spiritual treasures are intangible; how does one pass them on? By repeatedly saying to those whose hearts join yours, "I love you", "You bring joy to my life." "When clouds come, you are the sunshine that pushes them away." Long after my photographs have faded, the place settings are broken, and my books are turned to dust, the gifts God gave me that I invested in other people will thrive and grow and bear fruit and someday among the crowd of saints gathered around the throne of God perhaps I will hear that voice which can be as gentle as a summer breeze or as loud as a clap of thunder say, "Well done."

— Tom Jenkins



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