

Falls Fellowship



‘We Should Give Thanks Every Day’

What do you think of when you think of Thanksgiving? If you’re like me, images of Pilgrims wearing hats with buckles and a perfectly cooked turkey come to mind. I imagine them sitting down at a large table, getting a nice helping of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce and digging in!

Of course, most of this is not accurate. According to several sources on the Internet, they didn’t wear buckles on their hats. Buckles weren’t really in fashion at that time and they were considered expensive. There was most likely no turkey or cranberry sauce either. Supposedly, they ate “venison and wild fowl” and vegetables (not from a can).

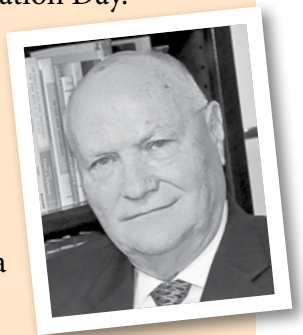
It’s not really important that you eat the ‘right’ things for Thanksgiving. Jesus says in Matthew 15, it’s not what you eat which defiles you but rather what is in your heart. So, while we may not eat or dress the same as the Pilgrims did, there is one thing we should do that they did, and that is

See Thanks on page 2

Thanksgiving and Other Subjects

Cheryl and I are grateful for your honoring us Sunday with Pastor’s Appreciation Day.

The covered dish lunch was “Falls’ Quality” with an abundance of food and a wide variety. We had everything from fried chicken to banana pudding. I did not taste every dish, but what I tasted was “outstanding”. I’ve never been to a covered dish meal at Falls where there was not an abundance of food and a wide variety.



In addition, I am grateful for the monetary gift. You were very generous, and I will wisely use the money in ways that will enhance my work. I have been “leaning” into the purchase of a new laptop. Mine is a 2015 model, though slow, it still chugs along.

See Thanksgiving on page 4

Event Calendar

- November 7 — Fruitcake Factory 9 AM
- November 13 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- November 11 — Veterans Day and Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM
- November 23 — Thanksgiving Day
- November 26 — First Sunday in Advent
- December 2 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM
- December 2 — Movie Night 6:30 PM
- December 9 — Church Christmas Dinner 6 PM

Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of September 1, 2023 — September 30, 2023.

9/1/23 – 9/30/23 Tithes - \$14,697.00
 Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33
 Special Gifts – Other Than Memorial (Maui) - \$1,200.00

Misc Gen Income - \$200
 Parsonage Rental - \$750
 Total Income - \$16,847.00
 Actual expenditures - \$10,565.89
 Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

Special Offering

Every November we collect a special offering for the wonderful work of the Baptist Children's Homes. All of your contributions go to help their mission. Make sure you mark your offering for Baptist Children's homes in addition to your regular tithes.

Continued from page 1

Thanks continued ...

to give thanks to God for what He has given us. Notice I didn't say to do this 'on Thanksgiving'. We should give thanks on Thanksgiving, but we should also give thanks every day.

Thanksgiving is sort of a special day set aside for such things, so I think we should give 'more' thanks on that day than on a regular day. Normally, that's done at the Thanksgiving meal. When I pray at a Thanksgiving meal, in addition to a blessing on the food, I like to thank God for bringing all of us together once again. I ask Him to be with those that aren't able to be with us this year, and I thank Him for the special times we had with those that are now with Him.

This year, regardless of what the meal is or who says the prayer, remember to personally thank Him for all he has given you!

— Alan Watkins



ADOPT-A-FAMILY at Christmas

A wonderful tradition at Falls Baptist Church is the sponsorship of a family in need during Christmas. This year, we have reached out to the Raleigh Baptist Association (RBA), and they have connected us with one of their many families involved in the RBA's "Caring Connections," ministry.

This RBA program focuses on helping women and their families work towards self-sufficiency after challenges such as substance abuse, domestic abuse, or incarceration.

This year, Falls Baptist will be sponsoring two young mothers, one with a 7-year-old daughter and

November Birthdays

- 1 Jim Waddell
- 3 Wayne Blackmon
- 8 Jason Stewart
- 10 Tyler Allen
- 10 Raymond Foster
- 11 Amy Barham
- 18 Wanda Looper
- 23 Payton Harney
- 27 Lee Canipe





Family Movie Night

On December 2 at 6:30 PM we will our second Family Movie Night with a showing of *Christmas Wanderer*. Drinks, popcorn, nachos and Hot Dogs will be served!

Christmas Wanderer is a 2017 release. Amelia Pittman (Vanessa Simoes) is forced to interact with her father, Fred Pittman (Jody Mitchell) who abandoned her as a child and now has Alzheimer's. This film is a great example of God's ability to mend broken families, and broken lives. *Christmas Wanderer* is dramatic without being too gritty; it keeps a great balance of being realistic about the issues but light enough to provide the viewer with breathing room.

Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule so we'll know how many to prepare for.

Hope to see you then!

the other with a 2-year-old son.

We put up the Christmas tree in the Church lobby on Sunday, November 12th. The gift requests will be hanging as ornaments on the tree. We will have a sign-up list with the tree so we can keep track of who has taken which gift request.

In addition to items of clothing and toys for her children, the mothers have made a few modest requests for their homes such as Towels, sheets, a gas card and gift cards to Burlington or TJ Maxx/Marshalls for personal items.

The deadline for having gifts back at church will be Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

Sponsorship Details:

- It helps with delivery and organization if gifts are in sturdy bags with handles or boxes by family/child with a name tag.

- If possible, please highlight on the wish list which items were purchased.

- Please notice both moms would like to wrap the gifts on their own so please do not wrap them. They enjoy this so just include a tag on the gift with the recipient's name attached to the gift. You can leave the from section blank so mom can write in Santa or her name.

The RBA has also asked that we provide a devotional book for the family and this request will be on the tree as well.

Thank you for reflecting the spirit of Christ through your generosity and compassion. Cynthia Thelen, the director of Caring Connections, is very pleased our church continues to reach out in love to those in need. She has also asked that we remember this young family in prayer during the days ahead and ask for God's love and care for them.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

— Sandra Leonard

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.



TRI-AREA MINISTRY
FOOD PANTRY

Deacons

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

Thanksgiving cont' ...

For many ministers, modern technology has allowed us to work more efficiently and bring more order to our work. I have in the garage at our home the Smith Corona typewriter that my mother used to type my father's sermons. He made the final preparations for the sermon he would preach on Sunday on Saturday morning and mother typed it Saturday afternoon. The Smith Corona has been replaced by the computer which has shortened the time it takes to move a sermon from an idea inspired by in-depth reading of the scripture and prayer to a finished product, that is, if you use the technology as meant to be used. I had a good friend who was a pastor and had good computer skills, but he wrote his sermons by hand using a Bic pen and a legal pad and then sat before the computer and entered the hand-written manuscript. I thought of that as an unnecessary step

Modern technology, however, cannot replace the personal, hands-on basic mission of the church to reach people for Christ. Technology may assist us in the initial stages of identifying groups of unchurched people and provide information that may help us reach them for Christ. But it will not replace the personal side of one-on-one ministry. I stopped by Starbucks last Saturday and ordered my seasonal favorite: a Pumpkin Spice latte. Business was slow and allowed

time for me to have a conversation with the Barista. A door opened before me and I asked, "Are you a Christian?" Smiling he said, "Yes", and told me about his church. Nothing can replace one-on-one evangelism.

This brings me to the holiday season approaching us. We are a few weeks away from Thanksgiving and then there is Christmas, for me, the most exciting time of the year. There is the meaning the exchanging of gifts brings to Christmas, we all like receiving gifts, but more importantly Christmas brings us to remember the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where Jesus was born, and the magnificent choir of angels and humble shepherds who appeared at the Advent.

So here is my Christmas challenge: let's make our list of names of people we can invite to Christmas celebrations at Falls (and there will be several), friends, family members, the waitress that serves us lunch, the Barista who mixes our coffee, the haggard stranger begging for a handout at the traffic signal (you might have to bring him) old friends that we assume are active in a church somewhere, the errant adult child, and the list goes on. A simple gesture, inviting someone to church, may bring him and, who knows, that may lead to another miracle at Christmas — one more person turning to the real miracle of Christmas, the Son of God born of Mary, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and placed in a manger.

— Tom Jenkins



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