

# Falls Fellowship



## The Hidden Ball Trick

**A**s I sit writing this, baseball season is in full swing with about 50 games left for each team, and I am amazed and grateful at the number of things which happen in baseball relating to things in our spiritual journey. The one I want to talk about this time is one you almost never see — the hidden ball trick. This play happens when a runner on base doesn't realize the fielder near them has the ball in their glove, and they take a step off the base only to be quickly tagged out by the fielder with the ball. It's a thing of beauty when your team pulls it off, and it's a head slapping moment when it happens to your team. The lesson we, as Christians, can learn from this is to remember, Satan is ALWAYS looking for an opportunity to get us when we aren't paying attention. In this analogy, the ball is sin, the base is Jesus, and the further you get away from that base the easier it is for Satan to do his work! There's a Bible verse that conveys this analogy well: "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4:7).

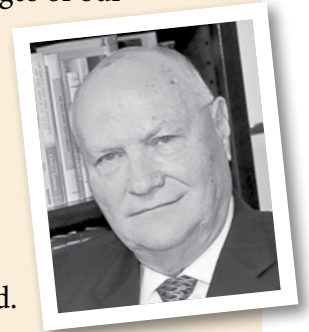
One of the first lessons they teach you in baseball is to keep your eye on the ball. The hidden ball trick is 100 percent avoidable if you do that

*See Hidden on page 3*

## "I'll Turn the Lights Off"

**I** was part of a team sent by the Baptist Convention to associations in the far western fringes of our

state. Our task was to listen to their leadership and help them propose a path forward. Many of the



churches were on the edge of closing their doors. In that section of the state Baptist churches were established about every six miles because at the time that's the distance a horse drawn buggy could travel on Sunday mornings without too much effort on the horse or passengers. Over the years transportation methods improved, and one could travel further than six miles to church services and still arrive refreshed and prepared to worship. Those little churches really started to struggle as parishioners left the farms for the factories in neighboring cities. Some of the churches we visited were

*See Lights on page 4*

## Event Calendar

August 2 — Chrismons and Fellowship 9:30 AM  
August 4 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM  
August 5 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM  
August 12 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM  
August 19 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM  
August 24 — Called Business Meeting 12 PM  
August 26 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM  
August 31 — Lord's Supper 11 AM  
September 7 — Deacon Ordination 11 AM  
September 8 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

### 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 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The nominating committee requests you complete a survey regarding committees on which you are interested in serving. Surveys and committee descriptions are available in the vestibule. Completed surveys can be placed in the collection boxes at the rear of the sanctuary. Please see Alan Watkins with any questions.

When, not if, you are called, please give prayerful 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!

### Women's Bible Study

Ladies ... join us for a study of "When Faith Becomes Sight, Heaven" a Bible Study by Jennifer Rothschild.

We will meet each Tuesday evening beginning August 5th through September 16th from 7 pm until 8:30 pm (at the latest). Each week we will discuss the chapter together and watch a video of Jennifer Roths-

child's teaching on this topic.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule of the church so we can ensure we have enough books at the start of class.

You can purchase the book on your own from Amazon or Lifeway.

We look forward to seeing you August 5th at 7:00 pm at Falls Baptist Church. Arrive a few minutes early to grab a light refreshment and get settled in to study together.

— Elizabeth Colcord

### Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of July 1, 2025 — July 31, 2025.

Tithes and Memorials - \$11,231.00  
Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.16  
Other income:  
Parsonage -\$750

Actual expenditures - \$12,063.82  
Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

### Come To Church

Hello, my Name is Johnny Ray I came home from Viet Nam October of 1967 after serving two years in the US Army in the spring of 1968.

I was driving out Falls of the Neuse Road in my shiny New Plymouth GTX when something caught my eye. There was a young lady swinging a little girl

### August Birthdays

2 Mary Young  
7 Trey Davis  
12 Sharon Young  
13 Sunny Hammons  
18 Sandra Leonard  
26 Sandra Ray  
29 Kaleigh Young



in the yard behind Falls Baptist Church. I immediately turned around went back. Her name was Sandra Strickland.

We started dating she and her family were all members of Falls Baptist Church. After about a year I was talking to her father when he advised me if I had intentions of being in their family, I might consider joining the church. So in 1969, during a revival, I did exactly that. On July 10, 1971, Sandra and I got married in the church. We have worked hard together to maintain our faith. Believe me nothing in life is easy. We have been together 54 years now and we still are in love.

We welcome any person in our area to come worship at Falls Baptist Church. We will make you feel welcomed and loved.

— Johnny Ray



acles and was crucified and rose from the dead. Also enjoy seeing some of the items Carol had as souvenirs of her trips to this incredible land.

— Sandra Ray

## See The Holy Land

**H**ave you ever considered taking a trip to the Holy Land? I know many of us have but have been unable to go for different reasons.

We have been given an opportunity to enjoy a photo recap of Carol Looper's visits to the Holy Land. Jeff and Jerry, Carol's sons have gifted us with many of Carol's photos and souvenirs. Stop by the history room (adjacent to the sanctuary) to see Carol's photos of where Jesus lived, spread the gospel, performed mir-



*Continued from page 1*

## Hidden continued ...

— just stay on the base until you know where the ball is. Avoiding sin is much harder, and as the Bible says, we're all going to get caught at some point: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We can minimize the risk by doing the same things we'd do in baseball to avoid the hidden ball trick: stay close to the base (Jesus) and know where the ball (sin) is. Doing these things won't stop us from sinning completely, but it will minimize the risk.

— Alan Watkins

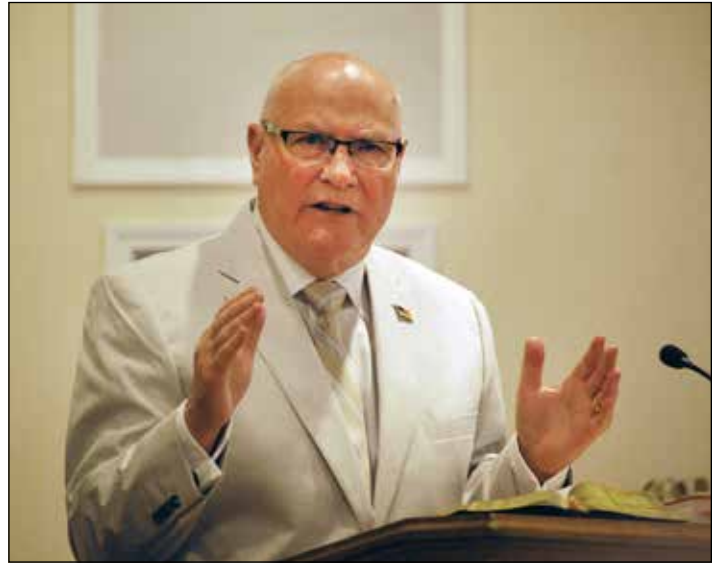
## Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman	919-880-1888
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099

## *Lights cont' ...*

averaging five or six people on Sunday mornings. Since some of the churches were near each other, one of our suggestions was to have several churches combine and form one church. I remember talking with one of the oldest living members of one of those churches. She was adamantly opposed to the idea and said, “I intend to stay here in this church even if I am the last member living and I’ll turn the lights off and lock the doors for the last time.”

Craig Jackson, our church treasurer, and I look at the numbers each month which define Falls Baptist Church, membership, attendance and contributions. Both of us are concerned about the future of our beloved church. I am happy to report, according to Craig’s financial reports, we are financially solvent to borrow a term from the business world. We are strong with our gifts for missions. We have not had a crisis emerge, such as replacing the air conditioning in the sanctuary, we were not able to meet. We have cash reserves which could get us through a dry season of contributions. However, when I see the numbers for Sunday School and worship, I am concerned. Now, I know we are an aging congregation and that impacts attendance. Age and illnesses both take their toll. There are only two solutions to the attendance issue: (1) those of us who are physically able must attend and bring our tithes and offerings with us; (2) and we must reach new members.



You may ask, “Whose responsibility is it to reach new members; isn’t that the job of the pastor?” Yes, outreach is part of my job. But I need help. Reaching new people for church attendance must be a “church effort.” Let me rephrase the Great Commission: “Go into the communities surrounding Falls Baptist Church and compel people to come to church so Falls Baptist Church will not close its doors.” Pray with me about our developing a methodology which helps us live out the Great Commission and keeps us from that day when the last person locks the doors and turns the lights off on what was once a mighty force of good for Jesus Christ on this hill.

— Tom Jenkins



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](http://www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch)