



W THE INDOW

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, North Carolina

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No. 13

For Your Consideration . . .

Twice, in recent weeks, I have been asked about my vision for First Baptist Church Ahoskie. I am grateful to have been pushed a bit to think about a vision for our church. Through my experience as a pastor, however, I have learned that my vision for the future may not be the vision of the larger congregation. And, furthermore, if a large percentage of the congregation does not embrace a similar vision for the church, it usually does not materialize. So, in my first column as your pastor-elect, I would like to propose the following as a vision for the future of our church for your consideration.

My vision for our church is based on something I've experienced elsewhere. In fact, I've been carrying this picture of church with me for 27 years. I attended Black Creek Baptist Church, in Mechanicsville, Va., in the early 1990s. Though I did not join the church, because I was then in college and thus living in another state the majority of the year, I was baptized by Black Creek Baptist Church. The church sanctuary was sacred ground for me. I remember feeling the Holy in our midst during worship. I remember practical preaching from the pulpit. I can still see the sanctuary filled with people. I can still hear enthusiastic singing (from a hymn book!) that left me feeling that I was in the company of people who sincerely believed that we were singing, not to one another, but to the God who had revealed himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

I know, of course, that Black Creek Baptist, afflicted with the human condition as all churches are, had its problems. I have no doubt that there was some degree of conflict in the congregation. Nonetheless, this church was characterized by less apathy and a larger percentage of congregational participation than any other church I have been a

part of. In other words, as I look back on my experiences with this congregation, it seems that more people sincerely cared and therefore more people participated. In the 1990s Black Creek Baptist Church was a vibrant congregation. When other churches were declining and dying, Black Creek was growing in Christian discipleship as well as in number.

During my six years at Chowan, I've struggled the most to help the student who just does not care — the student who puts her head down on the desk throughout class, the student who does not even attempt the essay question which is worth 50 points, the student who refuses to take notes. Churches are similar. If a large percentage of the church is apathetic, authentic discipleship and evangelical growth are difficult to accomplish.

First Baptist Ahoskie, though in a state of numerical decline, has much life left. This excites me. I find the current vitality of the church attractive, attractive enough to serve as your pastor. We have a foundation on which to build (or rebuild). If we are to do so, however, we will need a larger percentage of our congregation to care enough to become more faithful in attendance, more generous in giving, and more diligent in contributing to the work of the church.

What do you think? Is this a vision that you can embrace? If so, I look forward to the hard work that is necessary in order to participate in a vibrant church. If not, what is your vision for the future of our church? This is an important question for us all to ponder.

In Christ,
Trey

From the Associate Pastor . . .

This summer, FBCA is merging our annual Music Day Camp and Vacation Bible School into one event . . .

Summer Day Camp 2017



July 16, 5:00 pm Kick-Off Meal
July 17-20, 2:30—5:30 pm

The week of July 16-20, our building will be filled with the beautiful sounds of children as they sing, play, and learn about the beauty of God's diverse creation, and their important place in it. As the faculty and I make final preparations, we invite you to join us in praying that the week would be spiritually formative for all who participate. We also would appreciate your prayers for each of us as we lead in various ways.

- Linda Alexander, Grade School Guide
- Susan Copeland, Grade School Guide
- Colleen Curley, Grade School Guide
- Eva Early, Grade School Bible Connection Leader
- Susan Earley, Meals Co-Coordinator
- Jayne Frei, Meals Co-Coordinator
- Eve Greene, Preschool Guide
- Molly Hairston, Preschool Guide
- Jane Marie Hollingsworth, Preschool Guide
- Angela Kinlaw, Art Connection Leader
- Jordan Martin, Drama Director
- Suzanne Newbern, Preschool Director
- Jean Parker, Childcare Provider
- Anna Pierce, Preschool Bible Connection Leader
- Judy H. Pierce, Childcare Provider
- Barbara Roberson, Registration Assistant
- Clair Saunders, Accompanist
- Peggy Springfield, Grade School Prayer Connection Leader
- Rosa Swain, Registration Assistant
- Anita Thompson, Director
- Margaret Winn, Registration Leader

Join us for the Closing Program
Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 pm
In the Sanctuary

Grace & peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anita'.



Worshiping Together

Sunday, July 16
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Absolute Certainties in a Changing World
Romans 8:31-39
Rev. Billy Presley

Worship Choir
The Sanctuary Choir

NC Baptist All State Youth Choir July 16-23, 2017

We offer our congratulations to Steven Hollingsworth, son of Paul & Elizabeth Hollingsworth, on his acceptance into the 2017 NC Baptist All-State Youth Choir.

Steven will depart on July 16 for Wingate University, where the choir will be retreating and rehearsing before beginning their tour on July 19. This year's theme is "I Am Not My Own," based on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. The concerts that will be closest to us are:

- Thurs., July 20, 7 pm at FBC, Southern Pines
- Sunday, July 23, 6 pm at FBC Greensboro

Anita plans to attend the concert in Greensboro and welcomes anyone who would like to ride along.

Organ Recital Jordan Prescott, Organist Friday, July 28, 2017, 7:00 pm First Baptist Church

A former organ student of Buddy Hyatt, Jordan graduated from the ECU School of Music in May.



Following his service this summer as music director for "The Lost Colony," Jordan will begin organ studies at Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Many of our congregation will remember Jordan as one who served briefly as our interim organist while in high school.

Thank You

Notes of thanks and appreciation have been received from David & Elizabeth R. Davis, and Chowan University (CCSA Scholarship). These and other notes of interest may be found on the bulletin board beside the church office.

Dr. Gilliam on Study Leave

From July 9 through August 4, our interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, will be on study leave as he attends the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on the campus of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Specifically, he will be participating in the institute's offering of "Challenges of Teaching World Religions." While Dr. Gilliam is away, we are grateful for our staff ministers as well as our two beloved retired ministers/members who will preach on the following schedule:

July 23 Rev. Ron McSwain
July 30 Ms. Clair Saunders



The "Saddle Bags" are making their rounds from member to member. If one has not yet made it to you, please call Martie Taylor in the church office.

Stewardship Statement

July 9, 2017

Weekly Need	\$	8,778.00
Weekly Offering	\$	7,022.00
Difference	\$	-1,756.00
YTD Needs	\$	245,784.00
YTD Offerings	\$	215,860.48
YTD Difference	\$	-29,923.52

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Leadership for the 2017-18 Church Year

The Nominating Committee's first priority is to find persons to serve in the following ministries:

SUNDAY SCHOOL —

- ♦Bed Babies Sunday School Caregivers:
4th Sunday: 2 people needed
- ♦Ages 1 & 2 Sunday School Teachers:
1 teacher needed to join a team teaching every other month
- ♦Grades 1-3 Sunday School Teacher:
1 teacher needed to teach every third month
- ♦Adult II Co-ed Sunday School Class
A 3rd teacher is needed to rotate teaching responsibilities
- ♦Hannah Brown Sunday School Class
A 3rd teacher is needed to rotate teaching responsibilities
- ♦Edith Freeman Sunday School Class
A 3rd teacher is needed to rotate teaching responsibilities

EXTENDED SESSION —

- Childcare during worship:
- ♦Birth to Age 2: *4 people needed*
- ♦Ages 3-5: *2 people needed*

Once the above ministries are fully staffed we will begin working on our committees. They are:

- ♦Building & Grounds
- ♦Children's Ministry Council
- ♦Finance
- ♦Investments/Endowment
- ♦Missions
- ♦Music
- ♦Senior Adult Ministry
- ♦Technology
- ♦Wedding
- ♦Youth Ministry Council

If you have an interest in serving in any of the above positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee or Rev. Anita Thompson to make your interest known. Committee members are: Harriet Byrum, Melanie Byrum, Butch Hassell, Henry Joyner, Judy G. Pierce, and Cheryl Slachta.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of July 16-22

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Penny Rose, 332-2289
Bill Arrington, 332-5267

Extended Session—July 16

Birth-Age 2: Melanie Byrum, Susan Earley,
& JoAnn Herring
Ages 3-5: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ushers—July 16

Carolyn Arrington, Elijah Brown, Jameson
Brown, Avery Byrum, Bill Magette, Alan Myers;
Balcony— Wally McKeel & Kathryn Outlaw

Sound System— July 16

James Early

Floral Offering — July 16

Bill & Debbie Magette

Home Delivered Meals—July 17

Penny & Frank Rose

Food Pantry— July 21

Rose Blowe & Virgia Nichols

Sunday School at Creekside—July 16

Genesis Class

Week of July 23-29

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Andy Woodard, 332-2989
Debbie Magette, 332-4673

Extended Session—July 23

Birth-Age 2: Georgia Copeland, Beverly
Bazemore, & Kathy McCaskey
Ages 3-5: Susan Copeland & J. C. Doughtie

Ushers—July 23

Debbie Greene, Tim Frei, Patricia Hughes,
Mollee Frei Lamm, Camille Pierce, Carroll
Thompson;
Balcony— Colby Hauser & Keith Rawls

Sound System—July 23

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering — July 23

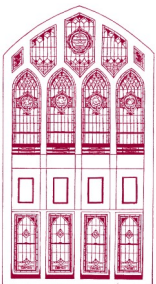
TBA

Home Delivered Meals—July 24

Joyce Leary & Noreen Hannon

Food Pantry— July 28

Bess Leary & Judy H. Pierce



The Window

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie
Main and West Streets
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Office Hours:
8:00 am -5:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Office Closed on Friday