

# Falls Fellowship



## Knowing He Is Up There

**I**t's the time of year again when kids return to school, and as we prepared to leave Michelle, our oldest, in Charlotte, there were a few tears shed as usual. After spending the last three months at home, it was hard for her to leave that behind so far away. I told her to call whenever she needs to talk or even to just hear a voice from home; and I told her it would be sort of like when she is in her room, and we are downstairs. She told me it wasn't the same though — when she wakes up, she won't hear talking coming from downstairs, and even when she can't hear talking, it's still comforting knowing we are down there. As I hugged her goodbye one last time, I told her I would miss knowing she was upstairs too, even when I couldn't hear her.

As I was driving home, the exchange we just had made me think of how empty I would feel if I didn't know God was "up there." Jesus told his disciples, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I

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## Homecoming

**A**bout halfway between Garfield and Canoochee, farming villages located deep in the countryside of South Georgia, and a couple of miles from the Ogeechee River where you could catch Blue Gill Brim weighing a pound and



a half was Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. It was a typical country church of its day. I worked with the church preaching for a couple of months when I was a freshman in college and then years later Cheryl and I moved there with our infant daughter where I had been called to be pastor. Cows grazed in the fields behind the parsonage they had built for us. Corn, soybeans and peanuts grew in the verdant green fields around us. It was the typical South Georgia of my youth, and the church was one of hundreds of small churches dotting the countryside of

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## Event Calendar

- September 1 — New Church Year Begins
- September 8 — Homecoming!
- September 9 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- September 29 — Pastor Appreciation Sunday, with covered dish luncheon!
- October 7, Deacons Meeting 7 PM

## Treasurer's Report

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

Tithes and Memorials - \$13,117.00  
 Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.06  
 Other income:Parsonage Rental - \$750.00

Actual expenditures - \$9,289.27  
 Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

## HOME COMING

Our 124th Anniversary Homecoming will be on September 8, 2024. We will have special presentations and special music. Daniel Ripley will preach. Our traditional covered dish luncheon will follow Worship, so bring your favorite dishes to share.

Please invite family and friends to be part of this special day in the life of our church! We hope to have a full house!

## 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.*

of it! New voices are always welcome!

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!

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## "Knowing" continued ...

go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going" (John 14:2-4). That verse comforts me no matter where I am. Knowing He is up there, even when I can't always hear him, is an amazing feeling.

Another thing I told Michelle when we left was she could come home whenever she wants, and so can you! Because there is something else which has always been 'up there' ... up there on the hill ... and that's Falls Baptist Church. This week is homecoming, and whether you came to church last week or haven't been in years, we are still up there on that hill, and we'd love to see you! If you can't make it to homecoming, that's OK — you can come home whenever you want!

— Alan Watkins

## September Birthdays

- 6 Edith Johnson
- 7 Craig Jackson
- 9 Cathy Scott
- 12 Henry Young, III
- 15 Angie Harris
- 16 Taylor Jenks
- 18 Julie Allen
- 19 Victoria Neal
- 21 Trisha Watkins
- 24 Jerry Looper
- 26 Ruth Young



## Pastor Appreciation Dinner

October is typically the month when we show appreciation to our pastor and wife. However, due to her work schedule, Cheryl will not be available during October. For that reason we will honor Dr. Tom and Cheryl on Sunday, September 29 with a covered dish luncheon immediately following worship service. So, please make plans now to bring dishes to share and join us as we show Dr. Tom and Cheryl how much they mean to Falls Baptist Church!

## 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.

## A Wonderful Homecoming

Luke 15:11-24A tells us the story of a wonderful homecoming. The steps leading up to that homecoming are steps that were anything but easy; but necessary. A young man played the fool and learned the hard way what it meant to be away from the love, joy and safety of home. His story has been repeated in our lives again and again as we, like him, rebel against God's path for us until we come to the realization of our actions and being filled with regret, repent and return to find restoration.

Luke 15:11-13 "Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

The younger son chose to walk away from his rightful place to travel down paths of his own choos-

ing which appeared to be more in keeping with his way of thinking. His leaving home was an act of rebellion against his father's ways and ultimately his father.

Rebellion is reserving for myself the right to make all final decisions. It's my life and I will choose what I feel is best for me. It's what I want.

Concerning this inclination of "me-ism" among Christians, someone once said, "Everyone wants to do his own thing. If you put four Baptists in a room you will have six opinions about an issue and ten different fights will break out." People want to do what THEY want to do.

Isaiah 65:2 "I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts"

I believe, if we are honest, all of us would admit that, at one time or another, we have experienced disastrous results when we have sought to do our own thing. We have sat in the driver's seat of our lives and refused to follow God's roadmap for our lives.

Jeremiah 10:23 "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

1 Samuel 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

Luke 15:17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!'"

It is not until we become aware of exactly where we are and what we have done that we can begin the journey to restoration of blessing and fellowship with God.

— Jerry Flury

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## Deacons

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



## Homecoming cont' ...

the South when I was a young man. The people didn't have much "book-learning," but they knew about life. Depending on God to send rain on your crops, witnessing the ebb and flow of life through the births and deaths of livestock and family, raising large gardens, canning and freezing the vegetables from the garden, killing hogs in the fall and sending cows to the market in the spring, taught you valuable lessons of life. Tradition was important. Rose Johnson and Janet Lane taught the children in Sunday School and the children learned the Bible and from those humble women they learned about life.

Once the crops were "laid-by" (waiting for the last step of maturity before harvest) provided a respite from the harrowing schedule of life on the farm. It was then that we had the annual revival, beginning with Homecoming on the third Sunday in July. Joe Womack and several of the men would dig a pit and cover it with a steel grate. Then they would start a fire of hickory and oak, and they would take the coals from the fire, not the burning wood, and place them under the meat and watch it all night. About seven o'clock Sunday morning I would go check on the main course for the Homecoming meal and Joe would slice a piece of meat off one of the hams and give it to me and I just

knew there wasn't any better tasting meat anywhere. I knew that Jesus missed out on something by not eating barbecue pork because he was a Jew and, in his day, Jews did not eat pork.

By the time church started the crowd was so large, some people had to stand outside and listen to the service through open windows in pre-air conditioning days. Aunt Pearl and then Marcie Johnson played the piano and red-faced farmers, some in overalls, and women dressed in simple cotton dresses, along with blushing teenaged girls, filled the choir loft. The guest preacher would preach so hard you could wring water out of his pants when he finished. When the service was finally over, we headed for the tables under the tall pine trees where the barbecue pork was at one end and desserts were at the other and in between were samples of every country dish imaginable. What a day it would be for us.

What a day we will have on September 8 when we celebrate the 124th Homecoming for Falls Baptist Church. Daniel Ripley will preach, the choir will sing, Kevin will pull out all the stops on the organ, and who knows but what somewhere through an opened portal of heaven those who left us and are at home with the Lord will join in our worship. At least it will feel that way to me. Don't miss it; you will regret it. It's Homecoming Time at Falls Baptist Church. See you there.

— Tom Jenkins



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