

Falls Fellowship



Sunrise at the beach by Amy McPherson.

Are You a Fill Light?

In film, video, and photography when lighting a scene, there is normally a key light and a fill light. The fill light is the main light source, often pointed down at your subject. The fill light is normally on the opposite side and fills in the shadows created by the key light. The key light for our souls is God. John 8:12 (NIV) says this, almost verbatim: "... I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

And while God's light is bright enough to illuminate us alone, there are still shadows in our lives that could use a fill light — and that's where we come in. It's our duty to let people know about God's love, help them when they are in need, and generally just be there for them. God did not intend for us to make life's journey alone. It is intended we be there for each other, as it says in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

See Light on page 2

Pastor's Pen

Cheryl and I were recently on a cruise in the Eastern Caribbean. Cruises offered by reputable lines aim to please you. Multiple dining experiences are available offering everything from hamburgers to filet mignon. Desserts are abundant with each restaurant offering their specialties from the ordinary to the extraordinary. Everywhere you turn the staff of the ship is anxious to please you. I decided that the aim of the cruise lines is to pamper you and we all could use a bit of that.

The most extraordinary thing about being on a massive ship with hundreds of other people is how small we all appear when compared to the vastness of the ocean. As I stood on the balcony outside our stateroom all I could see was water and more water. As Coleridge said, "Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink."

See Pen on page 4



Treasurer's Report

May 1 – May 30, 2026

Tithes, Offerings and Memorials - \$16,077.00

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$13,592.43

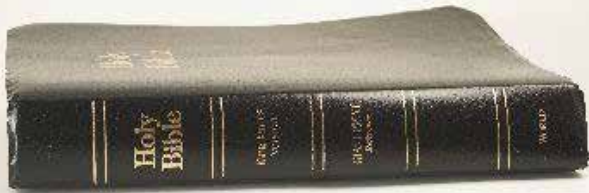
Actual expenditures - \$14,546.94 (includes \$1,300 for non-budgeted Building and Grounds, Parsonage)

Budgeted expenditures - \$13,609.94

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer



Our Ladies who attended our High Tea on May 17.



Continued from page 1

Light ... continued

What can we do to be a fill light for others ... to fill in shadows others may have in their lives? Sometimes it's obvious; for example, if someone has recently had a death in the family, we can help with routine tasks they just aren't up to at the present time. Sometimes it's not as obvious which people have these shadows needing to be filled. In that case, maybe just a kind word, or just asking how things are going is what is needed to start filling in those shadows. Start looking for opportunities to be a fill light for someone today!

— Alan Watkins



Our Deacons who hosted our Ladies High Tea on May 17.

Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Johnny Ray, Vice Chairman	919-740-7099
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Craig Jackson	919-306-5783
Danny Brafford	919-369-4490

June Birthdays

- 2 Anne Young
- 5 Shirley Tart
- 7 Johnny Fonville
- 9 Elizabeth Jackson
- 12 Polly Jenks
- 14 Chris Barham
- 15 Denise Norton
- 16 Arlene Foster
- 23 Ryan Watkins
- 26 Randy Jackson
- 27 Bill Upton
- 28 Tommy Brown
- 29 Earl Creech
- 30 Teresa Doman



Network and Mission Opportunities

Back-to-School, Packed with Love

Join us in collecting backpacks filled with school supplies to support low-income children. With the high cost of living, it can be difficult for families to provide new backpacks and essential supplies for the school year. This simple act of generosity and care can make a meaningful difference in helping a child be prepared and confident as they begin a new school year with everything they need. **The Raleigh Baptist Association will be accepting filled backpacks throughout the summer. Backpacks may be dropped off starting the week of June 22 and ending August 13.** Distribution will be made to year round students as well as traditional calendar students.

Below, you will find a list of suggested school supplies. In addition, if you would like to include a gift card in the bag for kids' clothes, this would be a blessing. Starting the school year with new clothes builds confidence and a strong sense of self-worth, which is important for children and youth, especially those already facing hardships and struggles.

A few helpful tips:

- Supply lists are organized below by grade level for your convenience and based off most frequently requested items by local schools.
- Once your backpack is complete, please label it elementary, middle, or high school to help us distribute them efficiently.
- Recommended clothing gift card stores: Marshalls/TJ Maxx, Ross, Old Navy

Elementary School (K-5)

- Backpack (larger sizes to fit large daily take home binder)
- Wide-ruled paper
- Folders (2-4 plastic with prong/pockets, different colors)
- Crayons (24 count pack)
- Washable markers
- Pencils #2, Ticonderoga brands often requested by teachers
- Pencil pouch
- Glue sticks
- Safety scissors
- Pink wedge erasers
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- 3 Ring Binder – 2 inch
- Composition notebook



Middle School (6-8)

- Backpack (sturdy)
- College-ruled spiral notebooks
- 3-ring binder (1-2 inch)
- Subject dividers
- Folders (plastic)
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (college ruled)
- #2 pencils
- Blue/black pens
- Highlighters
- Pencil pouch
- Index cards
- Sticky notes
- Headphones

High School (9-12)

- Backpack (sturdy)
- College-ruled notebooks or composition books
- 3 ring binder (2 inch)
- Subject Dividers
- Loose-leaf paper (college ruled)
- Pens (blue/black and a few colored)
- #2 Pencils
- Pink wedge erasers
- Highlighters (variety pack)
- Sticky notes
- Index cards
- Planner or student agenda
- USB Flash Drive

Drop-Off Location: Raleigh Baptist Association, 820 S. New Hope Rd, Raleigh, NC 27610

Pen ... cont'

God planned it that way in the beginning. “Then God said, ‘Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear;’ and it was so. God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:9-10). God gathered the waters of the Caribbean together and formed San Juan and St. Thomas and the other land mass of the Eastern Caribbean. Standing on the balcony cruising the blue waters of the Caribbean I felt insignificant in the vast expanse of God’s creation.

The Bible, however, tells us we are significant, created individually by God. He loves us. John 3:16 authenticates our importance as God’s creation. The words, “For God so loved the world” are personal. They mean God loves us universally and individually. He loves his whole creation, all of it, mountains and oceans. But he also loves us individually. “For God so loved ____;” fill in the blank with your name.

What does God require from us for his love? He doesn’t need any of our material possessions. He owns it all. What he wants is our love for him.

We love him first by accepting his Son as our Lord and Savior. Turning our lives over to Jesus Christ is the best we have to offer. Then we are to reveal that we belong to him by offering love, mercy and justice to other people. The prophet Micah in his little book in the Old Testament puts it succinctly: “He has showed you, O



man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Offering justice, loving others, freely giving mercy are the actions of the redeemed. All the other actions we deem appropriate as Christians, such as bringing our tithes and offerings to the church, showing up on Sundays for services are the predicate of the Christian life. The subject is to love God, love others and walk humbly with God. From the deck of an ocean liner viewing the vast expanse of the ocean or looking at a blue bird through the windows facing the backyard at home, I am reminded of the immensity of God’s love for me and to think that all he wants in return is to love him and love others and to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with him.”

Here’s another line from Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*: “He prayeth best, who loveth best / All things both great and small.”

— Tom Jenkins



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