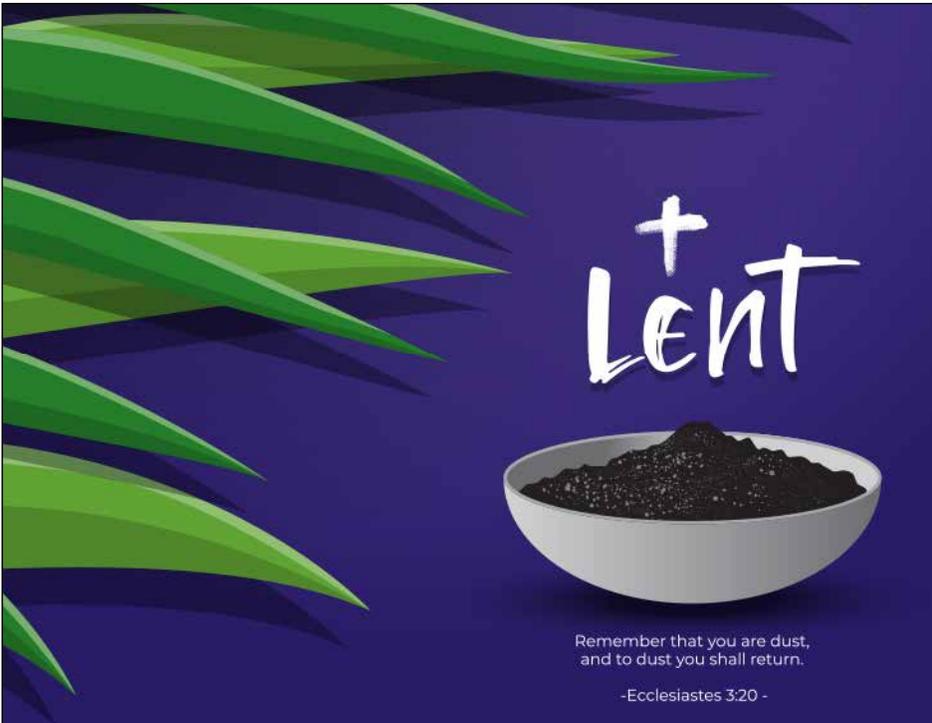


Falls Fellowship



‘Thoughts on Lent’

As I am writing this, we are in Lent. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter. Lent is 40 days, not counting Sundays.

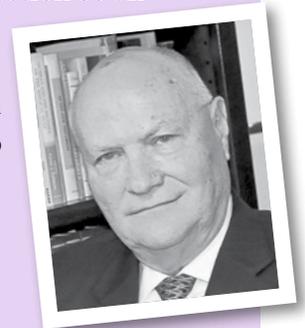
During Lent, many people will fast — not for 40 days but maybe on a few different days until sundown. Fasting is supposed to make us reflect on the sacrifice Christ made for us, and while it pales in comparison, if you fast until sundown one day for this reason, you will think about the sacrifice Christ made for us every time you feel hungry. The 40 days of Lent represent Christ’s time in the wilderness when He fasted and was tempted by Satan.

When I was in high school, my Catholic friend would get the fish sandwich for lunch during Lent on Fridays. He said they were supposed to eat fish on Fridays during Lent. I always got it because the fish was really good! I looked up the reason for this when I decided to write this article, and eating fish on Fridays is supposed to represent a sacrifice of giving up the eating of flesh of warm blooded animals that day. It said it was ok to eat eggs, fish, and alligator! I’m not sure eating eggs for break-

See Thoughts on page 3

Self-inventory for Lent

When you look in the mirror in the morning, what do you think about the person looking back at you? I know it’s your reflection so another way of asking the question is, “What do you think about yourself?”



Lent is an appropriate time to ask the question. The forty days of Lent may correspond to the forty days Jesus was in the wilderness when Satan tempted him. According to Matthew 4, Jesus was “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. It was a severe trial, but Jesus overcame the power of Satan and went on to completely defeat him through his death on the cross. Satan tempted Jesus with temptations which are inclusive of the various ways we are tempted, such as Satan’s tempting Jesus to seek fame and fortune.

See Lent on page 4



Worship Precautions During March

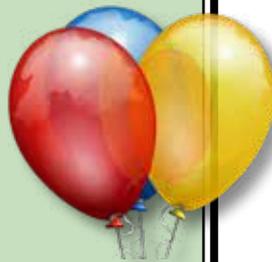
The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though a few in our congregation have or have had the virus, we are aware you could have the virus and be without symptoms. Therefore, we are requesting that all follow these guidelines:

1. If you are ill, please do not attend until all your symptoms have disappeared.
2. Maintain six-foot social distance except for family members living in the same household.
3. Boxes to receive tithes and offerings are placed at the doors so we do not have to handle offering plates.

Some members fall into the category of having underlying conditions which make them uncomfortable to be in groups. We understand they may not be

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 1 | Junior Jackson |
| 1 | Judi Waddell |
| 12 | Kevin Barham |
| 13 | Diana Harney |
| 15 | Derick Foster |
| 16 | Rich Harney |
| 19 | Alice Tate |
| 22 | Geneva Holste |
| 26 | Billy Chappell |



willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services.

During the month of March, Wednesday Bible study will be in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for supper and continue on Zoom at 7 PM for those who can not attend in person. If you plan on attending for supper please sign the sheet each week in the vestibule.

Treasurer's Report

Our financials for the month of January 1, 2023 — January 31, 2023.
Tithes - \$12,622.00
Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33

Actual expenditures - \$21,851.86 (includes all budgeted Missions for 2023 = \$11,500. Net expenses Jan \$10,351.86)

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51

Special offerings thru 1/31/23:

- NC Children's Home - \$650.00

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

Please pick up 2023 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.

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.

Mission Donations

We will be collecting non-perishable food for Baptist Children's Homes all during the month of April. Please leave food in bags in the vestibule starting the first Sunday in April, which is April 2.

We will be collecting diapers of all sizes, wipes and ointment and baby and children wash. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Naomi Tsujimura.

Continued from page 1

Thoughts continued ...

fast, fish for lunch, and alligator for dinner is much of a sacrifice (I had some alligator once, and like they say, it tastes like chicken!), so I decided I'd fast until sundown one day until sundown before writing this article.

By 6:30 pm, I was definitely ready to eat, but I realized my sacrifice that day was no where near the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross — although I did think about His sacrifice everytime I looked at the clock to figure out how long it would be until dinner time! What I learned from my day of fasting is that anything like that isn't going to be anywhere near as big as the sacrifice which was made for us, but that's ok. I think Jesus just wants us to realize how big of a sacrifice He made for us and not to take it lightly.

So let's all spend some time reflecting on that sacrifice during Lent and in 40 days, give or take, we can celebrate the empty tomb found on Easter morning!

— 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.*

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!

Event Calendar

March 6 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

April 3 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

April 7 — Good Friday

April 9 — Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service 7 AM
Breakfast immediately following!

April 16 — Quarterly Business Meeting

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

Choir practice is now once a month at 2:00 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 four 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.

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
Mike Harris	919-746-5697
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099

Lent cont' ...

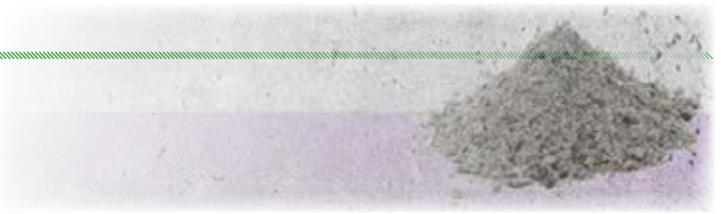
Whether the forty days of Jesus' temptation by Satan were a forerunner to the Christian discipline of forty days of Lent is unknown. What is known is Satan's temptations of our Lord encompassed all the devices Satan uses to tempt us. Jesus overcame Satan and nailed down for eternity his identity as the Son of God, the world's Savior. That's what Jesus would have seen had there been a mirror to catch his image. Lent is the season in which the discerning Christian asks the question what it means to be himself. What do you see in the image in the mirror that you really like and what do you see that makes you ashamed of your actions?

Here's a list of questions from Frederick Buechner that you might ask that person looking at you in the mirror:

“If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?”

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful



of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one which makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?”

Asking these questions can be a trying experience. If you are truly honest with yourself, you may not like some of the answers. However, you must be honest with yourself and God, after all, he already knows the answers. Repenting, seeking forgiveness, grasping the grace of God to start over is what Lent is about. Claim the promise of I John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Amen.

— Tom Jenkins



9700 Fonville Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587
www.fallsbaptistchurch.org

Dr. Tom Jenkins, Pastor
(919) 812-6675



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch