

Falls Fellowship



Strike Three, You're Out?

This is the final in a series of three articles about baseball and religion.

Reggie Jackson was arguably one of the best players to play the game of baseball. He earned the nickname Mr. October after his performance in game 6 of the 1977 world series where he hit 3 homeruns. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993. Jackson's lifetime stats are impressive. A respectable batting average of .262, 2,584 hits and 563 home runs! As I sit writing this, he ranks 14th for most home runs of all-time in Major League Baseball. But there's one stat of Reggie's you won't hear much, and that's Mr. October struck out 2,597 times in his career. He is the undisputed leader in that category, and yet we never hear about it.

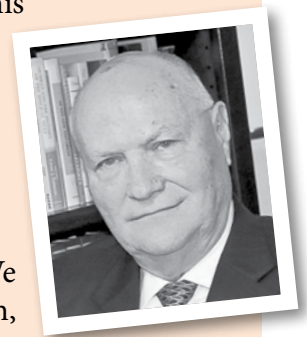
So how does this relate to our lives as Christians? Well, we've all sinned (struck out) a lot — probably too many to count — and thank goodness we can't look up such stats on the Internet! But here's something to think about: God KNOWS we are going to strike out sometimes (Romans 3:23). If we weren't susceptible to sin, we wouldn't need Jesus — as He says in Luke 5:32, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." In baseball when you strike out, normally you head to

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Homecoming

I began serving as your Interim Pastor in February 2017. My first sermon was, "The Renewal of Hope." In the sermon, I said:

"I come among you as a stranger this morning. You do not know me; nor do I know you. We are strangers. We have, though, an invisible tie that binds us to each other: we are Christians, and we are on a journey together. We belong to God through Jesus Christ. Together we are on a journey to discover the depth, breadth, width, and height of what being a Christian means. We desire to be more like Christ. We have a common destiny-heaven. Together, with uncounted numbers of other Christians, we are on a journey which will end before the throne of God in a place whose beauty we cannot comprehend-heaven."



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Worship Precautions During September

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. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you

September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 6 | Edith Johnson |
| 7 | Craig Jackson |
| 9 | Cathy Scott |
| 12 | Henry Young, III |
| 15 | Angie Harris |
| 16 | Taylor Jenks |
| 17 | Pat Fox |
| 18 | Julie Allen |
| 19 | Victoria Neal |
| 21 | Trisha Watkins |
| 24 | Jerry Looper |
| 26 | Carol Looper |
| 26 | Ruth Young |



enter the church.

4. 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 September, 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.

Mission Project

Hygiene Kits for State Fair workers is our latest mission project.

We are collecting trial size items for hygiene kits: toothpaste, toothbrush (regular size), shampoo, hair conditioner, deodorant, soap, disposable razors, wash cloths, combs (no brush), new ball point pens, pocket-size note pads.

Treasurer's Report

Our financials for the month of July, 7-1-22 — 7-31-22.

Tithes - \$11,513

Budgeted Revenue - \$11,583

Actual Expenditures - \$8,399

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!

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Strike Three continued ...

the dugout and say, "sorry guys," to which someone is undoubtedly going to tell you to "shake it off" and that you'll get it next time. With sin, we should do the same thing: Ask for forgiveness, repent, and try not to do it again.

If you asked Reggie Jackson what he remembers most about his career, hopefully he's not going to mention all those strikeouts! He would probably tell you stories of winning the World Series or making it into the Hall of Fame. I think we will do the same when we make it into Jesus' Hall of Fame (Heaven). We won't talk about all those times we struck out (sinned), because, by the blood of Christ, those have all been forgiven!
— Alan Watkins

Event Calendar

- September 1 — New Church Year Begins
- September 4 — Deacons Meeting 2 PM
- September 11 — Homecoming!
- September 18 — Choir Practice 2 PM
- September 25 — Communion 11 AM
- October 16 — Regular Church Conference 12 PM

H+OMECOMING

Our 122nd Anniversary Homecoming will be on September 11, 2022. Rev. Patrick Fuller, Executive Director of the Raleigh Baptist Association will be our guest preacher. Please invite family and friends to be part of this special day in the life of our church! Our traditional covered dish luncheon will follow Worship.

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.

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.

Communication is very important, so send your news and articles to Frank at fbpowell@mac.com
Thanks!

Deacons

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

Homecoming cont' ...

I was asked to preach at Homecoming that year, as your interim pastor, though still a stranger among you. As I said in that first sermon, we are on a journey together.

The journey has led us to the celebration of Homecoming for this year, 2022. I am no longer a stranger among you; Cheryl and I are members of the church family. We are still on a journey together.

It is as a family member, one of you, that I encourage you to attend Homecoming on September 11 and to invite others of the church family to join you. I am thinking particularly of those who no longer attend. Among that group are those who cannot attend because of the restraints of physical conditions. But there are also those who choose not to attend. It is members of that group I encourage you to invite. A deacon told me Sunday morning he had invited two former “attenders” of Falls to homecoming. I hope

that, not only the deacons, but other church members are doing this, too.

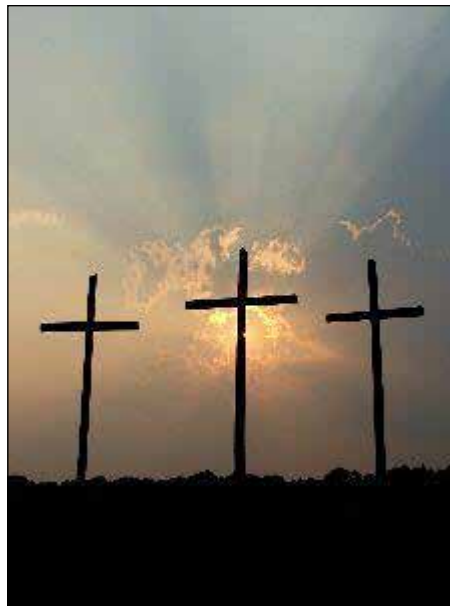
Homecoming is a time for the church to remember its heritage and with new energy, embrace it. It is a time to remember those who founded Falls and those who have, over the decades, kept its doors opened and are now depending on us to keep the church alive.

What has been passed on to us by them must be kept alive and healthy for it is a holy thing — it is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We cannot live in the past, therefore, Homecoming is also a time to renew dreams for the future of the church and God knows we need to dream again as a church. Homecoming 2022 finds our church at a critical juncture of past and future. We will celebrate the past, but we must not linger there for we are the ones who will determine if future generations gather at Falls or if, like so many other churches, Falls will only be in our memories. Join me for Homecoming where we will celebrate the past and cast our vision

toward the future into which our Lord is leading us.

— Tom Jenkins



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