

Falls Fellowship

A New Beginning



Whatever the year's tone for us, this week fills us with hope. A hope that a new year will bring a change for us. A chance for a fresh new start — a new beginning. And with that many of us make new year resolutions — pledges or promises to yourself or to God that you will personally be different this year.

I want to focus upon some new year's resolutions each of should consider for ourselves, but before we delve into our topic, I thought you might

enjoy a few stories of failed resolutions:

A story is told that at the beginning of a new year, a high school principal decided to post his teachers' new year's resolutions on the bulletin board. As the teachers gathered around the bulletin board, a great commotion started. One of the teachers was complaining. "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She was throwing such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. As he read her resolutions he was astounded. This teacher's first resolution was not to let little things upset her in the New Year.

Or how bout this one ... A son called his parents to wish them a happy new year and when his Dad answered the phone, he asked his dad, "Well Dad, what's your new year's resolution?" His dad replied, "To make your mother as happy as I can all year." When his mom got on the phone he asked her the same question. His mom replied, "My resolu-

Continued on page 3

Help Wanted — Make A Joyful Noise!

Scripture tells us in Psalm 100 verses one and two: *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

Falls Baptist Church Choir needs you to help us make that joyful noise. We have recently lost several members of the choir and they need to be

replaced. Plus, new voices are always welcome.

Don't use the excuse you can't sing — most of us can't sing, but that doesn't stop us from making that joyful noise to the Lord.

Choir practice is Wednesdays at 7:15 PM. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!

Dear Church Family,

This is a time of new beginnings at Falls

Baptist Church! God has certainly blessed us with a loving church family and we are eager about the potential of 2017. It is important now, as ever, to remember from Jeremiah 29:11 — " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you ... plans to give you hope and a future.'" God has a unique plan for us as individuals and as a church. Embrace your part of that promise for FBC!

We need YOU! Your presence and your participation are at the heart of what this new year will bring to us. Even in small ways, it makes a difference! I encourage you to think about at least one way you can add more to the life of our church. Whether it is strengthening your commitment to come to worship each Sunday, attend Wednesday Bible Study, get involved with a new missions project,

Continued on page 2



Be A Giver — Not A Grabber

Be a giver, not a grabber. Live generously, not greedily. Give freely because God gave all He has given to you freely. Live open handedly, sharing it with your church and other people because none of it is yours anyway. You own nothing; God owns everything. Give it away freely and live your entire life open handedly.

Greed is an insatiable desire for more. Greed is about grasping, craving, acquiring and hoarding, while generosity is about giving, charity, blessing and handing.

When you obey God's Word about giving and generosity, you are getting God involved in your life supernaturally. You are never more like Jesus than when you give.

Continued from page 1

or give more time, talent, or treasure — we depend on you!

As we seek a new pastor in the coming months, there will be plenty of opportunities for YOU to make an important difference. Yes, your voice is needed! Even more, our ability to do God's will through our church means we all must be **engaged and enthusiastic, patient and prayerful** during this time of transition.

The Deacons are actively working to present an interim pastor to serve and lead us. Our goal is to present this candidate in February. In addition to fulfilling regular pastoral responsibilities, our interim pastor will have the ministry experience and resources to help us envision our future. We will have many chances to share ideas that will work towards our search for a permanent pastor.

Also, know that our Deacons are ready to minister

to you and we hope that you will turn to us. We are here to pray for and with you, to visit and serve you as you desire or have need.

This is an exciting and optimistic time to be at Falls! We are committed to the work that must be done. I am confident that with this fresh, new beginning, we can look at our church with new eyes, filled with the promises of God. Come, let's stand on those promises *together* in 2017.

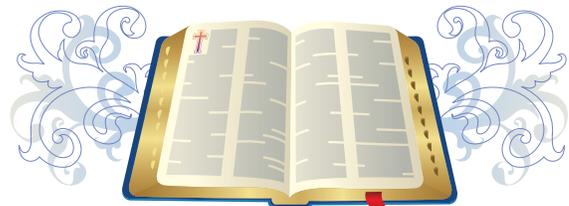
— Kevin Barham, Chairman of the Deacons

— January Preaching Calendar —

January 15 – Jonathan Holste

January 22 – Roger Nix

January 29 – Craig Bailey



"Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead!"
— 1 Peter 1:6

Deacons

Kevin Barham, Chairman	919-618-4214
Frank Powell, Vice Chairman	919-604-1285
Julie Allen, Secretary	919-274-7160
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099
Hubert Jenks	919-270-8765
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540

Event Calendar

January 14 —	Men's Breakfast – 8 AM
January 21 —	Food Bank Volunteer Day 1-3 PM
January 22 —	Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM right after Church
February 6 —	Deacons' Meeting 7 PM
February 18 —	Valentine's Day Dinner 6 PM, please sign up!

A New Beginning continued ...

tion is to see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution."

Or some of you may have given up on resolutions taking the same attitude as the characters in the cartoon *Calvin and Hobbes*:

The cartoon character Calvin from Calvin and Hobbes once said, "God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I'm so far behind I'll never die."

Regardless of past successes or failures ... I want you to give a new year resolution one more try but this time realize that keeping this promise is a team effort. Invite the Holy Spirit to join you this year...

The disciples were faced with a new day. Their master Jesus had died. Their hopes were crushed. Their dreams shattered. As per Jesus instructions, they assembled in an upper room knowing what needed to be done but lacking both the power and the desire to carry it out. It was here in their doubt that the Holy Spirit entered the picture.

Turn with to Acts chapter 2 beginning in verse 1. The Holy Spirit powerfully entered their lives and they became bold preachers of the Gospel.

Jesus spoke of this same Holy Spirit in John chapter 14 verse 26 when he said: *But when the father sends the Counselor as my representative — and by the counselor I mean the Holy Spirit — He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.*

As we contemplate a new year's resolution, we must do so realizing that we can not be successful in keeping it apart from God. John 15:5 says ... *Apart from me you can do nothing.* And the me is clearly God. So you are not alone.



With these thoughts in mind, I would like to offer to you some good resolutions for you to consider.

First, Find time for God — Build that personal relationship with Christ.

In the course of each day make time to creatively spend with God. You know I have a saying that if you want something to happen write it down, put into an active calendar, and guess what, the odds of it happening just increased. Look at your day ... where in that day can you make an appointment to spend with Jesus? Then write under that time slot in your calendar, Jesus. Invite Jesus to meet you.

In this time you can read your Bible, read an inspirational magazine or book, pray, sing, walk, journal, etc. How boring are our friendships where we say and do the same things every time we are together.

Also start with short amounts of time ... use the exercise principles, If you spend an hour exercising in the beginning, you will be too sore to exercise at all the next day. I remember in college I found this place called a weight room. Come to think of it, was probably a result of a new year's resolution to be a muscle man. I go into the gym and I see a tiny girl pumping the iron machines ... I infer if she can do it, so can I ... I did realize that she had been working out like this for years ... I was so sore the next day that I did go back there for a year ... Pace yourself. Jesus would rather meet with you for one minute a day than 20 minutes one day a year.

As you build that relationship, you will learn to hear the voice of God through the Holy Spirit, and The Holy Spirit will then personally convict, guide, rebuke, teach, counsel, comfort, you name each of us. And when that happens our relationship will deepen and we will grow.

Continued on page 4

January Birthdays

3	Courtney Mayerick
7	Matthew Looper
9	Carolyn Odham
10	Linwood Barham
13	Sara Powell
13	Sandra Brown
15	Joey Groves
20	Frank Powell
21	Faye Stewart
29	Margie Otstot



A New Beginning continued ...

Second, Stay or become active in our worship and Bible Studies.

Don't just come on Sunday morning or once a month or year and expect to personally grow. I strongly believe that in order to become all we can be, we need each other and even more than the fellowship, we need to be with each other in a small group Bible study. That can be Sunday school or a weekday Bible study. But choose to study God's word within a group. It is you who miss out by not risking getting involved.

Third, Choose to become a regular tither this year.

There are very few times in the Bible when God dares you to test Him, but this is one of them.

Listen to Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be enough food in my temple, If you do, says the Lord Almighty, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great that you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you.

Beginning in the new year at the first paycheck give God the first fruits of that check. Before a single bill is paid give God his ten percent. Trust that God will provide if we obey his word. I truly believe that we miss a blessing because we don't trust God with our money. It's all God's anyway. God could demand 100 percent but He only asks for ten percent. By not obeying and tithing we are disobeying God and we are sinning against the very God that we say we love.

This year try it. Test God and obey Him by tithing your



personal money. What would happen if everyone who attends this church obeyed and tithed. What more could happen for God's kingdom here and abroad. You can't expect to receive or have a close relationship with God and experience His abundant blessing if you keep sin in your heart and life. Today say in the year 2017 I or my family will be a tither. I will test God. I will try it.

A fourth resolution is simply to put any undesirable habit, addiction, sin, you name it, into the hands of God.

Too many of us start here with our resolutions, we try to treat a symptom without addressing the root cause. Unless you abide with Christ and choose to invite the Holy Spirit into your life and into your problem there is no hope.

You will always try to quit and you will most always fail.

It is time to break the cycle. You can't change by yourself. You need the powerful presence of God. If you want to change start by building that personal relationship with Christ and let God begin to cause you to hunger for change to thirst for righteousness.

This new year quickly comes. Make it a year where you place it all into the ever capable hands of our God.

— Kevin Litchfield



9700 Fonville Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587
www.fallsbaptist.com



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch