

# Falls Fellowship

## Embracing Our “Smallness”

When I worked with you as your interim pastor, we had four Sunday night sessions where we talked about Falls, its history, its present and projections for its future. One of the things we embraced is the

fact we are a small church and are not on a trajectory to become a large, mega church. We embraced that and declared with joy it’s all right to be a small church for many people prefer a small church. Here

*See Smallness on page 2*



### Missions Corner

May special collection: hygiene items for NC State Fair Workers and Operation Christmas Child. Travel-sized only please — shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash. Bar soap, toothbrushes, razors, combs, washcloths, small writing pads and pens.

Looking ahead to next month: June special collection: small toys

for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Collecting for both boys and girls in the following age categories: 2-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

#### **Year-round collections for local donations:**

Food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, used or expired

*See Missions on page 3*

## Easter and Beyond



Easter is the dividing point for time. Before Easter there was the expectation that at some point God would move the wheel of history and start its rolling toward the end of time as we know it and the beginning of the future as he promises it. Easter divides where we have been from where we are going. We celebrated the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning as we stood still in our time and looked toward the future in God’s time. The past gives way to the future. The past is death; the future is life represented by Christ’s resurrection and the coming of spring’s flowers, and hope.

This is not philosophical gibberish; it is the hope of our faith. Let me specifically apply these thoughts to Falls.

We gathered three times on Easter morning. First, we gathered at the lake as

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## Smallness continued ...

are some things we discussed at the last meeting of that four-part series:

We are a small church and that's normal. The majority of Christians choose to worship, learn, and grow and minister in small churches.

Big churches are great, but they are not for everyone.

Small churches foster "caring and nurture" more easily than large churches.

Small churches multiply faster and baptize more believers per capita than large churches.

Embracing our "smallness" does not justify our becoming complacent and remaining in a "rut" of ministry. To remain a viable small church, we must constantly redefine what it means to be small. We must grow our people from "within" that we might ultimately attract people from "without." We must have programs that are vibrant, people friendly, biblically directed and welcoming. So, let's get started on that.

Where do we start? The old adage of eating an elephant one bite at a time applies here. We cannot focus on all of our programs at the same time. Let's begin with our children and youth. They are our future. To have a healthy future as a church, we must develop spiritually healthy and ultimately mature children and youth.

I met with our children and youth leaders last Wednesday night and we are developing an exciting plan for our work with their age group. This will

involve training and retraining for workers. It will involve calling upon outside resources to help us develop a vision that will give us practical tools for our work with children and youth. It will, also, for all of the church membership call for prayer. I want you to pray asking for God's leadership in developing our children and youth program. In fact, when you have read this article, pause and pray asking that God will give us a vision for our ministry with children and youth and give us the practical steps to follow to achieve that vision. Great things happen through prayer. Let's start praying and anticipate God will open up the windows of heaven and pour upon our children and youth ministries his immeasurable blessings.

— Tom Jenkins

## Special Offer for Our Church Members

Hello my name is Rob Dyer. I'm the owner of The Lost Cajun in Wakefield. We would like to partner with your church to offer your church members free beignets every Tuesday. All we ask is that they bring in their church bulletin to receive the free beignets.

*Note: Beignets are Cajun donuts served piping hot covered in powdered sugar.*

## Event Calendar

May 5 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM

May 11 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8 AM

May 12 — Mother's Day

May 26 — Lord's Supper 11 AM

June 2 — Deacons Meeting 4 PM

June 17-21 — Vacation Bible School 6-8 PM

## May Birthdays

- 1 Naomi Horton
- 3 Michelle Watkins
- 6 Glenn Johnson
- 14 Alisha Allen
- 21 Paul Barham
- 22 Mike Harris
- 22 Arnie Jenks
- 25 Danny Brafford
- 26 Ronald Jenks
- 30 Tom Jenkins



## Falls Baptist Church 2019 Missions Opportunities Calendar

Month	\$ Giving	Collecting	Service
May		Operations Christmas Child / NC State Fair Kits: Hygiene Items	
June		Operation Christmas Child: Small Toys	
July		Operation Christmas Child: clothing/shoes	
August		Operation Christmas Child: school supplies	
September	NC State Missions Annual Offering	Operation Christmas Child: small games and puzzles	Packing Party: NC State Fair Kits
October		Operations Christmas Child: personal letters and photos, coloring pages	
November	Baptist Children's Home Annual Offering		Packing Party: Operation Christmas Child
December	Lottie Moon Annual Offering	Collect donations for a local sponsored family in need.	Group Volunteering: Caroling at the Nursing Home

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### *Missions continued ...*

printer ink/toner cartridges.

#### **VBS Volunteers Needed!**

Please see Stacie Creech if you are interested in volunteering to help during Vacation Bible School. Some areas to consider are: food prep/cooks, crafts, greeters/registration, teachers, games and music.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

June 17th -21st at 6-8 pm: Vacation Bible School

*God's Amazing Grace* — Hollingsworth, William E.

*Passion and Purity* — Elliot, Elizabeth

*The Journey* — Graham, Billy

*A Place of Quiet Rest* — DeMoss, Nancy Leigh

*Believer's Bible Commentary - New Testament* — MacDonald, William

— Alan Watkins

## Recently added new titles in our library

New books are added to our church library on a regular basis. New additions will be listed in future newsletters.

*Hope Again* — Swindoll, Charles R.

*Private Obsessions* — Ezell, Lee

*Healing for Damaged Emotions* — Seamands, David A.



## 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

## *Easter continued ...*

the sun broke through the clouds and with joy, once again, welcomed the news that Christ rose from the dead. Second, we gathered at the church for a delicious breakfast, prepared by loving hands. Third, we worshipped the Risen Lord in the sanctuary, the largest crowd I've seen in my short tenure at Falls. The choir sang beautifully, the organ and piano made our hearts beat faster, we sang the old hymns of our faith as a reminder of Christ's victory over death and then we shared the bread and wine of the Lord's table. In addition, Mike and Victoria Neal joined our faith family to become part of the journey. Mike's and Victoria's joining with us gives them a church family, but it also affirms us as a church and, perhaps, is a foreshadow of others coming to join with us at Christ's Church on Fonville Road.

Let's look at Easter as a turning point. We've prayed faithfully and worked hard to move our church forward. You have been faithful to keep the doors of the church opened and patiently searched for wisdom in aligning our church with God's mission for us. As your pastor for four months, and for a longer tenure as your interim, I have invited you to dream new dreams about the future of our church — big dreams. We've looked at our past with a desire to be more informed about where we have come from. We are beginning to



look at the future as the place where God will make a new beginning for us as a church. We will never be a "mega" church, not sure I would want that anyway, but God has a future for us as a vibrant, spiritually healthy church which welcomes people like us who are hungry for fellowship and need grace and a chance to become all we can be as children of God.

Easter is past. But the new beginning it represents is for us to grasp. Stand with me in the afterglow of Easter and grasp the future God has prepared for us as his church on Fonville.

— Tom Jenkins



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