

Falls Fellowship



Newest Members Baptized

Our two newest members, Frederick Lewis Foster, IV and Raymond Anthony Foster, were baptized on Sunday, May 2, 2021 by Dr. Tom Jenkins.

Raymond and Derick just re-

cently joined Falls Baptist Church after attending for some time.

We all welcome them into church membership and congratulations on their baptism.

Wednesday Night Supper and Bible Study has Resumed!

Yes, you read the headline correctly. Our weekly Wednesday night supper and Bible study resumed on Wednesday, April 7, at 6 PM.

However, it will be a little different for the foreseeable future. We will not have a buffet line like we usually do. Instead our staff will fix your plate in the kitchen, using all precautions of course, and hand it to you through the window and you will take it to your seat.

You may not be able to sit

in your usual seat since we want everyone to spread out to all the tables. Families who live together can sit closer, of course.

If you cannot make in person on Wednesday nights, you can tune in to Zoom which we will continue.

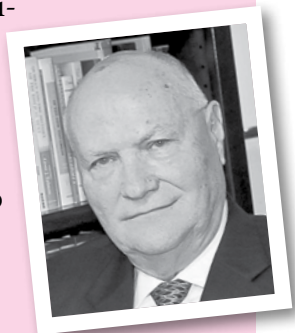
There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule each week, please sign up if you are planning to attend so our cooks know how much food to prepare.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday night.

The Business of the Church

I was talking with one of our deacons last Sunday after the baptismal service and he said about baptism, "It is the business of the church."

Indeed, our ultimate purpose is to bring people to accept Jesus Christ and baptize



them into his church. All else that we do needs to reflect this ultimate reality: we are to proclaim the gospel, baptize believers and welcome them into Christ's church. This is, after all, only following Jesus words in what we call the "Great Commission:" go into all the world, preach the Gospel, and baptize. Sunday is Mother's Day; as we think about mothers and women in general let me remind you of a woman in the New Testament who, after accepting Jesus Christ, carried out the Great Commission — Lydia.

The Apostle Paul went

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Business cont' ...

to Philippi after receiving instructions in a vision. His visit to Philippi established the first outpost of Christianity on the continent of Europe, a significant step in the commission of Christ to take the Gospel to the entire world. Paul and his traveling companion, Silas, found a group of Christians worshipping at the river on Sunday. The Roman authorities may have designated the riverbanks as a place where Christians could gather to worship. Lydia, originally from Thyatira in Asia Minor, was among the group. She is described by Luke in Acts 16 as a dealer in purple cloth. Dealing in “purple” cloth, considered to be available only to the wealthy, was a lucrative business.

Archaeological finds have shed new light upon the purple dye industry in the Mediterranean world. The purple material was the most desirable and expensive, partially due to its colorfastness. This “Tyrian purple” was wool colored with a dye made from tiny Mediterranean mollusks. Additional methods of purple dyeing, utilizing plants and other materials, were developed. Thyatira was a center for this purple dye industry. Thus, Lydia may have been a dealer in the Thyatira purple cloth, or she may have been an importer of the royal Tyrian purple (From NIV Bible Study).

Lydia expanded her market by moving to Philippi.

Luke tells us Lydia was a worshipper of God be-

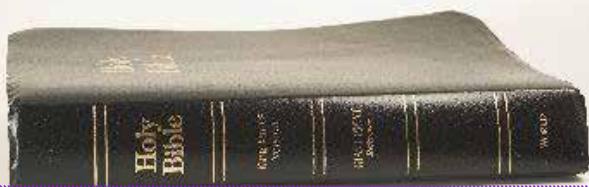
fore she met Paul. But something happened as she listened to Paul which made her realize she needed to go deeper in her relationship with God by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ Paul spoke about. She opened her heart to Christ and was baptized. Luke says after she was baptized the other members of her household were baptized. Lydia’s first response to accepting Jesus Christ was to lead the people around her to the Lord and they, too, were baptized. Furthermore, Lydia invited Paul and Silas to stay with her and her home became the meeting place for the first Christian church in Europe.

Lydia is a great example for us as followers of Christ. Notice that as soon as she accepted Christ and was baptized, she led other people to accept Christ and to be baptized. It was through her initiative, not just the preaching and teaching of Paul and Silas, that the church grew in Philippi.

A remarkable change came to Lydia after her baptism. Not only was she a Christian, but she surrendered what she had to Christ. She opened her house to believers and, because of her affluence, she no doubt helped the church that met in her house meet the needs of the congregation. Perhaps her table was opened to the poor among the church as her heart had been opened to Jesus Christ.

If you follow Luke in Acts 16 you will read about the imprisonment of Paul and Silas. Luke tells us when they were released from prison they went to Lydia’s house. No doubt the fellowship they found there helped prepare them for the next leg of their journey.

Lydia is a good example of the development of a Christian. She accepted Christ, was baptized, and then



May Birthdays

1	Naomi Horton
3	Michelle Watkins
6	Glenn Johnson
10	Calvin Kelly
14	Alisha Allen
22	Mike Harris
22	Arnie Jenks
25	Danny Brafford
26	Ronald Jenks
30	Tom Jenkins



brought others to Jesus Christ and they were baptized.

The deacon was right: baptism is the business of the church. Baptism is a person's witness to accepting Jesus Christ, as I said in my sermon Sunday. It is the first public stage upon which a new Christian can stand and proclaim that he belongs to Jesus Christ. It is our task, as the church, to bring others to the waters of the Baptismal pool that they, too, may publicly proclaim they belong to Christ.



7. 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 willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services. During the month of April Wednesday Bible study resumed 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 attending for supper please sign the sheet each week in the vestibule.

— Linwood Barham

Worship Precautions During May

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has 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. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.
4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.
5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposal masks will be available for those wishing to use them.
6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.



Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past three 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

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Frank Powell, Vice Chairman	919-604-1285
Kevin Barham, Secretary	919-618-4214
Hubert Jenks	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins	919-793-5548
Mike Harris	919-746-5697

Sunday School Resumes!

Sunday School at Falls Baptist Church resumed on Sunday, December 6 at 10:15 AM. We have two classes, Senior Adults will meet in the sanctuary, and Middle and Older Adults will meet jointly downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Social distancing will be practiced with the classes lasting about 20-25 minutes.

We are still looking for volunteers to lead children's programs so we can reach out and have some attendance by children.

Raleigh Baptist Association Calls New Executive Director

Sunday afternoon, April 11, 2021, during a Zoom call, messengers to the Raleigh Baptist Association received a unanimous recommendation from the Missions and Ministry Council for Dr. Patrick Fuller to serve as our next executive director.

Messengers received a full report from the Executive Director Search Committee and then heard

directly from Dr. Fuller. Afterward, the candidate and participants entered into a time of dialogue. At the conclusion of the meeting, messengers registered their votes, either electronically or by telephone.

We are happy to report Dr. Fuller received an overwhelmingly positive vote. We are equally pleased to announce he has enthusiastically accepted our invitation and will begin his term of service in May.

Please be praying for the Fuller family and below is Dr. Fuller's first message to the association.

"As your new Executive Director, I want you to know it is my desire to be your prayer partner and genuine friend. I know prayer is critical as a foundational element within our spiritual lives. It will always be an honor for me to pray for and with you. I will always have an open door for you, so we can pray together. As your genuine friend, I will seek to listen to your heart, learn about your life, and support you in your calling. I look forward to developing a friendship with you which will carry us throughout the rest of our lives.

We also move forward by seeking God's plan and implementing that plan with the creation and embrace of a vision activated by mission. This will be a priority over the next several months. I look forward to sharing more about this as time goes forward. If you would like to be involved in this process of discovery, please contact the RBA and let us know."

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