

# Falls Fellowship



*Our life is a journey.*

## ‘The Journey is Part of the Gift’

If you have ever won a trophy, gotten a college degree, or received a Sunday School perfect attendance pin, then you have been on a journey. These things are not gifts given on birthdays and Christmas, but rather are representations of journeys you embarked on and completed.

There is a story you may have heard about a boy who wants to give his teacher a gift but has no money. He walks two days to the ocean, takes a handful of sand, and then walks two days back to deliver it. The teacher is greatly moved by this and says, “This was so far for you to walk!” To this, the boy replies, “But teacher, the journey is part of the gift.”

God has given us the ultimate gift. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” This gift of salvation involves at least two journeys which are sometimes overlooked when we read that

*See Journey on page 2*

## Attendance

What prevents your coming to church if you are among those who do not frequently attend? Last Wednesday I was on my way to the church, and I happened upon what has become



the normal congestion on Falls of Neuse caused by various construction projects. It took twenty minutes to travel from Durant to Raven Ridge. It was Wednesday and if it had not been I was to speak at prayer meeting, I would have turned around and pointed my Impala toward home. Craig and I talk about the problems enlarging Falls of Neuse will cause all of us who travel the road. He talked to one of the engineers and asked him about the length of time for the project: Maybe six months? The response was, “More like two years.” Now that should not impede traveling to Falls on Sundays, assuming Sundays

*See Attendance on page 4*

## Event Calendar

- October 1 — Commissioning Service and Communion 11 AM
- October 2 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- October 7 — Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9 AM
- October 15 — Quarterly Business Meeting 11 AM
- October 15 — Choir Rehearsal 2:30 PM
- October 21 — Harvest Fest and Chili Cook-off 11 PM — All Welcome!
- October 29 — Pastor Appreciation Luncheon 12 PM — Bring your favorite dishes!
- November 6 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

Continued from page 1

## Journey continued ...

verse, and I want to discuss those here.

The first journey is our life. Salvation is not a participation trophy, and we should all be on a journey to live our lives in a way pleasing to God. People sometimes ask, "If I'm leading a life that is pleasing to God, why do bad things happen?" I don't know how to answer that except to say that most things worthy of our efforts will have pitfalls and setbacks. It is up to us to persevere in such times, because regardless of what we are presented with in life, the journey IS part of the gift.

The other journey I want to talk about happened many years ago, and it was an actual one spanning about a half of a mile from the streets of Jerusalem to Calvary. Jesus shed His blood on the cross for us, but He had already shed a lot of blood for us before He even reached the top of Calvary. Blood was streaming from the wounds inflicted by the Roman soldiers long before He was nailed to the cross. Let's not forget about what He was doing for us on the way to the cross, because I am certain that journey is part of the gift!

— Alan Watkins

## Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of August 1, 2023 — August 31, 2023.

Tithes - \$11,549

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33

Special Gifts - Other Than Memorial (Maui) - \$400

Parsonage Rental - \$750

Total Income - \$12,799.00

Actual expenditures - \$8,302.91

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

## 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.



TRI-AREA MINISTRY  
FOOD PANTRY

In September we donated 300 pounds of food to Tri-Area. Additionally, we contributed 34 hygiene bags for State Fair workers.

## 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





# Falls Baptist Church Harvest Festival & Chili Cooking Contest



**FREE  
EVENT!**



Live Music | Chili | Cornbread | Dessert  
Tea & Coffee

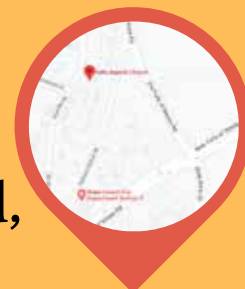


**Saturday, October 21st  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Call 919-847-0870 to RSVP**



[www.fallsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.fallsbaptistchurch.org)  
Falls Baptist Church, 9700 Fonville Rd,  
Wake Forest, North Carolina





## Attendance cont' ...

will be a “no-construction” day.

It's not the construction project which keeps people from church on Sundays. So, what is it? Spiritual apathy? All of us have a dose of that from time-to-time. We feed our bodies but often neglect our spiritual side. We fare well physically but may be emaciated spiritually. You've gotten out of the habit? I learned a long time ago people get “out of the habit” of attending church if they miss three consecutive Sundays. That's all it takes. Miss one Sunday without a legitimate reason, illness, family issues, etc., no big problem. Miss three Sundays consecutively and church attendance is in the rearview mirror. Don't attend because there are hypocrites in church? I've heard that many times. As my dad said, “I would rather be in church with a few hypocrites than spend eternity in hell with all of them.” Maybe the pews are too hard. No problem: we'll give you a cushion. Too cold in the sanctuary? No problem: we have blankets. You don't like the hymns we sing? Tell us something you like.

I could continue listing excuses for not coming to church. I'm not being critical of legitimate reasons for not attending such as health or family problems. As I write these words, I am remembering several people who used to attend faithfully who are in poor health and can no longer attend. I grieve with them over their wanting to attend but not being able to. My concern is for the people who could attend and choose not to.

I could list many things you are missing by not attending. We were discussing people on our prayer list on Wednesday night. The room was filled with love and concern for those on our prayer list and we prayed for them and grieve they are no longer able to join us. By not attending you miss the love for each other which circles the fellowship hall on Wednesday nights and hovers among the stained-glass windows on Sunday mornings. You miss hearing your name called by friends who love you. You miss the chance of experiencing the overwhelming presence of the Lord among his people as they gather to worship him. Furthermore, we miss you.

Next Sunday I pray you will wake with the vision of Christ and his church on your heart and that, unless providentially prevented, you will come back home to Falls. Your spiritual family is waiting for you.

— Tom Jenkins

### Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman	919-880-1888
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099



9700 Fonville Road  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
[www.fallsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.fallsbaptistchurch.org)

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



[www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch)