

Falls Fellowship



Being a Utility Player for Jesus

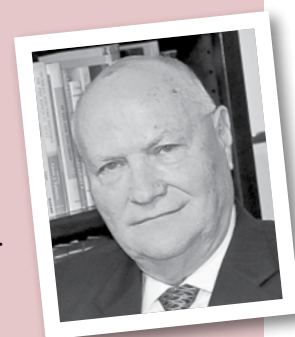
Baseball is back in full swing (pun intended). If you follow baseball in 2023, you'll recognize names such as Shohei Ohtani, Mike Trout, and Aaron Judge. If you don't follow baseball, you'll still recognize names like Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, and Willie Mays. These guys are in, or one day will be in, the baseball Hall of Fame. A name you'll probably never see in the Hall of Fame is Chris Taylor. I probably wouldn't know the name myself, except that I am a Los Angeles Dodgers fan and Chris Taylor is a Dodger. He doesn't play in every game, seems to strike out a lot, isn't really a homerun hitter, and I'm not even sure he has a regular position. On any given day, you might find him at 2nd or 3rd base, short-stop, or in the outfield. His batting average as of this writing is .211, which isn't going to win any awards. I guess what impresses me most about Chris Taylor is that he's out there, doing whatever it takes to get playing time and contributing to his team's success. This type of player is called a utility player. A utility player can play multiple positions and is often called on

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“What do you say?”

What does one say about becoming an octogenarian?

It's good to see the eighth decade of life? I didn't know I would live this long? Age is just a number? Or as the poet Byron said, “Life is in the yellow leaf.”



I must say “thank you” to God for allowing me to come to this new decade of life. As Earl Creech would say, “I celebrated the forty-first anniversary of my thirty-ninth birthday!” Hallelujah!

I am blessed with a loving family who planned and executed the celebration on Sunday. It started with my wife who planned the big event, including securing the caterer, and then brought into her plans our daughter and son. I didn't know about her plans until a few weeks before the celebration. They worked as a team and solic-

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Worship Precautions During June

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-feet social distance except for fam-

ily 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 June, 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.

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.

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 2023-2024 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!

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.*

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June Birthdays

- 2 Anne Young
- 5 Shirley Tart
- 7 Johnny Fonville
- 9 Elizabeth Jackson
- 12 Polly Jenks
- 14 Chris Barham
- 15 Denise Norton
- 16 Arlene Foster
- 23 Ryan Watkins
- 26 Randy Jackson
- 27 Bill Upton
- 28 Tommy Brown
- 29 Earl Creech
- 30 Teresa Doman





A scene from May's Ladies Luncheon.

Ladies Breakfast & Movie

Ladies, please join us in the fellowship hall on Saturday, June 24 at 10 AM for donuts, bagels, juice and coffee.

We will watch the movie *War Room* with Priscilla Shirer and Karen Abercrombie.

This promises to be a fun event and we look forward to seeing you then!

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Jesus continued ...

to do so if there are injuries or other issues at certain positions.

You can be utility players for Jesus! You might be called on to play a variety of positions at different times. One day you might be called on to help clean up the church. Another day you might be called on to visit a sick member. Yet another day, you might be called on to train someone on how to use some piece of equipment. You don't have to be the best at a certain position to be a utility player in baseball, and the same is true when serving God. There are multiple places where your skills can be utilized, and often the only requirement is just a desire to help. So, if you have ever hesitated to help with a certain project because you

Event Calendar

- June 5 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- June 6 — Nominating Committee 6 PM
- June 18 — Father's Day
- June 22 — Church Council Meeting 7 PM
- June 24 — Ladies' Breakfast and Movie 10 AM
- July 2 — Independence Day Celebration 6 PM
- July 3 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM
- July 9 — Men's Breakfast 8 AM

think you might not be able to contribute, just ask whoever oversees that project - I am sure they can find a way for you to contribute, and you too can become a utility player for Jesus!

— Alan Watkins

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

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

Plans cont' ...

ited the help of some of our gracious ladies in the final execution of Cheryl's plans.

I am blessed to work with a church which shows its love and appreciation for their pastor as he enters the eighth decade of his life. We have built memories together, pastor and church, and they will help sustain me for the remainder of my life. I came to Falls with the thought I would be here for a short period of time as your interim. God had other plans. Linwood Barham, among others, encouraged me to become your pastor. When I spoke about being in my mid-seventies he said "Why I know pastors serving into their eighties. You are a young man." Well, Linwood, now I am in my eighties.

The Nominating Committee will soon begin its task of recommending church members to serve on the various committees of our church. The work of our church is focused through committees and groups. We have been blessed to have people to take leadership positions in our committees and I hope if you are approached to serve you will pray about it and trust the leadership of the Lord as you make your decision. I am grateful for the work of our committees and all who volunteer with their time and talents.

Speaking of volunteers, next month we will nominate deacons with the election in August. Our by-laws say, "Deacons function as servant leaders of the Church from a spiritual perspective, and legally as the Board of Directors." Their work is critical to our

church's mission. I rely on them to assist me as pastor and would find it difficult to do my work without their support. Begin asking God to place on your heart the names of persons you believe should serve as a deacon.

Naomi Tsujimura faithfully helped guide our church's missions' emphases. She led us in our work to collect food for Tri-Area Ministries and she recently helped us collect more than 900 pounds of food for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. She will be moving, and we will sorely miss her and her work in our church. In addition to working in missions, she was a faithful member of the choir. Our prayers go with she and her husband as they move.

A reminder to pray: Some of our members are working through crises. Others are coping with the effects of aging. Some are dealing with the traumas of dysfunctional families and still others simply need for us to ask God to bring joy into their lives. "The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results" (James 5:16, Living Bible).

— Tom Jenkins

Noise! continued ...

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!



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