

Falls Fellowship



“Abide With Me”

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens: Lord, with me
abide:
When other helpers fail, and com-
forts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with
me.*

Henry Francis Lyte is the author of this famous hymn. He was a frail village minister in Devonshire, England. He had performed the normal duties of a pastor, marrying couples, comforting the grieving, burying the dead, blessing children through his own frail health. At age 54 his doctor told him to leave the moist climate of England and move to the drier climate of Italy. On his last Sunday, as he contemplated leaving the congregation he loved, the

words to *Abide With Me* came to him and he wrote them in a notebook and thought no more about the song. Several days later he left for his new home in Italy but never arrived. He became ill and in a few weeks died in Nice, France. Later, William Monk set the words to music and Lyte’s hymn became known as *Eventide*, the name of the melody that Monk wrote, and is still widely used to bring comfort to Christians in times of trials and distress.

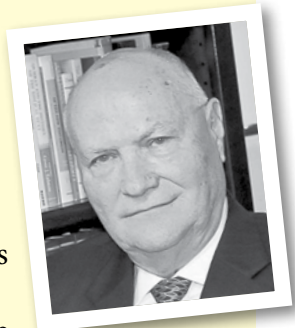
The concept of the hymn is central to our faith. We are taught in Psalm 23 where God is like a shepherd taking care of his sheep. That is one of the reasons why Psalm 23 resonates with our needs: God is always with us.

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Questions

We seem to be preoccupied by questions today.

Some of our questions are about the pandemic such as, “When will it end?” In addition, we have questions about the violence that currently plays out on the streets of our cities: “Who are these people?”



“What are they protesting?” Another question I hear in these troubling days is, “Are we in the end times?” (You can find my answer to that question in the video of September 28). We have more questions than we have answers.

Asking the right questions can lead to new truths. This is true about many questions appearing in the Bible. Let me suggest a list of questions the Bible asks:

What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? (Matthew 16:26)

Am I my brother’s keep-

See Questions on page 4

Abide With Me cont' ...

The concept is found in the teachings of Jesus. Matthew ends his Gospel with the famous words spoken by Jesus, "I will be with you always; even unto the end of the earth." Jesus promised to send his spirit and his spirit is Jesus' presence abiding with us.

I was talking with my sister the other day. She lost her husband in June and she still walks through the "Dark Valley" of grief. She told me about the strong sense of loss she felt one night which prevented her from sleeping. She is a Christian and of strong faith, so she did what we all do in moments of need: she prayed. She told me she suddenly felt her grief lifting as Christ surrounded her with his Spirit. She was then at peace again and found rest for the night.

Queen Elizabeth II chose this hymn as the opening hymn for her wedding to Philip Mountbatten, November 21, 1947, in Westminster Abbey. Five years later in 1952 she would be crowned Queen of England and its Commonwealth. Perhaps both her reign and her marriage have survived sixty-eight years because she began with the simple prayer, "Abide with me."

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

— Tom Jenkins

Shoebox Packing Different This Year

The COVID-19 global pandemic has disrupted everyday life for millions of people around the world. Yet, Samaritan's Purse continues to share the eternal hope of the Gospel and to serve in Jesus' Name.

We want boys and girls around the world to know God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Now more than ever,

children need great joy! Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can give boys and girls in need a tangible expression of God's love through a gift-filled shoebox packed from your computer or handheld device. In just a few clicks, you can select toys and other fun items to include as well as a letter and photo to delight the heart of a child. After we pack and ship shoeboxes like yours overseas, local believers share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children as they distribute them. As a result, families are reached, new churches are started, and communities are transformed. It all begins with you.



With just a few clicks, you can pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift online to help share God's love with a boy or girl in need around the world. Simply select toys and other fun items you'd like to include from our collection, and personalize your gift with your own letter and photo. We'll pack the gift for you and send it on its way for a suggested donation of just \$25.

Pack a shoebox online today! Just go to: www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline

October Birthdays

- 1 Lola Kelley
- 3 Vivian Sherrell
- 8 Naomi Tsujimura
- 14 Allison Watkins
- 17 Melanie Barham
- 17 Stacie Creech
- 18 Tracie Odham
- 18 Pat Jenks
- 25 Bill Allen
- 25 R. L. Harris
- 30 Hubert Jenks





Worship Precautions During October

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 6 feet 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.
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 October we will ONLY have 11 AM services in person. Wednesday Bible study will continue on Zoom.

We will reevaluate everything near the end of October and pray we can resume Sunday School and Wednesday meals in November.

— Linwood Barham

Looking for local family

Our missions committee is looking for a local family to adopt and help in the upcoming Christmas season. We always help out a family during this time of year, but this year we would like to help out in our area if there is a need.

If you know a family which will need some help this Christmas season please contact Angie Harris at 919-746-5697. Thank you!

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

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Questions continued ...

er? (Genesis 4:9)

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

What is truth? (John 18:38)

How can a man be born when he is old? (John 3:4)

What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3)

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? (Psalm 139:7)

Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29)

What shall I do to inherit eternal life? (Luke 10:25)

The answers to these questions are found in multiple passages in the Bible but we must search for the answers. This requires, so I believe, prayerful reading of the Bible every day. The answers are like hidden jewels we must dig out.

The Bible deals with life and death and eternity and the answers to some of the questions it asks are life transformative and eternally significant. For example, the Bible gives the answer to questions about eternity. The Bible has the proper perspective for our questions of the day, for the Bible gives us the answers to questions about meaning, purpose and significance. There we learn that we are children of God. There we learn about God's love for us, his purpose in reveal-



ing his love for us through His Son, Jesus Christ, and the promises he made to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Questions like “What should I have for lunch?” or “What color should I paint the bedroom?” pale in comparison to the soul shaking questions of the Bible like, “Where will I spend eternity?”

I cannot cite biblical passages which specifically answer troubling questions of the day such as, “When will the pandemic end?” But I know about the eternal truths it preserves such as the truth that no matter what happens around me in the world, God is still in control.

— Tom Jenkins



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

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



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch