

Falls Fellowship

What Is Your Life's Mission?

A long time ago I wrote a mission statement for my life. Each January I review it. I try to be honest with myself and celebrate my successes in following my mission and turn away from my failures. I have learned that if I have a clearly defined mis-

sion for my life it's easy for me to say "No" to demands on my time that are non-essentials. If you have said "Yes" to a mission for your life, it's easy to say "No" to trivial demands for your time. As I fill in

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Let's 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.*

Worship is about giving thanks to God with all our heart. Praising Him as our Refuge and Stronghold. Powerful words from Psalm 9 remind us to give glory to God ...

who reigns forever!

Falls Baptist Church Choir needs you to help us make that joyful noise. We're gaining new members — come be part of it! New voices are always welcome!

Don't use the excuse you can't sing — most of us can't sing, but

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Christmas Is Over

Cheryl's collection of nativity scenes, the Christmas tree, the



ornaments and lights, and the Christmas china have been returned to their storage places noting the passing of Christmas. It was a wonderful season filled with joy, good memories and, remarkable conversations. We are now in January, having passed Epiphany Sunday and not many weeks away from Lent. Let me pause, however, at the passing of Christmas and thank you for helping us celebrate the season. At church, we had the children's Christmas program, the choir's musical, the Christmas eve candlelight service and moments of worship when we felt the overwhelming presence of the Christ Child. Cheryl and I thank you for your grace given to us at Christmas, kind words,

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Christmas cards and gifts. I pray that we may be able to capture the profound joy of the Christmas season and share it with each other as the days pass in 2019.

I always feel a bit of sadness when all of the Christmas decorations are returned to storage to wait another eleven months before being revived again. Life, however, must be lived forward. There was a Danish theologian named Kierkegaard who said “Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” I think he meant that we learn from our past, mistakes and all, but we live forward one day at a time.

I’ve observed that as some people make New Year’s resolutions they aim at correcting mistakes of the past. For example, the person who resolves to lose weight in the New Year is acknowledging that in the past he has not been wise with his diet and exercise and, thus, has accumulated excessive weight. He resolves to do better in the future. I was reminded of that when I was at the YMCA the day after New Year and saw many people I had not seen before. I suspect many of them had “resolved” to exercise and lose weight in 2019 and that’s why they started off the new year at the Y.

Let me suggest you spend some time reflecting on your actions in 2018, accept the mistakes you made, and then move on. God has given you another year.



Don’t dwell on the mistakes of the past year. Acknowledge them, accept them, ask for forgiveness where you should and then move forward. Happy New Year!

— Tom Jenkins

Event Calendar

- January 1 — New Year’s Covered Dish Luncheon 12 Noon
- January 6 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM
- January 12 — Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM
- January 20 — Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM right after Church
- February 3 — Deacons’ Meeting 4 PM
- February 9 — Valentines Dinner 6 PM please sign up!

Please pick up 2019 Offering Envelopes

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

January Birthdays

- 3 Courtney Mayerick
- 8 Jessica Jackson
- 10 Linwood Barham
- 13 Sara Powell
- 13 Sandra Brown
- 15 Joey Groves
- 19 Gloria Crudup
- 20 Frank Powell



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Joyful continued ...

that doesn't stop us from making that joyful noise to the Lord.

Christmas will be here before we know it and we need dedicated choir members to help celebrate the season!

Choir practice is now on Sundays at 2:30 PM. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!

Old photos of our church and/or area needed

Anyone/everyone who has an old picture of the mill, the original church, or the new church under construction, please allow me to borrow the pictures for our church archives.

Thanks,

— Paul Barham

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Mission continued ...

my calendar with activities I try to balance each one with my mission statement. I attempt, though I'm not always successful, to commit myself only to the activities that fulfill my mission statement.

I am inspired in following a mission statement for my life by Luke's story of Jesus at the synagogue in Nazareth. In Luke 4 Jesus was asked to read the Scripture at the Synagogue in Nazareth on a Sabbath. He selected a passage from Isaiah 61 and after reading it declared that in him the passage was fulfilled. For me, that passage from Isaiah became Jesus' mission statement; he outlined in a few words what he intended to do with his life. He offended the people there and they attempted to take his life, but he persevered in following what he knew the Heavenly Father wanted him to do with his life. By the way, I will be preaching on this passage from Luke January 13.

What about you? Do you have a mission for your life, a purpose for which you are living, a guiding statement that you believe comes from God's will for you? If not, then start preparing one. You may want to start with a simple exercise. Ask yourself what you want people to remember about you. Cheryl and I sat with a couple we happened upon at the cafeteria the other night. We had not seen them in several years and so we had some catching up to do. Then she asked me this question: "Will you do my funeral?" That came, as we say, right out of the

blue. I hesitated for a moment and then said, "Yes, but we have some catching up to do so I will know what you would like for me to say?" If the preacher is honest at the funeral, he speaks about what the life of the deceased was like, his achievements, his gifts, his influence upon the lives of others—in other words, he speaks about that person's mission and how he achieved it.

How do you want to be remembered? When you are no longer around, decide what you want people to remember about you and then set out to become that person; make that your mission.

— Tom Jenkins



Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Hubert Jenks, Vice Chairman	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Kevin Barham	919-618-4214
Brandon Long	252-903-4662



A rare early December snow canceled our services on Sunday, December 9, 2018, but it was beautiful!



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