



IN THE WINDOW

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

Volume 50

September 20, 2017

No. 18

God and Tabby . . .

The issue of theodicy is a major difficulty for the Christian tradition. Theodicy asks the question: If God is just why does evil exist; if God is good why do bad things happen to innocent people? For example, why does a good God allow innocent people to suffer and die as a result of hurricanes and tsunamis? Why does a just God allow child abuse to exist? Why doesn't this God, we worship through Christ, intervene? The issue of theodicy is in fact the reason some people cannot believe there is a God.

I acknowledge that it is sometimes difficult to believe in a good and just God in light of the tragedies that are a part of this life. However, I have often been comforted in relation to this theological quagmire with the interactions I have shared with animals - of a four-legged kind - through the years.

My current theologian in residence is our cat, Tabby. Her favorite place to lounge is on top of the Jeep, until recently that is. A month ago I purchased a soft top for the Jeep. I decided this would make life easier for me, as well as friends that I call upon to help me take the hard top off, when the weather is just right. With the soft top, I need no assistance taking down the top. It simply folds back.

The addition of the soft top, however, has made life more difficult, not easier, for Tabby. While she used to lay, sleep, roll over on her back in peace on top of the hard top, I do not allow her to lay, sleep, roll over on the soft top because I do not want her to cause it any damage. Therefore, after a lengthy conversation with her about why she can no longer hang out on top of the Jeep, I now have to squirt water on her when she gets on top of the Jeep. The other day when I did this she hurried off of

the Jeep and gave me a "Go to Heaven" look, if you know what I mean! She was not only mad; she was confused. I understand why. For the past year she has had a peaceful resting place on top of the Jeep. Now, she is not allowed on top of the Jeep at all. From her perspective I am sure this recent development makes no sense. And though it pains me, I am confident she views me as unjust.

Though the analogy may lack sophistication, it works for me. Perhaps it will for you too. Just as there is an enormous gap between my understanding of the world and Tabby's, so is there an enormous gap between our understanding of the world and God's. Just as my comprehension of events is far superior to Tabby's comprehension, so is God's comprehension of what transpires far superior to our comprehension.

I can so identify with Tabby's look of anger and confusion when I spray her with water. Can't you?

In Christ,
Trey



Worshipping Together

September 24, 2017

11:00 am

16th Sunday after Pentecost

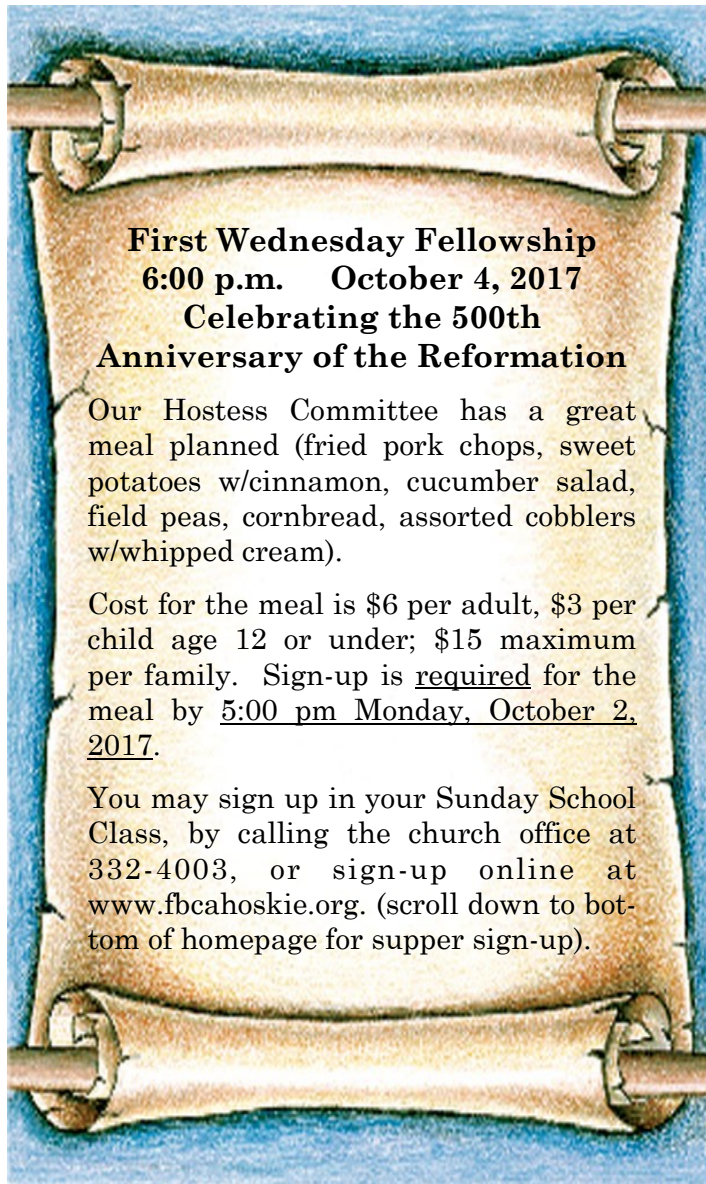
Generosity

Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir

The Sanctuary Choir



**First Wednesday Fellowship
6:00 p.m. October 4, 2017
Celebrating the 500th
Anniversary of the Reformation**

Our Hostess Committee has a great meal planned (fried pork chops, sweet potatoes w/cinnamon, cucumber salad, field peas, cornbread, assorted cobblers w/whipped cream).

Cost for the meal is \$6 per adult, \$3 per child age 12 or under; \$15 maximum per family. Sign-up is required for the meal by 5:00 pm Monday, October 2, 2017.

You may sign up in your Sunday School Class, by calling the church office at 332-4003, or sign-up online at www.fbcahoskie.org. (scroll down to bottom of homepage for supper sign-up).

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, our pastor, joins our fellowship by transfer of his letter from Murfreesboro Baptist Church; and, Mrs. Sarah Freeman, wife of Justin, and a long time attender, officially joins us from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC. We are delighted to have Trey and Sarah make First Baptist their church home. Welcome to the family, folks!

Senior Adults! JOY Fellowship resumes Thursday, October 12. Sign-up sheets will be in your Sunday School Class boxes or you may call the church office. Cost is \$4.50 per person. Watch your church news for more info.



**Wednesday, September 27, 2017
6:00 p.m.**

Discussion of Proposed Bylaws Change
Regarding Deacon Nomination and Election



2017-18

The listing of prayer chain phone groups has been distributed. If you did not receive your new list or it is no longer convenient for you to remain a part of the prayer chain, please call Gayle Cross, Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 332-4502. Also if you would like to become a participant on the prayer chain please call. It is not too late to become a part of this ministry of our church.



September 17, 2017

Weekly Need	\$	8,778.00
Weekly Offering	\$	8,543.84
Difference	\$	-234.16
YTD Needs	\$	333,564.00
YTD Offerings	\$	288,705.94
YTD Difference	\$	-44,858.06
CBF Hurricane Relief	\$	3,000.00
<i>(Gifts are still being received.)</i>		
Baptist Retirement Homes	\$	140.00
Capital Campaign to Date	\$	340,350.53

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Save the Date

Service of Installation

for

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III (Trey)

October 15, 2017

11:00 am

Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis, Guest Preacher
Executive Coordinator of the CBF of NC



2017

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 17th Sunday after Pentecost •10:50a Church Conference— ByLaws Change Vote	2 •1:30p Staff Meeting	3 •10a WOM Groups 2 & 4 •7p WOM Group 3	4 •6p First Wed. Fellowship Meal	5 •1p WOM Group 5	6 •9a Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC)	7
8 18th Sunday after Pentecost	9	10	11 •3p CWJC Board Mtg, FH	12 •12n JOY Fellowship Lunch, FH	13 •9a CWJC	14
15 19th Sunday after Pentecost •11a Installation Service for Trey Gilliam	16 •7:00p Building & Grounds Committee	17 •6p Missions Committee •7p Deacons' Meeting	18 •12n Ahoskie Woman's Club	19	20 •9a CWJC	21
22 20th Sunday after Pentecost	23	24	25	26 •6p Edith Freeman Class Dinner, FH	27 •9a CWJC	28
29 21st Sunday after Pentecost •11a Dedic- ation of Pace Davis	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	Every Sunday 9:45a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 4:00p Chair 5:00p Christmas Choir Rehearsal	Every Monday 1:30p Staff Meeting	Every Wednesday 5:00p Children's Music & Missions 6:00p Bible Study, FH 7:00p Sanctuary Choir 8:00p Vocal Ensemble	



3 Barbara Martin	5 Phil Sisler	13 Jean Dilday	20 J. C. Doughtie
3 Cindy Henderson	5 Jenni Byrd	13 John Parker Jr	20 Louis Mizelle
	6 Sophia Sumner	15 Rita Bula	23 Margaret Springfield
	7 Lawson Marsh	16 Fin Dunn	24 Timothy Pierce
	9 Thomas Leary	17 Christine McKeel	26 Catherine Harrell
	10 Michelle Boyd	18 R. D. Matthews	27 Melanie Byrum
	11 Stan Dixon	19 Katherine Allen	30 Ronald Coburn
	13 Nellie Barnes	19 Corbett Britton	31 Justin Freeman

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of September 24-30

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Charles Hughes, 287-8403

Penny Rose, 287-8531

Extended Session—September 24

Birth-Age 2: Georgia Copeland, Lisa &
Scott Outlaw

Ages 3-5: Susan Copeland & J. C. Doughtie

Ushers—September 24

Carolyn Arrington, Ed Copeland Jr., Charles
Hughes, Chloe Rose, Peggy Springfield,
Carroll Thompson;

Balcony— Andy & Isabella Woodard

Sound System—September 24

James Early

Floral Offering—September 24

Family of Dot Williford

Home Delivered Meals—September 25

Bess & William Leary Sr.

Food Pantry—September 27

JoAn Downs, Patrise Godwin & Shirley
Stephenson

Week of October 1-7

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Bill Arrington, 332-5267

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Extended Session—October 1

Birth-Age 2: Jenni Byrd, Betty M. Cooper,
& Cheryl Slachta

Ages 3-5: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ushers—October 1

Manny Abro, Lanie Byrum, Gloria Freeman,
Steven Hollingsworth, Spencer Matthews,
& Chip Rose;

Balcony— Wally McKeel & Keith Rawls

Sound System—October 1

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering—October 1

Sharon Roope

Home Delivered Meals—October 2

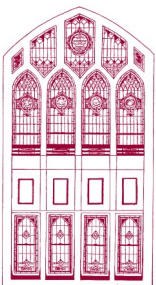
Joyce Leary & Noreen Hannon

Food Pantry—October 6

Vicky Overman

Sunday School at Creekside—October 1

Bess Leary



The Window

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Main and West Streets

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours:

8:00 am -5:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Office Closed on Friday

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