

❖ Vestibule Poinsettia

In remembrance of the 50th anniversary (December 27, 1968) of the passing of our parents, Ernest and Dola Pittman, we would like to say “thank you” to our Ahoskie friends for the outpouring of love and compassion extended to us which was and continues to be heartfelt and appreciated by the Pittman children. Love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. - Donna, Bruce, Jeff, Mary Lynn, and Bo

❖ Church Offices Schedule for Christmas Week

The church offices will be closed Tuesday & Wednesday, December 25 & 26.

❖ Baptism Next Sunday

Lanie Byrum, daughter of Lee and Melanie Byrum, will be baptized on Sunday, December 30. Lanie shared her profession of faith and joined our church on December 2, 2018.

❖ Called Church Conference

December 30

At the conclusion of the worship service, church members will vote on the recommendation from our deacons that we call the Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam as our full-time pastor.

❖ Epiphany Sunday Breakfast

January 6 at 9:00 am

Instead of having our usual First Wednesday meal and program, we’re going to gather for breakfast on January 6 to celebrate the day of Epiphany, and to assemble comfort bags for Chowan University Campus Ministry. There’s no charge or sign up for the meal, but we are asking that each person bring a can of soup for the comfort bags.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Main & West Streets ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910
www.fbcahoskie.org ♦ (252) 332-4003 ♦ office@fbcahoskie.org

The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

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

Mrs. Elizabeth Villegas
Minister to Youth & Children

Mr. W. Bland Baker
Music Associate

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Appalachian Winter



A Cantata for Christmas Arranged & Composed by Joseph M. Martin

Presented by the Music Ministry of
First Baptist Church of Ahoskie
December 23, 2018 ♦ 11:00 am

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 23, 2018 ✦ 11:00 am

✦ *The Season of the Church Year: The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Dr. Gilliam

ADVENT CHORUS

Advent Candles

Glenn & Susan Eernisse



1. Ad - vent can - dles glow - ing bright, we give thanks for hope and light.
2. Ad - vent can - dles glow - ing bright, we give thanks for peace and light.
3. Ad - vent can - dles glow - ing bright, we give thanks for joy and light.
4. Ad - vent can - dles glow - ing bright, we give thanks for love and light.
Christmas Eve: 5. Ad - vent can - dles glow - ing bright, we give thanks for Christ to - night.



Hope and peace and joy and love, we give thanks to God a - bove.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Mr. & Mrs. Walt & Mary Page Pierce,
Dempsey, Stuart, and Libby

Hope, Peace, Joy & Love

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The Pierce Family, Leaders

Loving God, on this fourth Sunday of Advent,
we thank You for the hope, peace, joy and love You unfailingly offer us.
As we continue our journey toward Christmas,
help us to experience the creative power of hope.
Guard our hearts and minds in the peace that passes understanding.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared,
and magnify Your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You, that we may walk in the light of Christ.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

CHAIRO

Soprano

Jamie Burns
Jennifer Byrd
Avery Byrum
Harriet Byrum
Betty Cooper
Gail Holloman
Betty Joyner
Claudia Morris
Vicky Overman
Gretchen Zoch
Justice Zoch

Tenor

Linda Alexander
Lauren Baker
Lyndsay Britt

Bass

Steven Hollingsworth
Jordan Martin
Brandon Zoch

Alto

Nancy Baker
April Futrell
Jane Marie Hollingsworth
Reagan Zoch

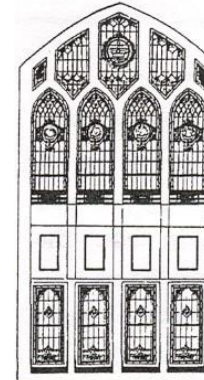
Penny Rose, Narrator



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 23, 2018

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC



✦ Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm

Join us for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve worship service.

✦ Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch

Serving from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

We are pleased to partner with twelve local churches to provide a free, delicious, hot meal, and fellowship in our Fellowship Hall for anyone in our community who would like to come. Thanks to many of you, we have all we need to meet our responsibilities for the meal. If you'd like to help with set up, serving, delivery of meals to the homebound, please join us Christmas Day for any time frame that works for you.

- continued -

This is a season of sharing and celebration.

Children, Go Tell It On the Mountain

Traditional Spirituals: *Children, Go Where I Send Thee*, and *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send you one by one,
One for the little bitty baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.
Two for Mary and Joseph . . .
Three for the kings that saw the star . . .
Four is for the four who knocked at the door . . .
Five for the preachers, the Gospel preachers . . .*

+BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam



THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>	<i>Alto</i>
Katherine Allen	Jordan Martin	Charles Freeman	Linda Alexander
Jamie Burns	Jim Wiggins	Steven Hollingsworth	Nancy Baker
Jennifer Byrd		Scott Outlaw	Carol Jean Fretwell
Harriet Byrum		Brandon Zoch	April Futrell
Eva Early			Judy G. Pierce
Gail Holloman			
Claudia Morris			
Vicky Overman			
Claire Presley			
Mary Ann Umphlett			
Dana Wiggins			
Gretchen Zoch			

THE VOCAL ENSEMBLE

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>	<i>Alto</i>
Katherine Allen	Jordan Martin	Scott Outlaw	Linda Alexander
Vicky Overman	Jim Wiggins	Brandon Zoch	Nancy Baker
Claire Presley			Judy G. Pierce

CHILDREN'S TIME

Child Dedication

Adalyn Margaret Britt

Born on April 4, 2018

Daughter of Heath and Lyndsay Britt

Introduction of the Family

Dr. Gilliam

Dedication Scripture

Jesus answered, . . . "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Mark 12:30b-31a

Statements of Commitment

Rev. Thompson

Heath and Lyndsay, do you publicly recommit yourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death on the cross cleansed you from all sin and whose life through the resurrection prepared the way for your eternal life?

We do.

Do you also recommit yourselves to your marriage, understanding that the best gift parents can give children is a healthy marriage and a loving home?

We do.

Do you dedicate Adalyn to the Lord by committing yourselves to raise your daughter in the Christian faith; bringing her to church, leading her in prayer, and reading to her the scriptures, in order that she may also come to follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

We do.

Do you, the members of this congregation, accept the responsibility, together with these parents, to teach and nurture Adalyn in the Christian faith so that she may be brought into full maturity of faith in Jesus Christ?

We do.

Prayer of Dedication

Dr. Gilliam

Presentation of Gifts

Rev. Thompson

Children's Blessing

Rev. Thompson

People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

Our prayer is that they grow up to be like Jesus—strong and brave, full of grace and truth, and that we will help them.

Appalachian Winter

A Cantata for Christmas

Arranged & Composed by Joseph M. Martin

'Tis a Season for Singing

Tune: SIMPLE GIFTS

Traditional Shaker Melody

*'Tis a season for singing; 'tis a season for praise;
'Tis a time to lift a song and celebrate.
We raise our alleluias and we hope, and we pray.
With a heart of joy, we prepare the way.*

*Sing, Sing! Let every valley ring,
For soon we will greet the long-awaited King;
And the world will see the hope that morning brings
On that day of joy when the stars all sing.*

*'Tis a gift sent from heaven, a gift rare and free.
'Tis a gift of grace that brings eternity.
The promise made to Abraham will soon be made sight.
All the world will see the One True Light.
Hallelujah! Christ is coming soon! Hallelujah!*

This is a season for music and singing.

Long Time Ago

Based on an Early American song by C.E. Horn and G. P. Morris, 1837
Eva Early, Soloist

*To a tiny stable lowly, long time ago,
Came the Son of God, most holy, long time ago.
Angels filled the night with singing, stars all aglow;
Songs of joy through heaven ringing, long time ago.*

Away in a Manger Tune: CRADLE SONG

The cat - tle are__ low-ing the_ ba - by a - wakes; but__ lit - tle Lord
Je - sus, no__ cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord__ Je - sus, look_down from the
sky, and__ stay by my cra - dle till__ morn - ing is nigh.

Choir Only:

There's a Song in the Air Tune: CHRISTMAS SONG

Away in a Manger
Tune: MUELLER

Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask You to stay close by me for -
ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in Your ten - der
care, and fit us for heav - en to live with You there.

This is a season for seeking and worship.

Gentle Carols of Bethlehem

Sing-a-long

Please stand and join in singing as directed.

Away in a Manger

Tune: AFTON

A - way in a__ man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the__ night sky looked
down where He lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Tune: ST. LOUIS

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we__ see thee lie! A -
bove thy deep and dream-less sleep, the si - lent_ stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets
shin- eth the ev-er-las-ing light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

*Little Baby in a manger, prophets foretold;
God's own Son and yet a stranger, long time ago.*

*To a tiny stable lowly, God's love to show,
Came the Son of God, most holy, long time ago.*

This is a season for hope and expectation.

Hope and Expectation

Tunes: JEFFERSON & RESTORATION

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus; born to set all people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

*Hark! The prophet's voice is calling. "Christ is near," he seems to say.
"Cast away your sin and sadness. In your heart prepare His way."*

*Sleepers, awake! Prepare for Jesus. Trim your lamps and keep the flame;
For to you a King is coming. Love and life are in His name.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver. Let us all Thy grace receive.
Suddenly return, and never, never more Thy temples leave.*

O come, Lord Jesus, come!

This is a season of peace and assurance.

Carol of the Winter Wind

Tune: ENDLESS SONG

*Upon the wind there comes a song, a gentle voice of grace,
A song of hope, a hymn of peace for winter's chilling days.
It fills the air with sounds of joy; 'tis music for the soul.
It whispers soft of coming spring and roses in the snow.*

*I hear the music in the night, the silence fills with song;
A gentle voice that whispers love till glory wakes the dawn.
O morning stars, break forth in praise, and teach the world to sing.
The Son is coming to the earth with healing in His wings.*

*Soon to the winter comes a strain, a carol from above;
A lullaby of perfect peace sent from the heart of God.
A babe will cry, a mother sigh, the earth will greet her Lord;
And God will send a winter wind, and hope will be restored.*

This is a season for promises and fulfillment.

In the First Light

Bob Kauflin; arr. Dennis Allen
Chairo

*In the first light of a new day, no one knew He had arrived.
Things continued as they had been while a new born softly cried.
But the heavens, wrapped in wonder, knew the meaning of His birth.
In the weakness of a baby, they knew God had come to earth.*

*As His mother held Him closely it was hard to understand
That this baby, not yet speaking, was the Word of God to man.
He would tell them of His kingdom, but their hearts would not believe.
They would hate Him, and in anger they would nail Him to a tree.*

*But the sadness would be broken as the Song of Life arose.
And the First Born of creation would ascend and take His throne.
He had left it to redeem us, but before His life began
He knew He'd come back, not as a baby,
But as the Lord of every man.*

*Hear the angels as they're singing on the morning of His birth.
But how much greater will our song be when He comes again to earth.
When He comes to rule the Earth!*

This is a season for thanksgiving and praise.

(Our offering will be received during the following anthem.)

While Shepherds Watched

From *One Day We Shall Stand* by Jon Paige

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.
And glory shone around.
Sing gloria! Sing gloria our song shall ever be!
Sing gloria for all eternity!*

*"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
To you and all mankind."
Sing gloria! Sing gloria our song shall ever be!
Sing gloria for all eternity!*

*"All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace,
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to all
Begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"
Sing gloria! Sing gloria our song shall ever be!
Sing gloria for all eternity!*