

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. EPHESIANS 4:4-6



**Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church
2852 Cedar Creek Road ■ Fayetteville, NC 28312**

(910 483-3822

Dr. Reginald Wells, Pastor

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

www.fallingrunchurch.org

WELCOME

We are glad you have chosen to become a part of our Church Family. God has truly blessed us with your membership. We want to share information about Falling Run with you. In this booklet, you will find the following information:

Church Covenant

Who We Are...?

The History of Falling Run (FRMBC)

How to Be A *FAT* Christian

The Ministries of Falling Run

Church Staff

Who Do I Call About...?

Policies and Procedures Guide

If You Decide to Leave

Member Profile

Please take time to review this information. It should answer most of the questions you may have about Falling Run. If you need more information, please contact your assigned Deacon. Also, feel free to call on any of the Church staff for support in your Christian journey.

Again, Welcome and God Bless You!

Church Covenant

The Church covenant is a voluntary agreement by members of a Baptist Church whereby they promise to conduct their lives in such a way as to glorify God and promote the ongoing of His Church. Every member should study it carefully, refer to it often and seek to live by it. It clearly outlines the obligations of church membership.

1. SALVATION AND BAPTISM

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. We do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

2. DUTIES TO THE CHURCH

We agree therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout the world.

3. DUTIES IN PERSONAL CHRISTIAN LIVING

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all battling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

4. DUTIES TO FELLOW MEMBERS

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

5. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.



Who We Are...?

Mission Statement

Our mission at Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church is to transform every willing person into a growing and committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

Vision Statement

Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church Strives to be a Christian Community within the community that transforms the community.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church is the most democratic of Protestant Churches in that it is governed by the congregation, with the people choosing their own minister and leader. Each Baptist Church is an entity in and of itself, having no council or ecclesiastical body to ask of or answer to. We encourage each person to rely on their conscience and listen as God speaks to them. We oppose the baptism of infants and insist that baptism be restricted to believers who are old enough to make their own declaration of faith. We insist upon baptism by immersion rather than by pouring on or sprinkling of water. Persons are received into the fellowship and membership of the Baptist Church by baptism, Christian experience, letter, restoration or watch care.

The first Baptist congregation was started by John Smith and 36 exiled Englishmen who later became the Pilgrims of New England. Roger Williams, an Englishman, has been called the father of the American Baptist Church because of his formation of the first Baptist Church on American soil in Providence, Rhode Island in 1639.

The religious experience for Africans was, is, and forever shall be the source of all life and its meaning. All of life is sacred in African thought, and such deep religious feelings and practices were brought to America by our African ancestors.

The North American slaveholders suppressed African culture and forced slaves to imitate the worship of their White masters. The Black preacher is a unique mixture of the African tribal past and American Christianity. Two things that assisted the Black preacher in his/her attempts to preach the Gospel were his/her ability to dramatize and sing. Since these forms of expressions were prevalent in the Baptist Church, African slaves became most attracted to it.

Although Black people had churches other than Baptist, historically speaking, the Baptist Church seemed to flourish more than any other. The Methodist, at one time, ranked as the largest Protestant denomination in America. Baptists now form the largest Protestant group in the United States.

The five Black National Baptist groups form another large segment. A third major group, the American Baptist Churches, is an active and large Baptist group.

The size of the Black Baptist Church ranges from a handful to thousands. In methods of worship, we range from highly emotional to the most sophisticated. Black Baptist Churches are not confined to four walls. Active outreach programs are extending into the community, nation, and even foreign countries. Black Baptists look to the church for social, economic, and political guidance as well as religious leadership.

Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church is a member of the following: East Cumberland Mission, Middle District Baptist Association, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

The History of Falling Run

(1872 – present)

The history of the Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church dates to the year 1872. That was the year that Reverend William Devane, assisted by the Reverend Ransom Royal, and a group was sent out by the First Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina for the expressed purpose of organizing a church in this section of Cumberland County. This church was located near the East Banks of the Cape Fear River, about three miles from its present location. The name Falling Run was derived from a small falling stream that ran down to the river; thus, the church received the name Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Devane came to Cumberland County at the request of James Kelly, Sr. and Washington Evans who had met him at a meeting, then known as the Old Grays Creek Association. Reverend Devane made the journey up the Cape Fear River by steamboat in the latter part of 1871. He was unsuccessful in finding the proper people; therefore, he was forced by circumstances to return to his home in Kelly, North Carolina. Later in the same year, Reverend Devane attempted another voyage up the river by boat. This time, he was successful in finding some of the people of the community. Among the first to meet him were Allen McDaniel and his wife, Margrett. These three formed a friendly relationship. Reverend Devane very quickly sensed the need of the people for they had recently come out from under the chains of slavery.

Reverend Devane immediately began to minister to both the spiritual and intellectual needs of the people by preaching the gospel and teaching school under a brush shelter built by the people of the community. Later a frame building was erected which was used for worship and teaching. During the time of his teaching, the following persons came under his tutorship: Rachel McDaniel, Lillious Wilson, Maggie Wilson, Annie Jane Evans, Floretta Evans, Thomas Smith and others.

Final preparations were made for the organization of the church in January 1872, with the following persons constituting its membership: the first Deacons, Washington Evans and Allen McDaniel, Brothers Charles P. Evans, Wesley McDaniel, Toney Melvin, and Sisters Rachel McDaniel, Winnie McDaniel, Marzella Evans, and Margrett McDaniel. Others were soon baptized and joined. Thus, Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church began its growth. The day was appointed, and the people gathered, and the Rev. Ransom Royal was selected to preach the Organizational Sermon. He used for a text, Genesis 24:49, "*And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.*"

In 1894, this present plot of land was purchased and the church, which was a framed structure, relocated. In 1953, Rev. H. R. Cogdell and the members, feeling the need for a more modern edifice, began plans for a new structure. We entered the present building for worship in 1959.

Improvements were needed and our church was expanded to include a large fellowship hall and additional Sunday School classrooms, a baptistery with mural and additional remodeling. Progress continued with the purchase of additional cemetery land, paving of the parking lot, and restoration of the church bell. For future growth and development, 10.5 acres of land was purchased. A lighted sign was erected. The old sign is a memorial to our deceased

members and was dedicated July 22, 2001. A fifteen-passenger bus was purchased and is being utilized every Sunday and sometimes during the week. In July 2000, we became an incorporated church. In 2016, twelve and a half acres of land located next to the church was purchased.

Through a grant of \$137,000.00 provided by the Governor's Crime Commission, Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church sponsored the East Cumberland Enrichment Opportunities Program. This program was a comprehensive summer and after school tutorial program. There were three summer programs and three after school programs. In addition, the church has since sponsored two enrichment programs.

This church, during the one hundred and forty-five years of existence, has been very fruitful. Falling Run has licensed several ministers to preach the gospel. Many have done and are doing magnificent work in the kingdom building.

Reverend William Wesley McGuire, one of the sons of this church was the first Pastor of Lewis Chapel Baptist Church of Fayetteville, North Carolina, and First Baptist Church of Stedman, North Carolina which he helped to organize.

Reverend W. H. Rhone organized Christian Light Baptist Church of Autryville, North Carolina. He was a member of Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church and was licensed by the church.

Reverend Dr. Reginald A. Wells assumed the duty of Pastor on February 10, 2013, and was installed on March 17, 2013. Since his arrival, church renovations have been completed and several ministries have been added to facilitate growth in the church. He graduated with a Doctor of Ministry degree in the areas of Preaching and Leadership in May 2015.

Thanks to the Pastors who have served Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church since its existence: Rev. William Devane, Rev. Solomon Devane, Rev. Hayes Peterson, Rev. G. W. Moore, Rev. Elijah Tate, Rev. M. R. Robinson, Rev. J. D. Cowan, Rev. M. L. Dawson, Rev. G. H. Corbett, Rev. F. R. Devane, Rev. A. H. Dixon, Rev. W. H. Hill, Rev. B. B. Bethea, Rev. G. W. White, Rev. A. A. Heartly, Rev. Sampson David, Rev. H. R. Cogdell, Rev. O. L. Bennett, Rev. Rudolph Tripp, Rev. John D. McDonald, Rev. Tommie W. Campbell, and Rev. Dr. Leonard R. Faison, Sr.



How to Be A Faithful Christian

The Church member has sacred responsibilities. You have become a member of God's family, and it is your privilege and duty to play your part in forwarding and helping the cause of Jesus Christ. God has a plan for the world; and you – the Church member, as a Christian, fits into God's plan. Here are some of your responsibilities as a Church member:

1. **SERVING** The Pastor cannot do the work of the Church alone. He needs others to help him. There are many ways of helping such as ushering, singing in the choir, the mission and outreach programs, and holding an office in the Church.
2. **LEARNING** You should come to know your Bible well. You should learn how to serve, and you should know your Church and its practices. There are many opportunities for this through the total Church program. You are expected to become actively involved in our Church Bible study and training programs.
3. **WITNESSING** A Christian is always desirous that others would come to know Jesus Christ. We are God's ambassadors. Therefore, our lives should always represent Christ. The Church offers opportunities for witnessing through various missionary and outreach programs. God says we are His witnesses, Christ made known to others by us. Share Christ by becoming a soul winner!
4. **PRAYING** Prayer is a vital part of Christian living. All Christians should learn how to pray in order that their lives may experience it many benefits and blessings. Joining with others in prayer affords a great spiritual stimulus.
5. **WORSHIPPING** Worship keeps the soul of your Church alive. You should regularly attend worship services and be faithful. You should be always reverent in Church. Remember, you are worshipping God.
6. **GIVING** Our Church advocates tithing. This means giving one-tenth of all the money earned to Christ and His Church. We should give cheerfully because God has given us everything in the first place. You are urged to give regularly. Remember, tithing is a starting point for Christian giving. (*Envelopes are located behind each church pew – fill them out thoroughly for accurate recordkeeping and tax purposes*).

The Ministries of Falling Run

Benevolence Ministry

Bus Ministry

Check-Up Ministry

Christian Education

Sunday School

Daughters of Zion

Floral Club

Greeters Ministry

Health Services Ministry

Senior Missionary Group

Young Adult Ministry

Senior Ministry

Music Ministry

Pastor's Aide

Ushers Ministries

Youth Ministry

Ministry Beyond the Walls

Backpack Buddies



Church Staff

Dr. Reginald A. Wells
Pastor

Deacon Flether W. Fort, Sr.
Chair of Deacons

Mr. Joseph Fort
Chair of Trustees

Mrs. Addie Sims
Church Clerk

Mrs. Leola Randolph
Church Treasurer

Sis. Rosa Beavers

Church Auditor

Sis. Tabithia Shelton
Administrative Assistant

Who Do I Call About...?

Whenever questions arise during your membership at Falling Run, contact the Church office and you will be directed to the appropriate member for assistance. The number: **910-483-3822**



Policies and Procedures Guide

The following policies and procedure are subject to change at the sole discretion of the membership or leaders of the Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church and are not all inclusive of all policies and procedures at this Church.

What Is a Policy?

A Policy is a statement that defines the authority required, boundaries set, responsibilities delegated, and guidelines established to conduct a function of the church. In other words, policies are "what" a church does or who does the task, why it is done, and under what conditions it is done. Policies answer questions that arise during unique circumstances.

Policies provide uniform treatment of a situation, thus achieving continuity of operation. Policies take personalities out of the picture.

What Is a Procedure?

Procedures tell "how" a task is done. A detailed listing is made of each step taken to complete the process. A step-by-step description of the process is used to complete the job.

Why? First, this has been compiled to serve as a means of communication and instructional tool, providing meaningful information to the household of God. A lack of information leads only to speculation, which always leads to disorder and confusion. Our God is a God of order. He moves wonderfully and powerfully when His house is set in order.

We have endeavored to provide an overview of ministries, policies, and procedures as they relate to our congregational members. Please take time to carefully read and familiarize yourself with the operations of your church family. Keep it in a handy place, consult it when you need to. We present this handbook in love.

OUR OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open four days a week, **Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm**. However, before you make a trip to the church, please be sure to call ahead (910-483-3822) to make sure that someone is in the building. The Pastor may be out of the office for meetings, visitation, errands, or hospital ministry. The office is usually closed during holidays and inclement weather.

OUR ORDINANCES

1. Water Baptism – Water baptism is a symbolic step Jesus commanded of new believers. In our church, baptism is reserved for older children and adults because it always follows a conscious decision to accept Christ's offer of salvation. We baptize believers by immersing them in water. This process does not save a person, only serves as a public testimony signifying the death of the individual's sinful past and their new birth in Christ. It is an important even in the life of the believer, confirming the changing power of Jesus Christ and a new identity in Him. Various opportunities throughout the year are provided for individuals to make a commitment in this way.

2. Communion – Communion is observed on the first Sunday of the month. This solemn commemoration reflects on the loving sacrifice of Jesus, remembering his suffering, His death, and his glorious resurrection. Communion serves as a worshipful reminder of the great price Jesus paid for our salvation and encourages deeper devotion to Christ.

MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP & MINISTRIES

1. How Do I Handle Conflicts or Disputes with other Members?

- i. Disagreements are to be expected in a church family. They do not happen to hurt or offend anybody, but rather they serve as an opportunity for both people to grow and mature in the Lord.
- ii. In accordance with Jesus' words in the book of Matthew chapter 18, we are to meet privately with the person and explain what they did to hurt us or what we are disputing about.
- iii. If it can be resolved at that stage, nothing further is required. It is also acceptable for the two people to “agree to disagree” about something and pray about it.
- iv. If the matter cannot be resolved, we should ask another church member to meet with us and the other person to resolve the matter.
- v. If that does not work, we should ask a member of the deacon's ministry to help find resolve.
- vi. Finally, if that does not work, we should involve the Pastor. Whatever is decided at that stage should be accepted by both parties.

OUR MINISTRIES

The church endeavors to provide opportunities for personal growth and ministry.

CHURCH LIABILITY CONCERNING PERSONAL PROPERTY

Sometimes people who attend leave personal items, sometimes of great value, in the building or on the property. We make every attempt to keep our building and property secure, but we cannot and do not assume responsibility for these items. Liability for loss or theft is assumed by the owner.

BUILDING SAFETY

Fire Evacuation – In the event of a fire please locate the nearest pull switch and activate the alarm. There are laminated instructions for leaving the building posted in visible areas throughout the building. When exiting the building get to the designated meeting spots, the red barn and beyond the fence parking lot.

CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A CHRIST-LIKE MANNER

When we embrace His values, we then over time will produce in a natural way the behaviors of Christ. Here are the ones we consider most important:

1. LISTEN
2. BE LOYAL
3. BUILD UNITY AND STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH FAMILY
4. COMMUNICATING WELL WITH EACH OTHER AND BETWEEN MINISTRIES
5. DEVELOP THE HEART OF A SERVANT FOR BOTH YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

6. BUILD OTHERS UP, ENCOURAGING THEM, AND EMPOWERING THEM
RECOGNIZE AND REWARD OTHERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Established Church Home
2. Participate in Church Ministries
3. Vote in Church elections

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1. Fellowship in the greatest institution that can be found.
2. Christian growth and development through the Church
3. Christian service through the work of the Church

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. Come early to assist if needed in the preparation of services.
2. Never enter the aisle or talk during the reading of scripture, prayer, or any other reading (e.g. announcements etc.)
3. If the message of the occasion has begun, please take a seat near the door.
4. Be devout in every aspect, you are here to worship not to socialize or lounge.
5. Be thoughtful of the comfort of others and not selfish and have people crawling over us to seat. Please move down toward the center of the pew or seat.
6. Consider that a stranger is a guest in our church. Treat them with the same kindness that we would have them greet us in their church.
7. Never eat, drink, leave waste in the pew or other non-designated areas.
8. Always remember that we are in the Lord's house. So, we are to join in the service and give praise, thanks, and admiration to God.



If You Decide to Leave

1. Life change, i.e., military, career, family move: inform the Pastor so the Church as can be informed.
2. Dissatisfaction: Ask God to show you what part of your dissatisfaction is you and what might be related to others. Great things come from honest conversations in which people take responsibility.
3. Talk to someone: a healthy, respectful conversation.
4. Clarify the problem: Is it misunderstanding or misalignment? A *misunderstanding* can be clarified. More information, an apology, or a new perspective can often move a person from being upset to being at peace quickly. In fact, you might not even end up leaving or the Church might end up changing. *Misalignment* is another issue. If you are fundamentally at odds with the approach of the church, it's an alignment issue. And because no local church is the entire body of Christ, healthy leadership will be excited for you to find a church that better aligns with your understanding of church or your personality.
5. Leave with grace: Say goodbye well. Don't burn relational bridges. Affirm the good in what you see in the church you're leaving (remember at one point you thought it was awesome). Take the high road. You won't regret it. The high road isn't an easy road but it's always the best road. And besides, the church is the bride of Christ. When you insult the church, you insult Christ. If you really want to know what the standard is for exiting with grace, ask yourself: *Five years from now, what will I wish I had done?* That question clarifies so much.
6. Find and commit to another local church: Your goal is not to consume church, but to be the church. Find a church where you can serve, love, give, invite and share the life-changing transformation that Christ is bringing about in you.

