

# Falls Fellowship



## The Mound Visit

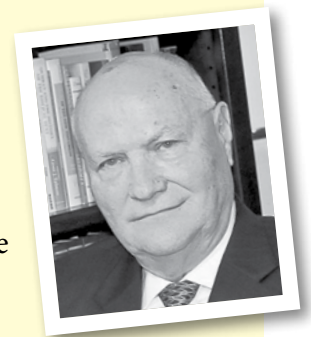
**B**ack in the 1980s, baseball pitchers would often pitch a complete game, meaning they were the pitcher for all nine innings. At some point, they stopped letting pitchers go that long. In fact, it got to the point where sometimes a pitcher might only pitch to a single batter! They have a rule now that a pitcher must pitch to a minimum of three batters, so at least you don't have to sit through twenty pitching changes in a game. If a pitcher is replaced in the middle of an inning, it's normally after what is called a 'mound visit'. The manager visits the pitcher's mound and says, "you've pitched a good game kid, now let the reliever finish up for us." OK, maybe they don't actually say that, but they let them know their time is up and someone else is coming in. Occasionally, the manager might make a mound visit and leave the pitcher in, but it's rare for that to happen.

Generally, pitchers don't hold anything back, because they really don't know how long they will be in the game, and it is their job to do their best while they are out there. If you think about it, we're sort of pitching for God's team our whole life. We should work for Him as hard as we can

*See Visit on page 3*

## "The Past Is Not Dead"

**O**n a recent visit Cheryl and I made to Forest City, NC, I was reminded of Thomas Wolfe's famous words, "You can't go home again." Wolfe said that after the publication of his epic novel, *Look*



*Homeward Angel* in which he opened doors and shined light on some of Asheville's citizens who thought they had hidden their past in the "dark." He grew up in Asheville and knew their "dark secrets." He was not welcomed back to Asheville.

Cheryl and I were in Forest City for the 175th anniversary of First Baptist Church, where I was pastor in the last century, and we were welcomed. I was invited to speak at the morning service. We were there for eight years, in the same location on the corner of Main and Oak to which we returned last

*See Past on page 4*



## Worship Precautions During May

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

### May Birthdays

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



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

During the month of May, 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 financial statement for the month of April 1, 2023 — April 30, 2023.

- Tithes - \$11,939.00
- Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33
- Actual expenditures - \$10,504.78
- Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51
- Annie Armstrong - \$1,000
- Bruce Memorial (to month end) \$1,450

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

## Mission Donations

April is the month when we collect food for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. On May 1 Craig Jackson and Woody Leonard took two truck loads of food totaling at least 950 pounds to the Raleigh Baptist Association.

Thanks to everyone who donated to this worthy cause. For this month we will be accepting donations for Tri-Area Ministry. Please put your donations in our mission room.



Woody Leonard, Johnny Ray, Sara Powell, Frank Powell and Craig Jackson loaded up the trucks at the church.





*Volunteers at the Raleigh Baptist Association unloaded our trucks into their truck for transport to the Baptist Children's Home.*

*Continued from page 1*

## ***Visit continued ...***

until He makes that mound visit and pulls us from the game of life.

We have no idea when that's going to happen — some people might only get to pitch to a few batters and some people might go a complete game. It's possible we might get a mound visit from Jesus before He takes us, but that's rare.

Possibly more difficult than our own mound visit is watching Jesus make them for our friends and family. Even though it's hard to watch our loved ones go, we can take solace in knowing that after they get pulled from the game, they are heading back over to Jesus' dugout!

— Alan Watkins

## **Event Calendar**

- May 1 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- May 14 — Graduate Recognition 11 AM
- May 14 — Mother's Day
- May 20 — Ladies' Luncheon
- May 28 — Dr. Jenkins Birthday Luncheon 12 PM
- June 5 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

## **Nominating Committee meeting**

**O**ur nominating committee is meeting and will be calling members to see if they are willing to serve on various committees during our upcoming 2023-2024 fiscal year.

When, not if, you are called, please give serious consideration to serving our church. We have ambitious plans to grow and spread God's word through our areas and we need everyone to help!

## **Newsletter articles needed**

**W**e 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](mailto:fbpowell@mac.com)  
Thanks!

## **Deacons**

<b>Frank Powell, Chairman</b>	<b>919-604-1285</b>
<b>Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman</b>	<b>919-880-1888</b>
<b>Mike Harris</b>	<b>919-746-5697</b>
<b>Bill Upton</b>	<b>910-358-7303</b>
<b>Tommy Brown</b>	<b>843-446-6540</b>
<b>Johnny Ray</b>	<b>919-740-7099</b>

## Past cont' ...

Sunday. It was not the church or the community we left 32 years ago. The house we lived in is still there, but it is not the same house the Jenkins' family called home for eight years. The church is still there and though it looks like the old church it did not feel like the same church where I ascended the pulpit Sunday after Sunday to deliver a message. Even the Skinner organ did not sound like the one when we were there. There was no Bob Elliott to carry the bass section in the choir all by himself and no Tony Spencer to pull out the best notes from every member of the choir as music minister. I thought of Wolf's words and agreed with him: we can go back to the old town where we used to live, walk the streets, look at the buildings which were there when we lived there even visit the house we lived in, but it's not the same as it was then; you can't go home. You cannot go back because life is lived forward. Falls is our church now; our home is where we now live. You are our family of faith, and it is among you we live out the drama of our daily lives. It was good visiting a town where we once lived and a church where I once preached. Home, though, is here. As Robert Frost said, "Home is where you hang your hat."

If you could turn back the clock to a former day and a former place you would be bound to accept everything, the good and the bad. You cannot be discriminatory. People who search their family genealogies are delighted when they find an ancient relative who achieved status and left a positive mark on his

community and family. But with the "special" ancestors there are also the moonshiners and the husbands who cheated on their wives and the ones who lied and cheated to get ahead in life. They, too, are part of the family. I had an uncle who achieved recognition as a police detective in Jacksonville, Florida. I had another uncle who never passed a liquor bottle he didn't like. There is no golden age to live in. There is no perfect place called Asheville or Forest City or even Falls. We are members of a fallen race, and we live in places where sin abounds.

Why am I reminiscing? Later this month I will celebrate a significant birthday and at my age it's natural to reflect on the past. I thank God for the past. That does not mean I am happy with all my past, but it is mine. The past is reflected in the moments of each day. It greets me each day to remind me of God's mercies found in my past and prompts my prayers for the future. I've lived a long time, as some of you have. I am old but some of you are older.

Here's the challenge for May, for me and for you: let's celebrate the past and thank God that he brought us through the past, but let's live toward the future. We know God in our past but let us determine to seek God in our present and our future. As the Scriptures say, "Seek with all your heart." God is not finished with us yet. He's not finished with me or you or Falls Baptist Church. There's still life in these old bones, much living to do, more mountains to climb, more left for us to do as Christ's church with the singing chimes on the hill.

— Tom Jenkins



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