



# W THE INDOW

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

Volume 51

April 11, 2018

No. 6

## Baptism, Church Membership, and Baby Dedication

In the light of our recent baby dedication of Carson Rose, as well as our Easter baptisms of Camille Pierce and Fletcher Pierce, I thought it might be good to offer my understanding of these practices. And because baby dedication and baptism often lead to church membership, I want to say a few words about this too.

In our Baptist tradition, we practice what we refer to as “believer’s baptism.” The term is, in fact, just as it sounds – the Baptist tradition thinks it imperative that the individual make their *own* decision to accept Jesus the Christ as their Lord and Savior before baptism. You will sometimes hear the phrase “adult baptism.” This phrase is misleading because, of course, children and youth (as we experienced on Easter Sunday) can decide to follow Christ well before they are adults. In fact, this is what we want to happen!

Baptism is a public demonstration that a person has committed their life to following Jesus. The apostle Paul says in Romans 6:1-4 that those who are baptized into Christ are baptized into Christ’s death. And those who are baptized into Christ are raised to walk in newness of life with Christ. In other words, baptism illustrates what happens at conversion – as Christ died *for* sin, the Christian has died *to* sin and as Christ was raised from the dead, the Christian exits the baptismal waters to live a new life in obedience to God.

Building on Paul’s thoughts, I liken Christian baptism to a wedding ring. The wedding ring is a public announcement that one person is committed to another person in marriage. It symbolizes the commitment that has already been made. Likewise,

baptism announces that a person has committed their life to following Christ.

In the Baptist tradition, we require baptism for membership into the local church. It is important to note that baptism and church membership are two different things. When one is baptized, the person does not have to join the church, though this is usually the case. Church membership brings with it important additional responsibilities. When a person joins a local church, she agrees to attend worship services on a consistent and regular basis, give financial resources to support the ministry of the church, and use her gifts in service to the local church.

As a hopeful prelude to believer’s baptism, we practice baby dedication. Baby dedication is more about the parents of the child and the church congregation than it is about the baby himself. A baby is not yet able to decide for or against following Christ. Therefore, during baby dedication the parents and the church agree to work together to raise the child in the Christian faith so that he will find accepting Christ a most natural step later in life.

Now, I would like to invite *you* to consider baptism and church membership! We have scheduled another baptism for Pentecost Sunday – May 20, 2018. If you are interested in a conversation about baptism please contact me or Anita or Elizabeth. We would love to assist you as you consider your own baptism. Furthermore, if you are interested in joining First Baptist Church, again please contact me, Anita, or Elizabeth. Perhaps, Pentecost Sunday would also be a good day for you to join our church!

In Christ,  
Trey

## From the Associate Pastor

### A New Music Ministry Opportunity

No doubt you've noticed that our Sanctuary Choir is smaller in number these days. For various reasons—moving away, declining health, career circumstance, college—we've lost some members. And though I and many of the Sanctuary Choir members have tried a bit of one-on-one recruiting, we've not been as successful as we hoped. But we did learn something as we tried. We learned that there are persons who would love to sing in the Sanctuary Choir who cannot make the Wednesday evening rehearsals. So, we're now offering a second Sanctuary Choir rehearsal on Sundays at 5:00 pm.

I'm hopeful that this new music ministry opportunity will help build up our Sanctuary Choir. If you have any interest, I hope you'll join us for either the Wednesday 7:00 pm rehearsal or the Sunday 5:00 pm rehearsal.



*Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself...that just to express, in symbolic terms, what it's like when human beings are in harmony. That's a lesson for our times and for all time. I profoundly believe that. - John Rutter*

Grace & peace,

## From the Minister to Youth & Children

What a beautiful Spring we have had in the life of our church. From Easter Egg Hunts, to children singing in worship, to new life. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I want to send a large thank you from all of the youth Passport team. Our fundraiser was a great success and we earned \$1,500. Your generosity has been greatly received. We will continue to raise funds to ensure all of our available youth are able to attend Passport. I will keep you posted on when those events are planned.

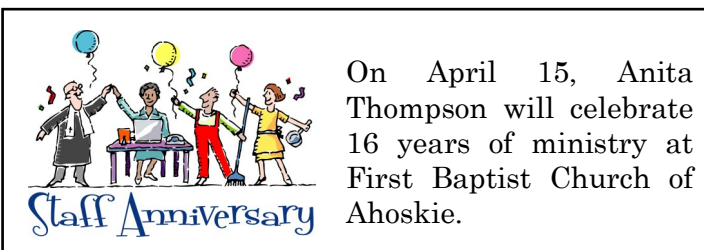


Our youth will be attending Passport Camp June 10-15 on the campus of Averett University in Danville, Virginia. This year's theme is based on 2 Corinthians 12:9a (CEB), "He said to me, 'My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness.'" "Students will explore the big idea that God is enough for whatever comes our way. They'll think about how God made a way so that in Christ, we are enough. They'll also discuss how God's plan is that there is enough for everyone; and how as followers of Christ we can use our voices to say, 'Enough already!' when we see injustice and inequity in this world."

The youth are planning a workday at the North Street House on April 22. If you would like to attend and supervise, please email me at [elizabeth@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:elizabeth@fbcahoskie.org).

As the weather gets warmer, may we be able to notice new life all around us, and in our church.

Elizabeth Villegas



On April 15, Anita Thompson will celebrate 16 years of ministry at First Baptist Church of Ahoskie.



## Worshipping Together

April 15, 2018

11:00 am

*The Third Sunday of Easter*

*You!*

Luke 24:36b-48

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir: Chairo

## The Week Ahead



### Sunday, April 15

9:15 am Chairo Rehearsal

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm Chairo Music Ensemble

5:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 2

5:00 pm Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

6:00 pm Youth Snack Supper (Grades 6-12)

6:30 pm Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

### Monday, April 16

3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting

5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop 1702

7:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee

### Tuesday, April 17

7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

### Wednesday, April 18

12 noon Ahoskie Woman's Club

5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions

6:00 pm Christ's Kids (Grades 1-6)

Adult Bible Study, FH

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 1

8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble

### Friday, April 20

9:00 am Christian Women's Job Corps

### Saturday, April 21

11:30 am Edith Freeman Sun. Sch. Class Lunch

### Sunday, April 22

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm Chairo Music Ensemble

5:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 2

5:00 pm Youth Workday at North St. House

## Workday for North Street House

Saturday, April 14

9:00 am



Work has begun on the North Street House to prepare it for transitional housing for our Roanoke-Chowan Christian Women's Job Corps ministry. If you'd like to sand walls, paint, clean up, trim/remove shrubs, or work in the yard, contact Pat Byrd at 332-4122 or 209-4301.

## New Staff Member

On Tuesday, April 3rd we welcomed Selton Vaughan as our new Custodian. Mr. Vaughan's hours are 8:00—10:00 am, Monday—Friday. The next time you're in the building during his work hours, please introduce yourself and welcome him to our church staff.

## Office Volunteers Needed



Due to the recent retirement of Martie Tayloe, Financial Secretary, and Judy G. Pierce's recovery from surgery and post-surgery treatment, we are in need of volunteers to answer phones

and monitor the West Street entrance. We would love to have volunteers serve a 9 am to noon shift, and a 1 to 5 pm shift, Monday through Thursday, and a 9 am to noon shift on Fridays. Give us a call if you'd like to volunteer: 252-332-4003.

## Scholarship Applications

... for the 2018-19 year of study are due Sunday, April 15, 2018. Applications are available from the church office.



April 8, 2018

Weekly Need	\$	8,555.00
Weekly Offering	\$	6,769.06
Difference	\$	1,785.94

YTD Needs	\$	119,770.00
YTD Offerings	\$	114,504.06
YTD Difference	\$	-5263.94

YTD Global Missions Offering	\$	5,855.01
------------------------------	----	----------

*Thank you for your generous gifts!*

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of April 15-21

### Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

### Deacons on Call

Gloria Freeman, 395-0370

Jean Parker, 395-1464

### Sunday School at Creekside Care—April 15

Adult II Co-ed

### Extended Session—April 15

Birth-Age 2: Jessica Brinkley, Melanie Byrum,  
and Debbie Magette

Ages 3-5: Harriet Byrum and Kari Pierce

### Ushers—April 15

Kay Byrd, J.C. Doughtie, Jane Marie Hollingsworth,  
Camille Pierce, L. Taylor Rose, Edgar Swain;  
Balcony: Colby Hauser & Andy Woodard

### Sound System—April 15

Walt Pierce

### Floral Offering—April 15

Don & LuAnn Joyner

### Home Delivered Meals—April 16

Charlies & Gloria Freeman

### Food Pantry—April 20

Virgia Nichols & Wanda VanNiel

## Week of April 22-28

### Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

### Deacons on Call

Claire Presley, 287-6132

Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

### Extended Session—April 22

Birth-Age 2: Austine & Ernie Evans, &  
Bess Leary

Ages 3-5: James & Eva Early

### Ushers—April 22

Lanie Byrum, Lee Byrum, Bill Magette,  
Pate Pierce, Carroll Thompson, Justice Zoch;  
Balcony— Larry Freeman & Dawson Rose

### Sound System —April 22

Rick Burns

### Floral Offering—April 22

Open

### Home Delivered Meals—April 23

Henry & Pat Byrd

### Food Pantry—April 27

Bess Leary & Judy H. Pierce

---

## The FBC Ministers

Trey Gilliam, Pastor • [trey@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:trey@fbcahoskie.org) • 252-398-7321

Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor • [anita@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:anita@fbcahoskie.org) • 252-395-0061

Elizabeth Villegas • Minister to Youth & Children • [elizabeth@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:elizabeth@fbcahoskie.org), 757-434-6235



## The Window

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Main and West Streets

PO Box 649

Ahoskie, NC 27910-0649

phone 252-332-4003

fax 252-209-0225

email [office@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:office@fbcahoskie.org)

web [www.fbcahoskie.org](http://www.fbcahoskie.org)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
AHOSKIE, N. C.  
PERMIT NO. 64

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED