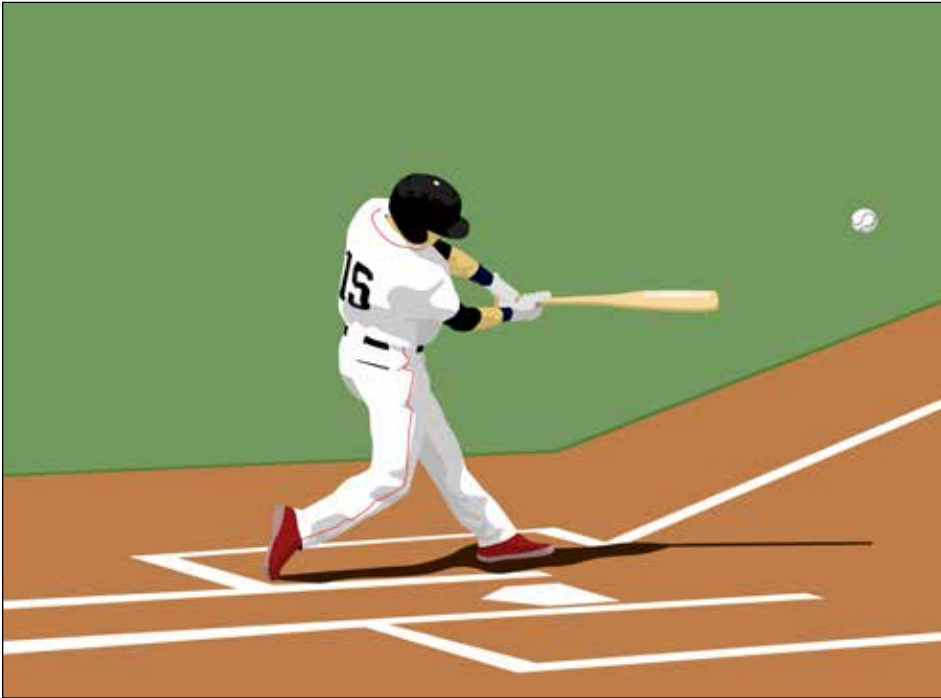


# Falls Fellowship



## Stopping the ball is not an option

I've always liked to find Christian lessons in outside activities, and around this time of year, I like to look for these lessons in the game of baseball! This is the first in a series of three articles about that subject.

One of the first things you learn in baseball is that to stop a grounder, you have to get in front of the ball. When you get in front of the ball and you get your glove down, you usually catch it, and one way or another, you almost always stop it. A player has to be ready at all times because they never know when the ball might be hit to them. These concepts remind me of dealing with sin. We need to always be ready, because we never know when something that might cause us to sin is coming our way.

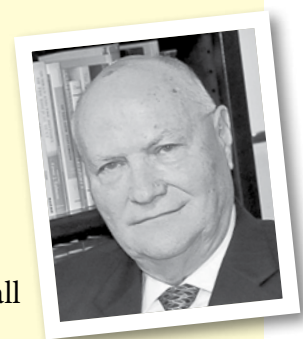
When we see such things headed in our direction, we need to get in front of them so we can deal with them.

There is a phrase used in baseball sometimes when someone doesn't catch a grounder — people will say it "ate them up", and that's exactly what happens if we're either not on the lookout for sin or it sneaks up on us.

*See Stopping on page 3*

## The Differences Among Us

I am sitting in the office at Falls with the air conditioning running trying to stay cool. This is the first week in May and already the thermometer reads 88 degrees. Craig is down the hall getting ice for his water jug. If the temperature is 88 degrees the first week in May, what will it be July 4? I must keep reminding myself that God is in control and as long as I can believe that, all is well. What's a few sweat beads among friends?



I have a birthday in a few days, and I wonder if getting older affects our internal thermostats. When I visit elderly patients in nursing homes, I find some who wear sweaters and have blankets wrapped around their legs. Then I find some who have shed all the clothes they can without

*See Differences on page 4*



## Worship Precautions During May

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has 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-feet social distance except for family members living in the same household.
3. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.

### May Birthdays

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Naomi Horton     |
| 3  | Michelle Watkins |
| 6  | Glenn Johnson    |
| 10 | Calvin Kelly     |
| 14 | Alisha Allen     |
| 22 | Mike Harris      |
| 22 | Arnie Jenks      |
| 25 | Danny Brafford   |
| 26 | Ronald Jenks     |
| 30 | Tom Jenkins      |



4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.

5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposable masks will be available for those wishing to use them.

6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.

7. 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 May, 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.

## 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.*

Worship is about giving thanks to God with all our heart. Praising Him as our Refuge and Stronghold. Powerful words from Psalm 9 remind us to give glory to God ... who reigns forever!

Falls Baptist Church Choir needs you to help us make that joyful noise. We're gaining new members — come be part 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 2:00 PM, day to be announced. We have a lot of fun and the fellowship is hard to beat. Join us!

## Task Force Thanks

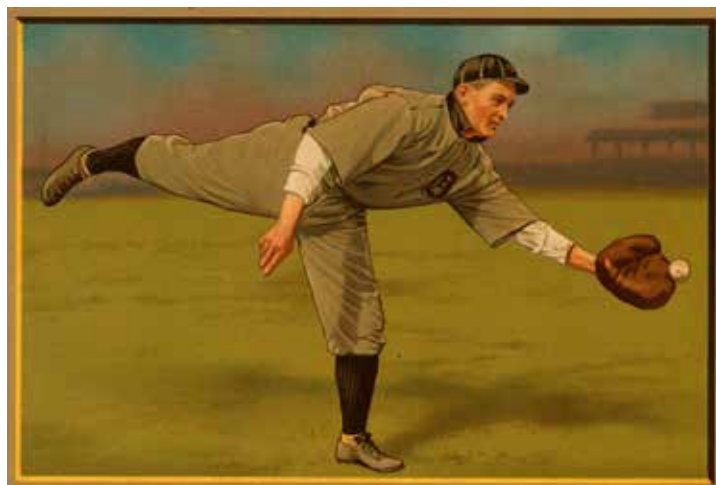
Thanks to everyone who took part in our Task Force Survey on May 1. We will share the results soon as we continue working to grow our church family.

Continued from page 1

## Stopping continued ...

And that's where the title of this piece comes in. To get someone out in baseball, not only do you have to stop the ball, you have to get it out of your glove and make a reasonably accurate throw to 1st base. Those last two things will not happen if you don't stop the ball. In life, you're not going to be able to avoid or deal with the things which tempt you to sin unless you recognize it coming your way — the sin will eat you up. The Bible tells us to repent or turn away from sin — that's the ultimate goal — and that can't happen unless we can recognize it first, so remember, stopping the ball is not an option if you're going to get sin out at first!

— Alan Watkins



## Nominating Committee meeting

Our nominating committee is meeting and will be calling members to see if they are willing to serve on various committees during our upcoming 2022-2023 fiscal year.

When, not if, you are called, please give serious consideration to serving our church. We have ambitious plans to grow and spread God's word through our areas and we need everyone to help!



## Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past four 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.

Our website is generating interest and bringing people into our church. Please bookmark it at [www.fallsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.fallsbaptistchurch.org). In addition, our mobile app is in use by 92 people in five countries at this writing — China, Japan, Nigeria and Puerto Rico in addition to the United States! It is available for Apple and Android devices, so search for Falls Baptist in your App Store or you can use the link on our website.

Communication is very important, so send your news and articles to Frank at [fbpowell@mac.com](mailto:fbpowell@mac.com)

Thanks!

## Please pick up 2022 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.

### Deacons

Kevin Barham, Chairman	919-618-4214
Hubert Jenks, Vice Chairman	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins, Secretary	919-793-5548
Mike Harris	919-746-5697
Victoria Neal	919-880-1888
Bill Upton	910-358-7303



## Differences cont' ...

becoming indecent. My mother and father were points in contrast. She wore a sweater in July while he was inclined to turn the thermostat down to stay comfortable.

These differences among people spill over into church life. I hear the conflicting comments. “Preacher it’s too cold in here.” “Preacher it’s too hot in here.” “The music is too loud.” “I wish you would talk louder.”

The old saying, “Variety is the spice of life” does not play out very well in church. We want other people to act like us, believe what we believe, vote like we vote, and think the King James Version of the Bible was spoken directly by God.

Sunday, we distributed a short survey from the team that aims to guide us through the development of a “marketing strategy.” We must ask questions about our identity: who are we? Also, we must together “imagine” what the future can be. We must agree about the future we want for Falls. Marketing strategies for churches are, obviously, planned attempts to reach people who are looking for a church home. The group of the “unchurched” is very diverse.

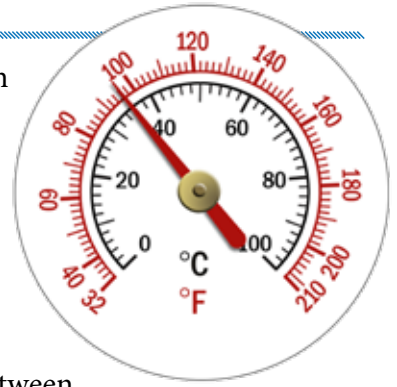
One thing is for certain, the people we reach will not be clones of us. They will be different from us. They may challenge our long-cherished presuppositions about church. They may prefer different styles of

music, preaching, and even missions’ involvement.

For example, sending food to the Baptist Children’s Homes will have little meaning for people who have never heard of the Baptist Children’s Homes. The differences between “us” and some of “them” will be more significant than our arguing over the thermostat settings. Some of the differences among us can be attributed to different places of origin. Among those who are moving into our community are people who were not “born and bred” in the South. I am a Southerner and I recognize the differences between my background and a person who is from New Jersey or New England. One of my favorite writers is from Vermont and shades of his Vermont background appear in some of his writings. He is a product of life in the mountains of Vermont. We are all products of how and where we grew up.

We need not change who we are as we reach newcomers to the Falls; however, we must be open to the newcomers and accepting of them. They, like us Southerners, are also children of God. The story of Falls’ future will be written by our willingness to embrace diversity.

— Tom Jenkins



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