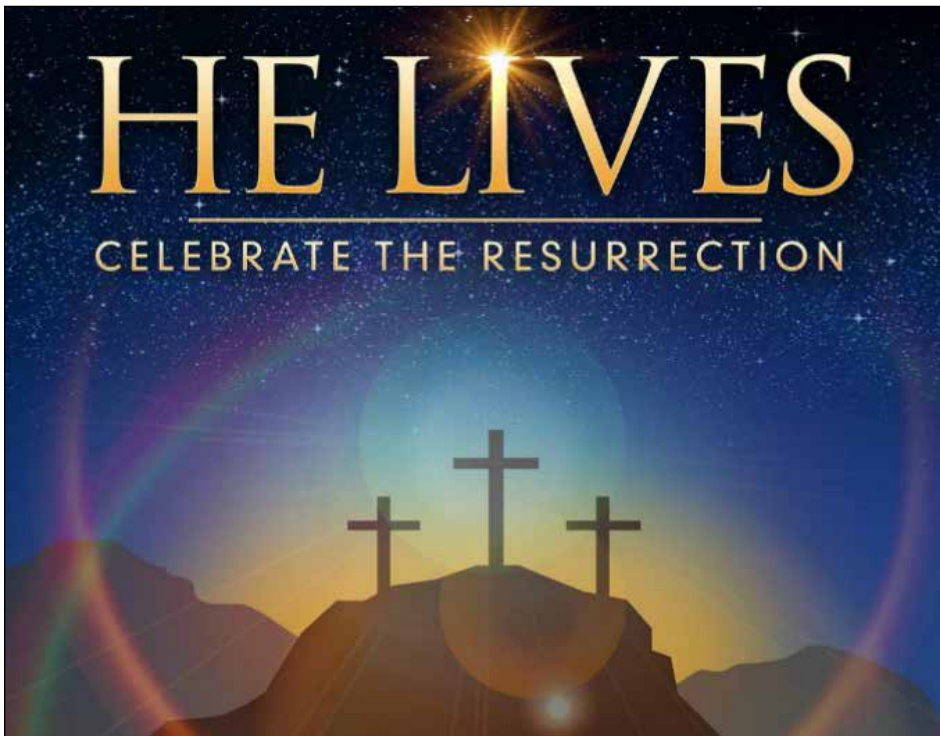


Falls Fellowship



It is finished ... or is it?

I hope everyone had a great Easter! I was able to make it to Sunrise service and the 11 am service but needed a nap later since 7 am is much earlier than I'm used to being anywhere! I'm sure a lot of people finished the day with a meal that had at least some ham in it and were tired by the end of the day. As Easter came to a close, I thought back to one of the things I had heard in the sermon that day which was John 19:30:

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

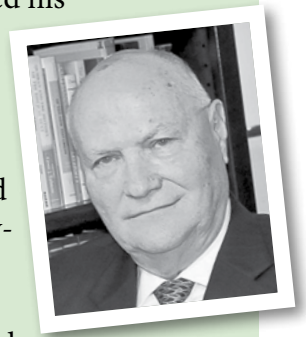
About as close as I can come to what I think Jesus felt at that moment is the feeling you would get when you finish a college degree, pay off a piece of property, or retire. At that moment, his debt had been paid ... it was finished. But there is so much more after the crucifixion. Three days later, Jesus rose and instructed his disciples to continue His work and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them (John 20:21-22). Just as Jesus instructed His disciples to continue His work, so must we. As the song says,

See Finished? on page 2

Got Any Ideas?

From 1936 to 1942 a photographer who operated a studio in Lexington, North Carolina supplemented his

income by traveling to small towns in North Carolina and making movies of local life. H. Lee Waters would



announce to the community his intentions of filming daily life in the community, and he told the people he would return and show the movie in the local theater. The date for the viewing was announced and people crowded the local theater to see a movie about their community. I suspect many people went to the screening hoping that they were in the movie.

I saw a print of the movie he made of Caroleen, North Carolina, in 1940. It interested me because I used to live near Caroleen. In addition to Caroleen, the movie had

See Ideas on page 4

Event Calendar

April 13 — Spring Fling 12 PM
April 21 — Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM
May 5 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
May 11 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM
May 12 — Mother's Day
May 19 — Church Council Meeting 2 PM
May 27 — Memorial Day

Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of February 1, 2024 — January 29, 2024.
Tithes and Memorials - \$8,045.00
Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.06
Actual expenditures - \$10,285.23
Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09
— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

Family Movies Available

Both of the movies we've seen for movie nights are available in the Church library in case you missed them or want to see them again!

Check them out when you have a chance and stay tuned for future movie nights announcement!
— Alan Watkins

Newsletter articles needed

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

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

Thanks!

Continued from page 1

Finished? continued ...

“let us labor for the master from the dawn till setting sun.” We are not finished being Christians until Christmas rolls around. We should take the opportunity now to go out and teach people about Jesus, just as He instructed His disciples to do. We can, and should, tell people about Jesus and live our lives according to his plan all year long, not just at Christmas and Easter.

— Alan Watkins

Mission Donations

We will be collecting non-perishable food for Baptist Children's Homes all during the month of April. Please leave food in bags in the vestibule starting the first Sunday in April.

We will be collecting diapers of all sizes, wipes and ointment and baby and children wash. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Sandra Leonard.

Please pick up 2024 Offering Envelopes

Members should pick up their offering envelope boxes in the vestibule if you have not already done so. Please see Kevin Barham if you have any questions.

April Birthdays

1	Ken Barham
8	Carl Scott
8	Ruth Ann Long
26	Brandon Long



Shine Bright, Show His Glory

God desires His children rise to greater heights in all areas of life, displaying His purpose and glory to attract others to the kingdom.

In Isaiah 60:1-5, we find four key elements: the proclamation to arise and shine, the provision for our rising and shining, the purpose behind our rising and shining, and the prophecy surrounding our rising and shining.

The Proclamation to Arise and Shine

God commands us to rise and shine, as He is not pleased when His children remain stagnant and make no progress. He wants us to rise above our fallen, dead, confused, sitting, sleeping, fearful, reluctant, and lazy states. God calls us to action and expects us to make progress in every aspect of our lives.

The Provision for Our Rising and Shining

God has provided everything we need for our rising and shining. He has sent His Son Jesus as the light which shines upon us. Without His light, we cannot shine. We must receive His light and reflect it to the world. Additionally, God's glory will be seen upon us as we rise. We must remember to give Him all the glory for the extraordinary things we accomplish.

The Purpose Behind Our Rising and Shining

The purpose of our rising and shining is to stand out and display God's glory, attracting others to Him. In a world covered in darkness and filled with wickedness, God wants His children to be separate from worldly principles and wicked people. Our lives should reflect the light of Christ, leading others to salvation.

The Prophecy Surrounding Our Rising and Shining

As we rise and shine, the Gentiles will be drawn to the light of God in us. Our lives should be a



testimony which brings unbelievers to the kingdom. Furthermore, even those in positions of authority and honor will be attracted to the brightness of our rising. We should not be intimidated by people in high positions but rather use our influence to bring them to God. God promises all that belongs to us will come to us, and we will experience enlargement and receive the riches of those who reject God.

Conclusion

God's desire is for His children to rise and shine, displaying His purpose and glory in all areas of life. He has provided everything we need for our rising and shining. Our purpose is to attract others to the kingdom through our testimony and influence. As we fulfill this purpose, we can expect God's promises to be fulfilled in our lives. Let us arise and shine, bringing glory to God and impacting the world around us!

— www.SermonCentral.com

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

Ideas cont' ...

scenes from two smaller communities near Caroleen, Henrietta and Avondale. Caroleen grew up around a textile mill. The film shows workers on their way to the textile mill. Many of them carried small buckets which held their lunch and possibly a snack for mid-afternoon. Men and women were dressed in gingham. Men wore newsboy style caps or Stetsons stained from years of wear. Waters also filmed children on their way to school and he filmed people on Sundays, in their Sunday best clothes, on their way to church. The same people who wore gingham and newsboy caps during the week on their way to work in the mill would be dressed in coats and ties for church and the children would have exchanged their threadbare school clothes for clothes they probably were dressed in for Easter. People on their way to work and people on their way to church and children on their way to school — these were the themes of Waters' movies. Work-church-school, the foundation of life in America in the 1940s. Falls Community grew up as that kind of community: people went to work, children went to school and on Sunday families gathered at church.

We live in a different world. The textile mills are gone. Schools are no longer community based after years of consolidation and the new model of charter



schools is replacing public schools. Some churches which were vibrant in the last century have closed or are struggling to keep their doors open for a rapidly dwindling congregation.

Falls Baptist Church is not immune to these sociological shifts. Once a homogenous community, Falls is now very diverse. As a church, we are trying to find our way through the changes. I used to enjoy Hubert Jenks telling me about life in Falls in years gone by. We would muse about what our church must do to stay alive. We chased that subject down many rabbit holes. Hubert went to heaven before we found the answer. Barbara struggled with that issue and now she is gone, too.

Folks, it's now up to you and me to learn what our church must do to remain vibrant and, if not vibrant, at least alive. Got any ideas?

— Tom Jenkins



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(919) 812-6675



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch