

# Falls Fellowship



## Pray for Churches

**A**s people of faith who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have many prayer requests to offer in this time of heightened anxiety. We should all be praying for those who are fighting the pandemic at the front lines such as our first responders, medical personnel (especially doctors and nurses who work in hospitals where coronavirus cases are handled) and the leaders of our state and country who seek the common good for all people. Let me give one more request for you to add to your list: churches.

Some churches were struggling before the coronavirus closed them. They were on a razor thin edge of solvency, surviving only through week-to-week contributions. Now they are not able to meet for wor-

ship, and the offering plates are empty. Some of these churches were a shadow of their former selves before the pandemic. All around us in Wake County are churches which once were strong and vibrant and brought vitality and resources to their programs and to the communities they served. Some of them are almost empty on a good Sunday. Keeping up their property has become a never-ending struggle. They may find it challenging to continue after we are past this crisis.

John Butler, Executive Director for Business at the Baptist Convention, spoke about these churches in an article in Sunday's paper. Among the 4,500 churches of the convention, Butler knows many may not survive much longer. These church-

*See Churches on page 4*

## The Pandemic Continues

**T**he pandemic continues to change the way we do church.

Another change affects

our receiving food for The Baptist Children's Home (BCH). The BCH has postponed their food



drive for April/May until a later time. This means we do not need to continue bringing food to the church to deliver to the BCH. We have some items that were already delivered, and I will find a way for us to deliver them to the BCH. In the meantime, the BCH can use contributions to support their food program since their food budget factors in the food drive and, therefore, there is not enough money in the budget to fund the shortfall. You can designate a gift to the BCH through your contributions to Falls. Remember, that money sent

*See Continues on page 3*

# Memorial Day

**T**he meaning of this day has been lost. ... But it is more than an excuse to fire up the grill...

Though we forget, take it for granted and perhaps treat the day lightly, the sacrifices of the men and women who have fallen have purchased ... provided us with many things. Let me point out only three of those things.

## Liberty

Of the many things the deaths of our soldiers provide for us, liberty is by far one of the greatest. In this country we enjoy many freedoms: to protect, to speak, vote, etc... What are some other liberties you cherish?

Those freedoms don't come freely, but at a great cost. Of course there are those who die without thought of a free America, but many did. They knew exactly why they died – to give us the greatest country on earth.

All liberties come with great sacrifice: driving, nice teeth, nice staff, etc...

## Security

I am most often reminded of this when I watch the evening news. Every night I go to bed in the safety of my own home while wars are fought on foreign soil. My autos will not be blown up, I'm not going to face bombers on the way to work, no missiles flying overhead, no chaos in the streets.

Our nation has lost its stomach for war — but let that war rage on the streets of this nation, in our neighborhoods, on this home front ... let the bombing and

shooting and kidnapping and beheading take place in this land and we'll be reminded of the safety and security we enjoy.

## Peace

With liberty and security come great peace. In fact, we are a nation so at peace we are oblivious to the terror and turmoil most people in the world face on a daily basis.

When you tuck your kids in at night, you can thank a soldier they can sleep all night in peace. When you relax on your front porch with a fresh cup of coffee, thank a soldier you don't have to worry about friendly fire.

It is because they have given their lives we enjoy the peaceful lives we do, lives no one else on earth has like we do in America.

There are many other things we enjoy at the expense of the lives of our soldiers, so today we want to honor their courage, their valor, their sacrifice by simply saying "Thank You" for what they have given to us.

In doing so it behooves me to remind you of He who made the ultimate sacrifice on the Old Rugged Cross to purchase these same things for us.

1. Freedom
2. Security
3. Peace

— Kevin Higgins

## Event Calendar

May 3 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM

May 10 — Mother's Day

May 25 — Memorial Day

June 7 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM

## May Birthdays

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Naomi Horton     |
| 3  | Michelle Watkins |
| 6  | Glenn Johnson    |
| 14 | Alisha Allen     |
| 22 | Mike Harris      |
| 22 | Arnie Jenks      |
| 25 | Danny Brafford   |
| 26 | Ronald Jenks     |
| 30 | Tom Jenkins      |





Continued from page 1

## Continues continued ...

to special missions, such as the BCH, should be above your scheduled tithes and offerings.

I am very appreciative of our people continuing to support the church through their tithes and offerings even during this time when we do not have services. People are mailing their contributions to the church and some stop by and leave their contributions in the church office. I am here on Tuesdays, usually 10:00 to 3:00, Wednesdays 1:00- 8:00 and Fridays 10:00 to 2:00. If you stop by you can also receive a Sunday School study guide for May-July.

I have received good comments about our virtual services and Bible study. I am indebted to Kevin Barham, Frank Powell, Daniel Ripley and Stacie Creech for making the recordings of our worship service. Kevin offers the music, as good as ever, and Frank records the service, edits it and then posts it on Facebook and our web page. Having had experience in using technology in ministry, Daniel helps with the coordination and offers his expertise to the whole enterprise. Stacie assists me with our Zoon Wednesday night Bible studies. She helped me set up the program and schedule and assists me as co-host on Wednesday nights.

I am floating the idea of our live-streaming our services when we return to worshipping in the sanctuary. We have many people watching the broadcast on Sunday mornings. For one Sunday, 428 people watched the video of our service. A large number of people watched our streaming of our Easter Sunrise Service. If you haven't watched it, look at it and you will find some humorous moments in it. (I didn't know what to do with my hat). To move toward live streaming of our services and recoding them for delayed viewing will require the purchase of new equipment. Even our computer in the sanctuary is so old that it sometimes takes days to update the operating system. Of course, having the equipment is only one step. We will need a trained group of volunteers to use it. I am not asking for money at this time. I want to talk further with our church leaders before recommending this as a ministry project for our church. I don't want this to sound "pastor driven." That approach does not produce lasting results. We will need buy-in by the congregation.



We may try a "Drive In Service" before we return to worshipping in the sanctuary. We will e-mail updates about that and post the information on our webpage and Facebook.

The deacons are meeting Sunday and will discuss possible dates for reopening on Sundays. In addition, they may suggest some innovative ways for us to elect people to serve on the Nominating Committee and electing deacons. We will need the nominating committee fully staffed soon to secure our workers by August for the new church year.

These are challenging times for us but also times of growth as we discover new ways to carry on the work of our church. Many of you are struggling with the challenges of the pandemic — social distancing, staying in place, wearing masks and gloves, washing and washing and washing your hands, hungering to see family members and friends whom we feel isolated from. Through it all, we must trust God. He sees the end from the beginning and is already out there in the future beyond this pandemic where he is calling us. One of the phrases seen often in the Bible is "fear not." It was in the vocabulary of Jesus, "Fear not for I am with you." Paul spoke about it, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity (fear), but a spirit power, of love and of self-discipline" (II Tim. 1:7 NIV). We have Jesus in his Spirit abiding with us and within us; therefore, fear not. This will pass.

— Tom Jenkins

## 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 |

## Churches continued ...

es have for years used most of their financial resources to keep their buildings open and have had little money to spend on missions. The State Conventions budget has been shrinking for years because of this.

One option is to merge with other churches in the community. Years ago, I thought that was a viable option for some of the small churches in western North Carolina. You could ride through the mountains and find a Baptist church every six miles. Six miles was as far as people wanted to travel in a horse and buggy when those churches organized. Today, those churches have only two or three families left and even they are diminishing as children become adults and leave home for jobs elsewhere. Merging with another church, even one a few miles away, was unthinkable. The families' roots, I was told, were deep and it would dishonor their ancestors to merge with a neighboring church. I was often told the church would stay open until the last member died. And that is what happened.

Add to your prayer requests, churches which may not survive the pandemic.

— Tom Jenkins



## 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](http://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](mailto:fbpowell@mac.com)

Thanks!



9700 Fonville Road  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
[www.fallsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.fallsbaptistchurch.org)

Dr. Tom Jenkins, Pastor  
(919) 812-6675



[www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch)