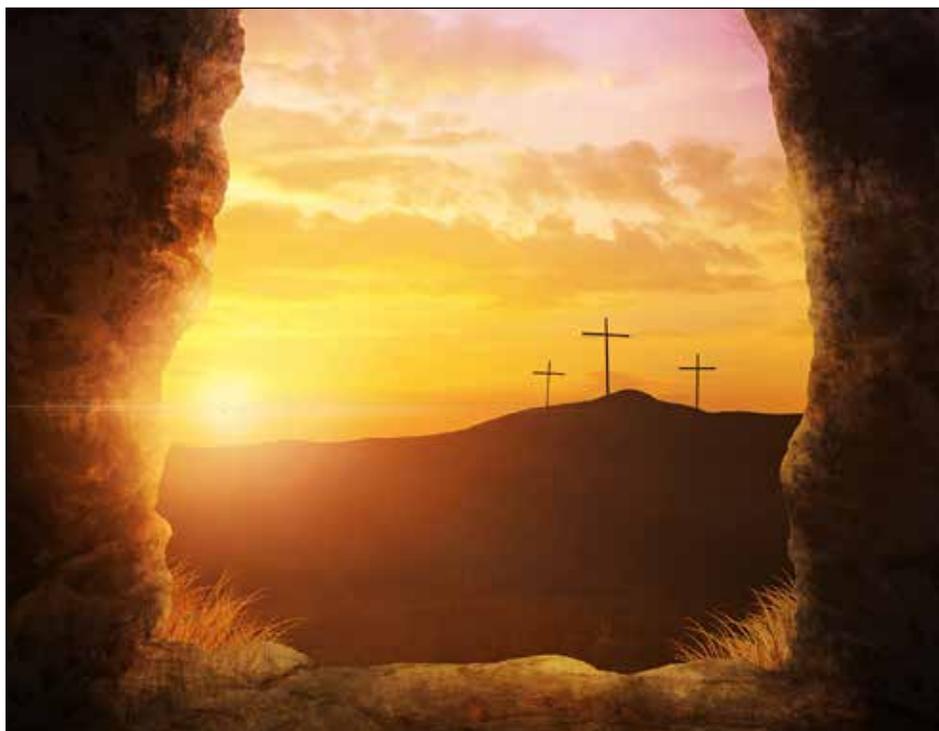


Falls Fellowship



Is it too early?

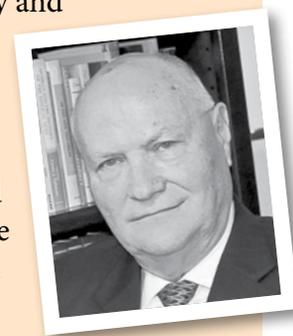
It's that time of year again, baseball has begun! Major League Baseball has already started spring training, and they're playing in warm places like Florida and Arizona. I went to my first baseball practice a couple of weeks ago, still thinking it was a little early for that type of thing. The weather was nice, and I thought even if it IS time for baseball, it's definitely not time for the type of weather to play it in, at least not around here! As I was out there running around, the unpredictability of the weather made me think of Matthew 24:36:

"No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows." Jesus is talking about the second coming of Christ. And although someone may think they know when He is returning, they would have a better chance of predicting which days will be warm in February. Luckily (and necessarily), we don't need to (nor should we) wait for warm days to decide to follow Jesus. It's never too cold or too hot to decide to fol-

See Too Early? on page 2

The Empty Tomb

If this were an article about Christmas I would begin with the manger in Bethlehem, shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph and the babe wrapped in "swaddling clothes" and placed in the manger. But Christmas has passed



and now we focus on Easter. Easter doesn't get as much attention as Christmas. On the Christian calendar we have four weeks to prepare for both the Advent Season leading up to Christmas and the Season of Lent leading up to Easter. But our preparations for Christmas stretch beyond the four weeks' window of preparation. For some families, including mine, preparations begin weeks ahead as presents are bought, the Christmas tree is placed in its familiar place and decorated, and other Christmas decorations are brought down

See Tomb on page 4

Event Calendar

- March 4 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- March 9 — Men's Breakfast 8 AM
- March 17 — Church Council Meeting 2 PM
- March 24 — Palm Sunday
- March 29 — Good Friday Service 7 PM
- March 31 — Easter Sunrise Service, Falls Community Cemetery, 7 AM, Breakfast follows in the Fellowship Hall at 8 AM
- April 1 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- April 13 — Spring Fling 12 PM
- April 21 — Quarterly Business Meeting 12 PM

Continued from page 1

Too Early? continued ...

low Him. In fact, since 'not even the angels in heaven' know when He is going to return, there's no time like the present to make that decision if you haven't already. Whether or not it's too early for baseball might be a judgement call, but I promise you it's not too early to ask Jesus into your heart; and it's definitely not too late either!

— Alan Watkins

Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past six 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!

Treasurer's Report

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

Tithes - \$17,281.00

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,175.06

Other Income: Parsonage Rental - \$750.00

Total Income - \$18,031.00

Actual expenditures - \$26,080.32

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,175.09

Actual cash out includes \$11,755.00 for 2024

Missions. Actual Exp., less Missions - \$14,325.00

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

Family Movies Available

Both of the movies we've seen for movie nights are available in the Church library in case you missed them or want to see them again!

Check them out when you have a chance and stay tuned for future movie nights announcement!

— Alan Watkins

Please pick up 2024 Offering Envelopes

Members should pick up their offering envelope boxes in the vestibule if you have not already done so. Please see Kevin Barham if you have any questions.

March Birthdays

- 1 Junior Jackson
- 1 Judi Waddell
- 12 Kevin Barham
- 13 Diana Harney
- 15 Derick Foster
- 16 Rich Harney
- 19 Alice Tate
- 22 Geneva Holste
- 26 Billy Chappell



What Should Easter Mean To You?

What should Easter mean to you, going to church, having a family meal, finding Easter eggs? What should Easter mean to you, (first, second, third), Easter should mean:

1. You Can Make It Through Every Storm.

What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean you can make it through every storm taking place in your life. No matter how hard the wind blows, no matter how high the waves are, and no matter how much water is getting into your boat of life. The Apostle Paul was going through a storm in 2 Corinthians, and God said to him, “My grace is sufficient for you.” God’s grace is sufficient for you to go through the storm. What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean you can make it though every storm which is taking place in your life. God’s grace is sufficient!

2. You Can Make It Through Every Sorrow.

What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean you can make it through every sorrow. No matter if it’s the death of a loved one, going through a divorce, or financial difficulty. Christ says in Luke 4:18, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty that are oppressed.” What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean you can make it through every sorrow.

3. You Can Make It Though Every Situation.

What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean you can make it through every situation. No matter what addiction, adversity, or anxiety it is, by the Holy Spirit, Christ is living in you to help you make it through every situation. Remember 1 John 4:4, “Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world.” What should Easter mean to you? Easter should mean



whatever the situation is you can make it through!

What kind of a storm, sorrow, or situation are you going through this Easter? Let’s all come up front for a time of prayer and praise believing with God’s help you’re going to make it. **Because He Lives, Our God Reigns. He Lives!**

— Eugene Pansler, Jr.
sermonscentral.com

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

Tomb cont' ...

from the attic or in from the garage and placed in their traditional spots throughout the house. The narratives of Matthew and Luke guide our thinking about Christmas with their wisemen, shepherds and angels.

Easter doesn't get as much attention as Christmas. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the dark tomb carved out of a stone hill. An angel or two, depending on the tradition you follow, were there. Obviously, something had happened because of the absence of the stone. According to the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene was the first one at the tomb and immediately observed that the stone had been rolled away. Her immediate reaction was to run and tell Peter and John; apparently, she did not enter the tomb. Peter and John came running and verified what Mary had said and then went into the tomb but quickly exited and returned to where they had been huddled with a group of Jesus' followers, perhaps in the home of Mary, mother of Mark, to have breakfast. Then Mary's eyes were opened to the risen Lord, whom at first, she thought was the gardener, but whom she recognized as the risen Lord when he called her name, Mary. Add to that John's remembrances about a few events after Easter and the ascension and



that wraps up the story of Easter.

We could say without Christmas there would be no Easter. True, but without Easter, Christmas would only be about the jolly-round-fat man and without a Creche, shepherds, angels or even Mary and Joseph. Without Easter Jesus Christ would have been a wise teacher and a good life coach but not the world's Savior. Easter is essential to our faith for, without a risen Lord, we have no hope for the forgiveness of our sins or of life beyond this life. Without the resurrection we live in a time-bound reality which ends with our death. Easter means we have hope.

— Tom Jenkins



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