

Falls Fellowship



Apply Yourself

As an educator, the most disappointing class of students are the ones who have the ability to succeed but lack the motivation to apply themselves and do the work. These students might pass, but they squeak by with a C when they could have easily made an A.

As Christians, we need to avoid this type of attitude as well. How do we get an A instead of a C? We apply ourselves! There are several ways to do this beyond what might immediately come to mind like going on a mission trip or building churches in foreign countries, although those certainly count! We can apply ourselves even at the local level by coming up with and participating in activities of the church: donate food to our food pantry; bring socks to the sock drive; come up with and implement a service idea.

If you don't feel comfortable leading a service project, support those who do in whatever capacity you can. One of the simplest things you can do to apply yourself as a Christian is to call, text, or visit those who are sick or struggling with something in their lives.

Regardless of the outcome, it's always better if you apply yourself!

— Alan Watkins

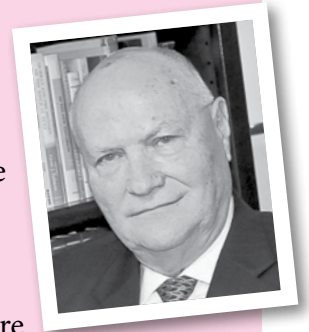
Origins of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day made its way into our culture as a symbol of expressing love, or at least, acknowledging another person's place in your life.

We are not certain when the tradition began. Some say it goes back to a St. Valentine, but then there were several.

Which one gets the honor? Others say it goes back to the ancient Romans and is a celebration marking the coming of Spring. Why not credit them with it since we blame them for other things?

Regardless of its origin, Valentine's Day made its way into our culture and so we are stuck with the expectation that we are to buy Valentine's cards for some people in our lives. I noticed that at Hallmark stores Valentine's cards quickly supplanted Christmas cards. No surprise there since Hallmark's tries to



See Valentine's on page 4



Worship Precautions During February

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 February, 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 December 1, 2022 —December 31, 2022.

Tithes - \$14,448.05

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$11,583.37

Actual expenditures - \$16,102.05 (includes \$6,819.20 for new kitchen equipment)

Budgeted expenditures - \$11,524.34

Special offerings thru 12/31/22:

- NC Children's Home - \$1,410.00
- Love Offering - \$5,200.00

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 collect the socks for delivery to the Clothing Closet.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 13 | Francine Leclercq |
| 18 | Mike Neal |
| 23 | Joan Barham |
| 24 | Woody Leonard |
| 25 | Zoe Davis |
| 27 | Mike Leclercq |
| 27 | Pat Nowak |



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.

Thoughts on Love and Marriage

It's interesting to find out what children think about marriage. When asked, "How do you decide WHO to marry?"

1. Kristin, age 10, answered; "No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all, way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with!"

2. Alan, age 10; "You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like sports, and she should keep the chips and wings coming."

3. When asked to give the right age to get married, six-year-old Freddy said, "No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married."

4. When asked if it's better to be single or married, Anita, age 9 said, "It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them."

5. When asked how to make a marriage work, Ricky, 10 years old, said, "Tell your wife she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck."

God wants us to be strong in our marriages!

On Valentine's Day, lovers usually buy gifts for their paramour. Many stores set up outdoor tents to make flowers (the favorite purchase) easily accessible. Other preferred gifts are Valentine's cards, jewelry, candy, scented gifts (perfume, candles), coffee cups, gift cards, massages, etc.

Instead of giving flowers, cards, jewelry, candy, perfume, or massages, why don't you give four things God would want you to — rekindle your passion, build up your spouse, improve your communication, and be more forgiving!

Event Calendar

February 6 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

February 11 — Valentine's Banquet 6 PM

February 12 — Sock Drive Deadline

February 14 — Valentine's Day

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!

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.

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

Valentine's cont' ...

convince us that there is a card for every occasion.

Is Valentine's Day a coverup for saying "I love you" to someone special in our lives? For men, who often find it difficult to say "I love you" a Valentine's Card goes a long way. It's as though a Valentine's card is the annual rite that seals the words "I love you" for the rest of the year. Say it with a card and forget it for the rest of the year.

Cheryl and I try to make it a habit to say "I love you" to each other without provocation. I find it handy to say "I love you" after I walk across the kitchen floor she just mopped. Though the words don't cover up the marks I made on the clean floor, it's better than nothing.

We should not confine saying "I love you" to one day in the year. In my counseling with a couple about their marriage, the wife told her husband he never said, "I love you." His response was "I said it once; that should be enough." No, once is not enough. God shouts "I love you" mul-

multiple times every day. Our understanding of that starts with a favorite verse, "For God so loved the world, meaning you, me, my wife, my cantankerous neighbor, my obnoxious uncle ... God loves all of us."

The standard by which we should measure our expressions of love is not a cute Valentine's card but Jesus Christ. It was John who wrote the words, "For God so loved the world ..."

and then he followed that with an action statement, "He sent His Son." The gift was a gift of himself. John put it this way, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Words laced with love are important but actions which illustrate love may be more important. A young lady with small children became a widow. A man in her church owned a laundry. He sent his truck to pick up her soiled clothes every week and returned them home clean and gently bundled for a year. He never sent a card to her; he never said, "I'll do

this" he just took action. Now that's a profound demonstration of the kind of love God wants us to show to all his creatures, and not just on Valentine's Day.

— Tom Jenkins



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