

Falls Fellowship



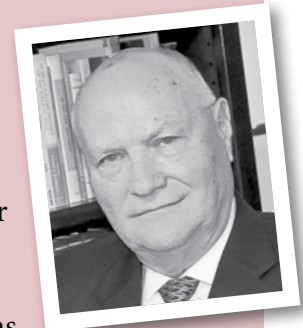
Don't Wait for January 1st

Happy New Year! It's that time of year again when people set goals for themselves that they want to achieve in the upcoming year. Most people have already made these goals long before the start of the year, but January 1st is when they decide they would put them into action, as if that day has some type of significance beyond the month and year of the calendar changing. There is nothing wrong with a New Year's resolution, but there is also nothing special about January 1st that says we should wait until that day to start trying to achieve our goals for the next year. By the time you're reading this, the 1st will be in the past, so if you haven't started on your resolutions yet, go ahead ... I won't tell anyone you didn't start on January 1st! God doesn't work on such deadlines, though. Matthew 24:36 tells us only He knows when Christ will return, and there is no guarantee it is going to be on January 2nd the day after someone made a resolution to become a Christian. In fact, if someone you know made a resolution to give their life to Christ on January 1st, ask them what

See Don't Wait on page 3

The Nearside of God

My mother-in-law, Marjorie McCarty lived to the age of ninety-nine. In less than two months she would have been one-hundred years old. I was with her a few hours before she died. She was



not conscious, but I acted as though she could hear every word I said. I recited from the book of Psalms, including the very familiar Psalms 23 and 121. Then I turned to John 14 and repeated Jesus' words, "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you." I read that passage at Cheryl's father's funeral and Marjorie asked me to use it at her funeral. Then I sang "Amazing Grace" and especially emphasized the last verse:

When we've been there
ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun

See Near Side on page 4

Event Calendar

January 1 — New Year Day Covered Dish Luncheon Noon

January 6 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

January 15 — Joshua Bible Study 7 PM

January 19 — Quarterly Church Conference Noon

February 3 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

February 4 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM

Joshua Bible Study

Wednesday night, January 15, we will begin a multi-week Bible study of the Old Testament Book of Joshua.



Our study will follow the theme, "Finally in the Promised Land." Join us for supper at 6 PM and the study of Joshua at 7 PM.

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

Thank You!

Cheryl and I are grateful for every expression of joy given to us during the Christmas season, every gift we received from church members, and every kindness we received during our grief over the death of Cheryl's mother. Thank you. *Tom and Cheryl Jenkins*



Our gift donations to our adopted family at Christmas.

Please pick up 2025 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.

January Birthdays

- 1 Elizabeth Colcord
- 3 Courtney Mayerick
- 7 Matthew Looper
- 8 Jessica Jackson
- 10 Linwood Barham
- 13 Sara Powell
- 13 Sandra Brown
- 15 Joey Groves
- 19 Phil Colcord
- 20 Frank Powell



Women’s Bible Study

Ladies ... join us as we study the accounts of Jesus in the land where he was born, ministered, died and was resurrected, in the land of Israel. This seven week Bible study *Luke in the Land* by Kristi McLelland will take us through the land of Israel through the Gospel of Luke and we will see (on video) where these stories of the Bible took place.

We will meet each Tuesday evening beginning February 4th through March 18th from 7 pm until 8:30 pm (at the latest). Each week we will view a video of the teaching from the land of Israel and briefly discuss the lesson together.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule (lobby) of the church. This will give us an idea of the number of ladies to plan for and number of books to order. Invite your friends and neighbors.

We will have books available for you to pick up the first night of Bible study if you prefer the church order the book for you and you reimburse the church. The books can be purchased ahead of time from Lifeway.com or Amazon.com if you are interested in ordering the book directly yourself. The books are \$24.99 plus tax from both Lifeway.com and Amazon.com.

We look forward to seeing you February 4th 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

Continued from page 1

Don’t Wait continued ...

are they waiting for? Someone must pay for our sins when that bill comes due, and we can either pay ourselves with eternal torment, or we can accept the payment Christ has already made for our sins on the cross. There is no need to delay this acceptance or say you will accept it on a particular day. So, if you or someone you know has made a resolution to become a Christian in 2025, don’t wait for a certain day ... you can accept Christ as your Savior any day of the year, and there is no day like today to do so!

— Alan Watkins

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.*

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

Choir practice is now once a month at 2:30 PM, day to be announced. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!

Newsletter articles needed

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

In addition, our mobile app is in use by more than 100 people in 10 countries at this writing — Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Nigeria and Puerto Rico in addition to the United States! It is available for Apple and Android devices and was recently updated, so you need to update your phone to use it. Search for Falls Baptist in your App Store or you can use the link on our website.

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



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

Near Side cont' ...

We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

I ended with a prayer thanking God for Marjorie's long life and asking him to receive her into her eternal home. Shortly after I left, the Lord came for her and now she is at home with the Lord.

At her service, I drew upon the scene of King David and the death of his little boy whom he had fathered with Bathsheba. David's servants noted his mourning as the son was dying, refusing food, prostrating himself on the floor, and seeking the help of God on behalf of his son. After the boy died the servants were afraid to tell him the terrible truth but David intuitively knew the little boy had died. He washed himself, put on fresh garments, went to the tent of worship and then returned home and sat down for a meal. The servants were amazed by his behavior. David grieved while the little boy was dying but when he expired, David faced his death as part of life: we are born, we live out our days and then we die. David said the boy would not come back to him but someday he would be with him. David's words were based upon primitive thinking about life after death. The primitive hope of Old Testament thinking was transitioned into

full-blown hope in Jesus Christ. He conquered death and proclaimed his victory by saying, "I am the resurrection and the life." After Christ conquered death Paul could ask, "O, Death where is your sting?" Our faith shouts the answer to the question when we believe that in the resurrection of Christ death was conquered. We must stand on that with unshakable faith, or our lives lose meaning and hope.

Cheryl and I are grateful for your words and acts of support as we grieve her mother's death. In a couple of weeks we will get away for a few days and head for the beach. It is there that we will walk along the beach and let the tide sweep over our feet. I will be reminded again that the tide that touches our feet comes from a massive ocean that spews its water on many shores. My mind will not let me comprehend the vastness of the ocean, but I can understand the tide that sweeps across my feet. To me that's the near side of the vast ocean. Likewise, I cannot comprehend the vastness of God, but I can understand his near side — Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the near side of God, told me, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live." That faith will get Cheryl and me through our grief, and I hope you have faith like that. If not, we need to talk.

— Tom Jenkins



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