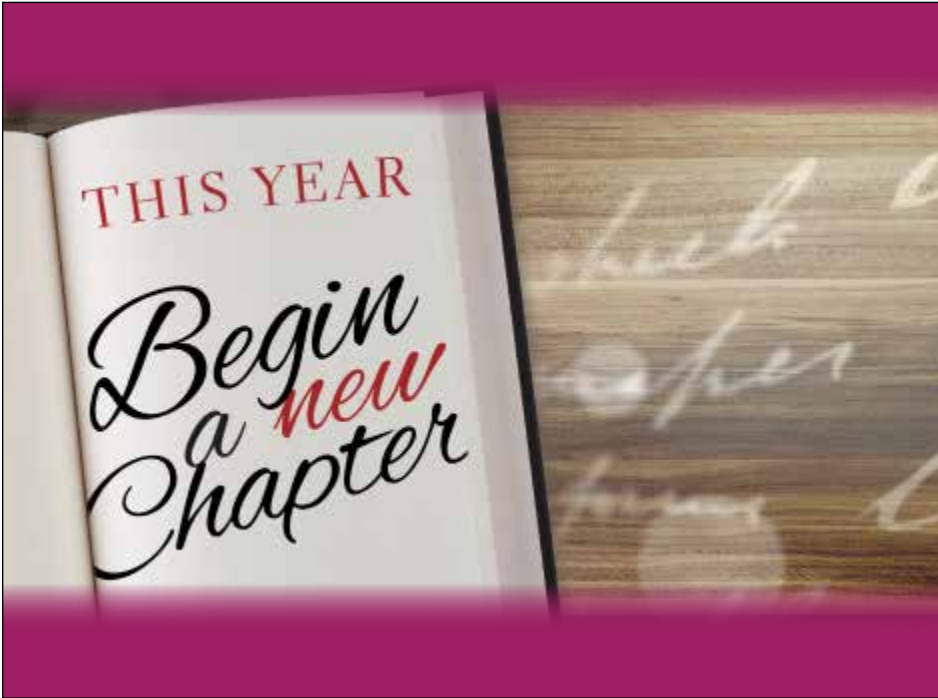


Falls Fellowship



No Resolution Needed to Follow Jesus!

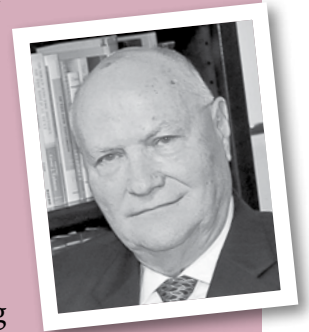
It's that time of year again where we talk about new beginnings and New Year's resolutions. Some of the common ones, of course, are exercising more, losing weight, and maybe even going to church more often. One thing all of these, and most resolutions, have in common is there is really no need to wait until the new year to start them. You could have gotten on that treadmill in December or not eaten another one of those no-bake cookies (I love no-bake cookies) at any time. You don't have to wait for any certain date to come to church either!

In Matthew 4:18-20, Jesus told Peter and Andrew to follow Him, and it says they did so "at once." They didn't wait until January 1st, the next month, or even the next day — they followed him "at once." In Matthew 8:21-22, a disciple wanted to bury his father before following Jesus, but Jesus told this man to follow Him immediately and let the dead bury their own dead. These are much more extreme examples of commitment than what most of us make as New Year's resolutions, but the point is that there

See Resolution on page 3

A Prayer God Will Always Answer

I began 2023, as usual, with some soul searching. At the moment, I'm looking at my prayer life. The hurried press of life often consumes me, and my daily moments of prayer sometimes are rambling and disconnected. I plan to spend more time intentionally praying this year.



Anthony DeStefano wrote a book about prayer in which he talks about prayers God will always answer, like the prayer of the penitent sinner asking forgiveness and seeking salvation. When I read the book, I was intrigued by DeStefano's prayer asking God to make us an instrument of his mission and purpose. St. Francis wrote a prayer in the twelfth century that is familiar to many of us. It begins with the line, "Lord,

See Always Answer on page 4



Worship Precautions During January

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

During the month of January, 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 financials for the month of November 1, 2022 —November 30, 2022.

Tithes - \$9,878
Budgeted/expected tithes - \$10,637.84

Actual expenditures - \$10,985.00
Budgeted expenditures - \$11,524.34

Special offerings thru 11-30-22:
NC Children's Home - \$380

Falls Baptist Church On Mission

As we begin the new year, the missions committee is sponsoring a sock drive to benefit the Raleigh Baptist Association's clothing closet ministry which is administered by First Baptist Church in downtown Raleigh. FBC's clothing ministry serves almost 1,000 poor and homeless persons each month. Clothing is offered free in sizes infants through adults. Clients can receive clothing once every two months. Sabrina, the volunteer coordinator for the clothing closet, noted that socks are ALWAYS a needed item.

Please bring new socks (all sizes/men/women/children) or gently used socks paired together by making a ball (turning one into the other) or with a rubber band or safety pin. We will collect in the foyer of the church up until Sunday, February 12th. At that time we will

January Birthdays

- 3 Courtney Mayerick
- 8 Jessica Jackson
- 10 Linwood Barham
- 13 Sara Powell
- 13 Sandra Brown
- 15 Joey Groves
- 16 Bruce Williams
- 19 Gloria Crudup
- 20 Frank Powell



collect the socks for delivery to the Clothing Closet.

Let's put our "best foot forward," as we move into the new year and show our love and concern for those in our community who are doing without during these cold winter days.

Please feel free to contact Naomi Tsujimura (ntsu-jimura726@gmail.com or 919-696-3393) with questions.

Christmas Angel Tree Thank You

Dear Naomi and Falls Baptist Church,

The words thank you cannot fully express my gratitude for your generosity and compassion reflected through your Christmas Angel Tree giving to support Avery and her children through the Caring Connections Ministry. Not only did you go above and beyond to make sure the children and mom were well cared for, but your cheerful giving was evident in beautifully wrapped gifts and the extras you gave. This reflects the heart and ministry of Jesus Christ. I wish you could have seen Avery when she picked up the gifts. She was overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you for bringing joy into their lives during this special season. Below is the message I received from Avery to share with all of you.

Good Morning!

I wanted to thank everyone who put forth their time and money to help me provide an amazing and memorable Christmas for my kids this year in our new apartment! The kids were bursting with excitement and are still completely obsessed with everything they got! I hope everyone has a blessed New Year and thank you again. Avery

Thank you again. I would love to speak to your church group or women's group sometime this year and share about the barriers associated with generational and systemic poverty for those living in our community and how our ministry serves to help. Keep us in mind as you are looking for other service oppor-

Event Calendar

January 1 — New Year Day Covered Dish Luncheon Noon

January 9 — Deacons Meeting 6 PM

January 15 — Regular Church Conference

tunities whether that be a collection of needed items, a financial gift to support our outreach, or gathering mentors and care teams to support single moms in poverty as they try to overcome that barrier

Gratefully,
Cynthia Thelen, MSW, Director
Caring Connections Ministry

Continued from page 1

Resolution continued ...

is no need to wait. If you haven't talked with God in a while, pray "at once" — don't put it off until a certain date. If you haven't been to church in a while, come back "at once" (next Sunday), and if during the year you miss a few weeks, you can start back at any time.

God doesn't want you to wait until next year, He wants you to start, or restart, "at once."

— Alan Watkins

Deacons

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

Always Answer cont' ...

make me an instrument of your peace.” This is a prayer God will always answer. Why?

God works through us. God does not manifest himself in a physical presence in today’s world, nor does he alter the natural events of his creation to reveal himself. He reveals himself most profoundly through us, his children, as we become instruments of his will. There are many examples of this in the Bible, such as God’s calling Moses to lead the captives from Egypt, God’s instructing Samuel to anoint David as King and even Jesus’ committing his work to an ordinary and fully human band of followers. God does his work through us.

One morning I received a telephone call from a person in deep distress. I did not know him. He called the church where I was working because someone had sent him information about the church and invited him to be his guest. He found the brochure in a stack of old mail. He found the name and phone number of the church during a moment of emotional distress in his life. That was not a mere coincidence. Someone in the church sent a note in which he shared information about the church and God used that person as an instrument of his mission and purpose.

Pray this prayer asking God to make you his instrument and see what happens. Don’t pray the prayer without sincerity and be ready for action because God will send someone into your life who needs help. Offer the prayer; expect God to use you and then tell me how he used you. I’m looking for stories to share in the spring as we prepare for Easter. This can be part of your journey in the new year. Pray for God to use you and then expect him to come calling on you through a person in need.



Cheryl and I are grateful for your many expressions of support through Christmas cards, gifts, kind words and hopes and dreams shared. You were very generous to us with a financial gift from the church and we are deeply grateful for the honor of walking among you.

— Tom Jenkins



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

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



www.facebook.com/fallsbaptistchurch