

Falls Fellowship

Promises to Keep



*The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

— Robert Frost

Reflecting on this poem in the newsletters of the last two months, I wrote, first, about promises we must keep to those who came before us, our ancestors both in our biological family and our church family. People who came before us started Falls Baptist Church on this

hill and others have kept its doors opened.

Second, I wrote about promises we must make to those who will come after us. We must promise to them that we will keep the doors opened and the ministries of our church flourishing as the time will come for us to pass the reins of leadership on to the next generation.

This month, in the last column on this theme, I want to write about the most important promises we

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Missions Corner

Romans 12:6-8 *“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if*

it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

May:

- NC Children’s Baptist Homes. Spring Workday Cleanup, May 5

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The Next Important Step for Falls

The next important step for Falls BC has been taken: the election of a Pulpit Committee, also called a Pastor Search Committee. The committee was elected at the church conference on April 19. The members are: Kevin Barham (Chairman), Mike Harris, Ruth Ann Long, Sara Powell and James Smith. We will commission the committee at the end of the worship service on May 6. This committee will engage the congregation in the process through such activities as surveying the congregation to establish a profile of the church and the church’s expectations for the next pastor. As a Baptist church, we follow congregational governance which simply means the congrega-

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North East Wake Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies is a program which provides food every weekend to children who are identified as food insecure by teachers and guidance counselors at each school. Each bag contains kid friendly food for weekend meals and snacks. There are approximately 400 children receiving weekly bags from North East Wake Backpack Buddies.

What is food insecurity? Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods. Good shorthand terms for food insecurity are "struggling to avoid hunger," "hungry, or at risk of hunger," and "hungry, or faced by the threat of hunger." According to the USDA, 41.2 million people lived in food-insecure households in the US in 2016.

What are the statistics for our surrounding community? According to the Southeastern University Consortium on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition, the number of children eligible for free and reduced price

school meals in North Carolina in 2013 was 56,280. But of those, only eligible children, only 71 percent actually receive free and reduced price school lunch, 34 percent actually receive breakfast and just 9 percent actually receive free summer meals. The

Interfaith Food Shuttle based out of Raleigh reports the following facts:

- Almost 630,000 North Carolina households don't have enough to eat.
- North Carolina is the 10th hungriest state in the nation.



Current Food Drive Needs

Below is a list of needed pantry items. Please ensure items are packaged as individual servings. Due to the design of the program, we cannot accept family size and/or non pre-portioned items. Thanks for your understanding.

Any brand or flavor of the items pictured is welcomed.

Any brand/15 oz or larger

Individual serving size of any salty snacks

Individual serving size of any sweet snack

Instant oatmeal packets

Any brand of breakfast bar

Individual microwave mac and cheese

- Almost 1 in 4 children in North Carolina faces hunger on a regular basis (24.6%).
- More than 15 percent of our seven county service area (Wake, Durham, Johnston, Orange, Chatham, Nash and Edgecombe counties) faces food insecurity, that's more than a quarter of a million people.

Federal nutrition programs can't do it alone. There must be a comprehensive approach. Backpack Buddies is one of many organization that helps to fill food insecurity gaps. A typical weekend bag from the Backpack Buddies Program contains: 1 large canned entrée (such as Chef Boyardee or hearty soup), 2 small canned protein (beanie weenie, beef stew), 1 mac and cheese individual serving, 1 ramen noodles individual serving, 2 individual servings cereal boxes, 1 instant oatmeal, 1 bar, 1 fruit cup, 1 applesauce, 1 sweet snack

(pop tarts, raisins), 1 salty snack (pretzels, goldfish), 1 protein snack (Lance crackers) and 2 fresh produce. 1-15oz. jar of peanut butter is provided every 6 weeks.

For more information, visit the North East Wake Backpack Buddies website at www.newbackpackbuddies.org.

— Mindy Barham



The director was very thankful and said in the height of winter, they give this many coats away in an HOUR. The need is great in the South Raleigh community.

Operation “Save the Coats”



Operation “save the coats” was a great success! Sara, Frank and Mindy delivered the coats in their cars to Note In The Pocket. With Love From Jesus Ministries called and said they would take everything we had in the shed. Mindy dropped them off later in the week. Thanks to you all for your help on this project and for the fellowship before and after.

Falls Baptist Church had a last minute mission to save winter coats. Our friends at Operation North State share a warehouse with the Salvation Army in Winston

Salem. Operation North State learned the Salvation Army in Winston-Salem received an abundance of winter coats they are unable to distribute and planed to shred them for rags. We don't know the reasons behind this decision. However, the Salvation Army gave FBC permission to take as many as coats as we can carry back to the Raleigh area to distribute to local charities. Mindy, Cheryl, Johnny, Sandra, Frank and Sara caravaned to the Winston-Salem warehouse after church on Sunday April 8th.



Falls Baptist Church Youth create baffle insulation artwork for the upcoming Habitat for Humanity build in Wake Forest. Pictured from left, P.J., Erica, Shelby and Naomi.

Missions Corner continued ...

Saturday 8 am – 4 pm at Oak Ranch, Broadway, NC.

- Habitat for Humanity, Saturday, May 12th 8 am – 4 pm in Wake Forest. No experience necessary. Lunch will be provided.

June:

- North East Wake Backpack Buddies. The mission of Backpack Buddies is to provide food to hungry

children in our region and to enrich their lives by giving them a greater opportunity for growth, learning, and development.

July:

- School Supply Drive for Raleigh Rescue Mission. FBC will collect backpacks (new or gently used) and school supplies such as pencils, pens, paper, crayons, glue, erasers, binders, etc.

— Mindy Barham

Event Calendar

May 5 — Baptist Homes Workday 8 AM– 4 PM

May 7 — Deacons' Meeting 7 PM

May 12 — Habitat Home Workday

May 13 — Mother's Day

May 19 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM

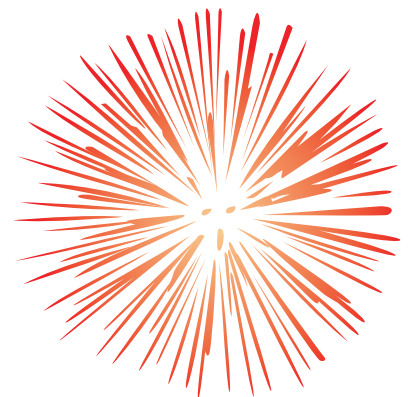
May 20 — Ladies Tea 3 PM

May 27 — Pastor Jenkins' Birthday Luncheon

June 4-8 — Vacation Bible School 6-8 PM

Children and Youth Education Important Dates

- **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.
- **July 4th** at 6 pm: Independence Day Celebration. Free games, hotdog and fireworks. All ages.



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Promises continued ...



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is thy faithfulness.

He hears our confession, forgives our sins and gives us the grace to start over. None of us will ever be one-hundred percent true to the promises we make to God. We are not changed into Saints when we become a Christian with the temptation to sin taken away from us like a doctor may remove our appendix. We are still frail creatures, imperfect and struggling with God's help to become stronger in our faith each day.

make: the ones we make to God. These are the ones that demand the most from us.

In the past, at a place you remember, and, on a day, you remember, you came to God and confessed your sins, asked for his forgiveness and invited His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into your life. I suspect you made some promises to Him, just like I did on the day I became a Christian. For example, we promised to renounce evil, follow God's will for our lives and obey his commandments. It all seemed rather simple on that day: we would give our lives to him and follow him. But soon after that day, we learned that we had some of the same old tendencies we had confessed. It was not that we didn't love the Lord nor that we were not truly sincere in our commitment to him. It's just that...well you know what happened.

Perhaps life has changed in many ways since you last examined the promises you made to God. Scroll back through your memories and come to the time and place where you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and review the promises you made to him. Have you honored those promises? It may be time to renew them and ask for God's help in keeping them. The Good News is that God will hear our prayers, forgive us and help us renew the promises we made to him.

You have promises to keep: to those who came before you; to those who will come after you, and to God.
— Tom Jenkins

There's hope for us. We may break promises we made to God but remember that our God is known for grace and mercy. Jeremiah put it this way in Lamentation 3:22-23:



May Birthdays

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



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 |

Step continued ...



tion makes the major decisions. The Pulpit Committee will do its work and then come to the church with a candidate they will recommend as the next pastor and the congregation will vote on the candidate. Here are some steps you may take to assist in the process.

1. Pray. Nothing good happens in the life of a church without prayer. The choice of the next pastor for Falls is one of the most important decisions the church must make. Kevin Barham, chairman of the committee, said the church will be opened on Sunday afternoons for those who would like to enter the sanctuary quietly and spend time in prayer. Pray for the committee; pray for the church to be obedient in the process; pray for unity around the candidate when presented; and pray for your place in the process.

2. Respond to surveys/questionnaires the committee will offer. Your response will help the committee

to form a profile of the church that will influence their work. This is the place for you to make input.

3. Pray for God to help you embrace the new pastor, when he comes, even if he was not your first choice.

4. If you have special concerns or issues that you would like the committee to communicate to candidates for the pastorate — tell them.

5. “Wait upon the Lord.” He already knows the best choice for the church for its pastor. Don’t get ahead of Him. Again, “wait on the Lord.”

— Tom Jenkins

Pastor’s Birthday Luncheon

Dr. Jenkins will celebrate his 75th birthday on May 30. Falls Baptist Church wants to help him celebrate by having a pig picking in his honor following our Worship Service on Sunday, May 27. The church will furnish the pig and a birthday cake. We are asking our members to bring appropriate vegetables and side items to complete the meal. Please make your plans to attend so we can show Dr. Jenkins we appreciate the dedication he has so faithfully exhibited to our church and to the Lord during the past year.



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



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch