

# Falls Fellowship



## Weeding the Garden of Life

**L**ately, I've been struggling with weeds. It seems like no matter how much weed killer you use or how often you use it, weeds find a way to grow, and if you're not on top of it, they can easily take over your lawn or garden. When you're looking at weed killers, some of them claim to kill 400+ types of weeds, or 460+ types of weeds, or 400 types of weeds plus crabgrass. You'd think 460+ types of weeds would cover them all until you look up just how many types of weeds there are. I have no idea how many there actually are, but there are definitely more than 460 of them. Wouldn't it be nice if there was one product that simply killed ALL types of weeds?

In the garden of life, inevitably there are weeds as well. These weeds are things which separate us from having a 'beautiful garden of life', and we call these weeds sins. Some sins are like the weed 'spurge,' which looks like it covers a big area but only has a single root and is easily removed. Some are like 'crabgrass' which can grow underneath normal grass and

*See Weeding on page 2*

## Thank You

**T**hank you for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Cheryl and I are indebted to you for the celebration, for the many cards and words expressing your sentiments and for the gift cards. The lunch was a "homecoming" style lunch and, this time we had fried chicken.



Sunday's service included the baptism of Danny Bradford. Danny has been with us a long time but had never been baptized by immersion. I was honored Danny asked me to baptize him. I never baptize someone without remembering my baptism by my father many years ago. My father gave me the waders and robe he wore when he baptized. That was the ensemble he wore when he baptized me. I used it for many years.

R. L. Harris prepared the baptistery for baptism for many years. He has passed

*See Thank You on page 4*

## Event Calendar

- October 7 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- October 11 — Bingo! 6:30 PM
- October 20 — Quarterly Business Meeting  
12 PM
- November 2 — Harvest Fest and Chili Cook-off  
11 PM — All Welcome!
- November 4 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- November 9 — Veterans' Breakfast 8 AM

*Continued from page 1*

### Weeding continued ...

choke it out. Luckily, we don't have to go looking through Saviors like weed killers to see which one will forgive different types of sins. We have one that does all: Jesus — He forgives all our sins, not just 460+ types of them.

1 John 1:8 says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." What would happen if I denied there were weeds in my yard? Not only would those weeds still be there, but more and more would creep in. The same thing happens with sin — if we deny its existence in our lives, it may just grow out of control and take over everything. In short, we must weed our garden of life. There is no garden with too many weeds for Jesus. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Simply put, weeding our gardens of life involves confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness. That doesn't mean 'weeds' won't pop up, because they often will, but the same way I keep applying weed killer to my lawn to fight actual weeds, we should ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins every day.

— Alan Watkins

### Let's Make A Joyful Noise!

Scripture tells us in Psalm 100 verses one and two:  
*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve*

*the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

Don't use the excuse you can't sing — most of us can't sing, but that doesn't stop us from making that joyful noise to the Lord.

Choir practice is now once a month at 2:30 PM, day to be announced. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!

## Hurricane Relief Efforts

We reached out to the Raleigh Baptist Association to see how we could help the people in the western part of North Carolina in need because of damage from Hurricane Helene.

The most pressing need was for money to supply the trucks with new blankets and socks. Our deacons voted to send \$2,000 out of our humanitarian fund.

Because of their tight deadlines, we collected blankets and socks on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8 and 9 for delivery on Thursday, October 10.

If you were not able to help, that's OK. We are still accepting monetary donations for hurricane relief and we're sure we will need to collect many more items in the coming weeks.

All donations go 100 percent to those who need it. The RBA is all volunteers and there are no administration costs. We feel this is our best way to help.

— Frank Powell

## 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



## Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of August 1, 2024 — August 31, 2024.

Tithes and Memorials - \$10,215.00  
Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.06  
Other income:NC Mission/Baptist Men - \$550.00  
Parsonage Rental - \$750.00

Actual expenditures - \$11,107.69  
Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09 9

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer



lives.

### God's Rules and Safety

Imagine you're driving a car. You're in control, right? But what happens if you ignore the rules of the road? You might crash, get a ticket, or worse. The rules aren't there to ruin your fun; they're there to keep you safe. It's the same with God's rules.

### God's Plan

But here's the good news: God doesn't just leave us to crash and burn. When Adam and Eve messed up, God had a plan. He promised that one day, a descendant of Eve would crush Satan. That's Jesus, who beat sin and death on the cross.

Pride is the root of our problems, leading us to disobey God and believe Satan's lies. But God offers a solution through Jesus.

### Invitation

So, what's this mean for us? If you haven't really let God into your life, today's the day to start. He's ready to welcome you with open arms. This week, when you're tempted to break a rule or lie to get your way, remember the car. Remember God's rules are there to protect you, not to hold you back. And remember, God's ready to help you when you mess up.

— [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com)

## Food Donations

We continue to collect food for Tri-Area Ministry each month. Our participation makes an important difference to help 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.

## The Problem with Pride

So, what's the big deal about pride? We all deal with it. It's like this old, old story about Adam and Eve in this perfect garden. They had everything they could ever want, but they still broke the one rule God gave them. Why? They wanted to call the shots, be their own bosses. Sound familiar? We don't like being told what to do, not by anyone, and definitely not by God.

### Satan's Tricks

Now, let's talk about the bad guy in this story, Satan. He tricked Adam and Eve by making them think God was holding out on them. He's still playing the same tricks today. He makes us feel like God's rules are a drag, like they're keeping us from having fun. He tells us half-truths leading us down the wrong path, hiding the real consequences of our actions. And he promises us we can be our own bosses, in control of our own

## Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman	919-880-1888
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099

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## Thank You cont' ...

the torch to Mike Neal. I am grateful for the service to our church of both these men. On the Saturday before Baptism, the baptistery is filled with water. This takes between two and three hours. Then the heaters are turned on to bring the water to a comfortable temperature for the candidates. Mike was with Danny and me Sunday morning to help us prepare for the baptism.

Baptists have two “ordinances.” We observed one of them Sunday and we observed the other one, Communion, on Sunday, October 6. We are baptized once for it celebrates the new life we begin in Christ. We observe Communion many times because it celebrates the continual nourishing of the new life.

On another note, we grieve over the disaster brought by Hurricane Helene. Lives were lost, homes and businesses destroyed, and in some instances entire communities were destroyed. It will take years to recover. Some of our favorite destinations in the mountains are gone. I remember many visits to Lake Lure when we lived in that area. I led a retreat at Lake Lure where our accommodations were in a bed and breakfast overlooking the French Broad River. My room looked out on the river and the gentle noise of the river lulled me to sleep. Helene turned that peaceful, slow-moving river into a mighty force of destruction. Not



only is the bed and breakfast gone, but the community around it, Chimney Rock. The flood waters created by Helen swept through the village and deposited much of main street in Lake Lure.

What can you do to help? Besides continuous prayer for the people whose lives have been devastated, you can financially support the recovery effort. We promoted the North Carolina Mission Offering during September. All the money used by the NC Baptist on Mission (formerly NC Baptist Men) comes through that one offering. NC Baptist on Mission have feeding stations, and distribution centers throughout Western NC and crews that are trained in disaster recovery. An example of their work is what happened with Bill White, a resident of Arden, NC, south of Asheville, whose property was damaged by Helene. White was climbing a ladder to survey his damage when a crew arrived from NC Baptist on Mission with all the tools necessary to repair his damaged property. That crew was funded through the NCMO. Its not too late to give to NC Baptist on Mission through gifts to the NCMO.

— Tom Jenkins



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