

Falls Fellowship



Ignoring the Check Engine Light

I can't remember how long ago I learned this, but I know when the check engine light comes on in your car, you better pull over as soon as you can. Back in the day, you either had to have it towed or take a chance on making it to a mechanic to see what the problem was. My neighbor told me a story about how his daughter handled hers. He said she got tired of seeing it lit up, so she just put a smiley face sticker over it and went on. He said the car didn't last long after that!

The same way a car's check engine light comes on when it detects something isn't quite right, our inner check engine light might come on when we need Jesus. You have probably felt this at some point — that tugging which tells us something is missing in our lives only God can remedy. If you feel your light come on, go to God in prayer ... don't delay! When people feel led to follow Christ and accept his gift of salvation, their inner check engine light comes on as well. How long did you put a sticker over your own check engine light when you started to feel like it was time to devote your life to Him? Just like with a real sticker, the longer

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Reflections on Ministry

When you feel the call of God down deeply in your souls to become a minister you have a lot of questions, like what does it cost to make a commitment to serve Christ in the gospel ministry? I had an idea of what was involved as I had observed the work pattern of my father, a Baptist pastor. My mother became very ill as I entered high school and was often dissociated from my daily life. My two sisters had married young and were raising their own families and were removed from my daily life. My father did his best to step in as father and assume the role of nurturer. For example, he cooked breakfast for me. His menu had one item: an egg omlette, or his version of it. It was an egg, beaten and folded in the frying pan, without any other ingredi-



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Event Calendar

July 1 — Women's Bible Study 7 PM

July 7 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

July 27 — Quarterly Church Conference Noon

August 2 — Chrismons and Fellowship 9:30 AM

August 4 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

WE have two groups, one led by Victoria Neal as a group discussion session, the other led by Bill Upton as a leader lead group.

We meet every Sunday at 9:30ish for coffee, snack, and fellowship with groups starting at 10.

We have study guides available for you so, please join us as we study how to move forward in God's word.

— Sandra Ray, Sunday School Director

Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of June 1, 2025 — June 30, 2025.

Tithes and Memorials - \$18,271.00

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.16

Other income:

Parsonage -\$750

Actual expenditures - \$12,000.43

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

Christmas in August!

The ladies of Falls Baptist will gather for Chrismons, breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, August 2 at 9:30 AM. Please sign up in the vestibule so we can provide Chrismon kits. See Stacie Creech if you have any questions.

Sunday Morning Small Group Bible Study

All adults are invited to join us on Sunday morning for small group Bible study.

For the next three months we will be studying the book of Psalms.

As we see in our study guide "The book of Psalms provides a kind of window to the human soul. The psalms served as a hymnal of sorts for the ancient Israelites, but it really tells the story of every human. Across 150 chapters, Psalms hits on topics which still resonate with people today."

Come see how their words are still powerful for us now.

July Birthdays

6 - Johnny Ray
12 - Dan Jackson
12 - David Young
15 - Ryan Harney
21 - Alan Watkins
27 - Melinda Jackson



Family Movies Available

All 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

Mission Opportunity

From the Raleigh Baptist Association:

Many of our churches have "Blessing Boxes" throughout our association. If you would like to donate items to be used in these boxes we will gladly help distribute them to areas in need. Below is a list of needed items.

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna or Tuna Packs
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Ready to serve canned meals such as spaghetti and ravioli

- Vienna Sausage
- Granola Bars
- Sandwich Crackers
- Fruit Cups
- Apple Sauce Cups
- Oatmeal Packs

ALSO ...

Looking for a Mission Project?

Collect the following hygiene items in a gallon size zip lock bag. Hygiene Items Needed:

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Comb
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Disposable Razors
- Washcloth

These hygiene kits are desperately needed for our homeless, refugee friends and neighbors in need across the Triangle.

— Falls Baptist Mission Team

Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past eight 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!



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Light continued ...

you leave it on, the harder it is to peel off! So, if you're feeling that tugging ... detecting that check engine light is on ... don't put a sticker over it, tell God you've decided to devote your life to Him today!

By the way, they now make tools you can buy on Amazon to check what's causing a check engine light to come on. They're less than \$30 and will let you know if you need to call a tow-truck or if it's something which can wait. I have one if you want to try it!

— 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

Reflections cont' ...

ents such as cheese, or ham. He consumed his oatmeal looking out the kitchen window on the neighborhood as searching for something while I sat at the table. Then we went our ways: he to his office and the church and me off to school.

I worked after school and did not return home until after nine o'clock. My father and I would talk about what we had done for the day and during those conversations I learned much about the details of Christian ministry and often after one of those conversations would question myself about what I perceived as my calling into Christian ministry. His day was often filled with busy activity such as visiting those in the hospital, administering the work of the church office, meeting with various committees and counseling the distraught, including his delusional secretary and out-of-place minister of music. Later, I learned the minister of music represented others in the ministry, people who entered ministry with false expectations and often meandered in and out of ministry assignments only to discover they misheard the call of God.

At an early age I started preaching in country churches where the pastor was ill or on vacation and sometimes churches in search of a pastor. I was not qualified as a fifteen-year-old to serve as a pastor. I enjoyed the preaching and admittedly enjoyed the adulation which was afforded a teenager briefly fulfilling the role of pastor. That's the way it all started for me.

Ministry is not really a job; certainly not a job as found in the secular world. Churches have job descriptions for pastors but none of them really define their expectations of their pastor. They assume a secular business model of a forty-hour week with time off for vacations, having no idea of the late-night calls, or the early morning visits to the hospital or the knock on the door after midnight by a couple who says their marriage is falling apart and could the pastor they called from his warm bed help them.

Either you grow into your call to Christian ministry, or it kills you. Ministry, if expansive, never focuses on just one group of people such as a church congregation. I've been privileged to be part of life's journey for people not associated with my church. The other day, Cheryl and I took one of Johnny's canes to a man who is dying from cancer. He is a Purple Heart recipient and Johnny noted that on the cane he made for him, even including a symbol representing his Purple Heart. That had nothing to do with my serving as pastor of Falls Baptist Church, but it had everything to do with my ministry. Serving as pastor of a church defines a place to serve but one's ministry is not confined to the church and its membership. That would be a myopic vision of ministry.

Yet, it is in the context of the local church which God called me to serve and in the advancing years of my life brought us together, Falls Baptist Church and pastor. For that I am grateful.

— Tom Jenkins



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