



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 52

October 9, 2019

No. 19

Will You Join Me?

I am delighted that our church continues to maintain enthusiastic momentum. I sense that our congregation senses that this is indeed a good time in the life of FBC Ahoskie. Just this week Anita told me that some years back there were so few children in the congregation that the children's time was removed, for a period, from our Sunday morning worship experience. Clearly, we are now in a different era when it comes to our population of little people!

Our Sunday morning worship participation numbers have risen. From September 2017 to August 2018, we averaged 162.12 people in worship. From September 2018 to August 2019, we averaged 187.83 people in worship. This is an increase of 25.71 people. We now have a full Wednesday night program in place complete with a weekly meal, children's activities, adult Bible studies, and choir practice. Our capital campaign committee is hard at work. Our playground committee has put forth recommendations for a playground to be constructed next to the north street house. The north street house continues to house women in transition. Since January, our church has given \$17,436.29 to benevolence needs right here in our back yard. Please remember there is no line item in our budget for benevolence. We have given all this money above and beyond regular church offerings. Incredible!

In recent weeks I have spent considerable time in 2020 budget committee meetings as well as capital campaign committee meetings. As a result, I have been confronted with the obvious – our good momentum comes with a price tag. An active and vibrant church costs money. We have good office staff that we want to keep when other opportunities present themselves. We have beautiful facili-

ties, dating back to the 1930s, that need to be maintained. Some weeks we break even on the Wednesday night meals. Some weeks we do not. The price tag on the proposed playground is just under \$50,000 – and this is just for the basics! And, of course, we want to continue to assist people in the name of Jesus who will likely never step foot in our sanctuary.

As I have intersected our momentum and its price tag with my own preaching from the last three weeks, I have decided to increase my giving to First Baptist Ahoskie. Last Sunday, October 6, the check I put into the offering plate was written for \$15 more than the check I put into the offering plate the week before. If I have done my math correctly, on the first Sunday of October 2020 I will have given \$780 more to our church than the previous year. I have also decided to increase the amount of money I give each month to our benevolence fund. And, when phase two of the capital campaign opens, I hope to double the amount I gave in phase one.

Jesus' parables of the dishonest manager (Luke 16:1-13), the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), and the rich man and his barns (Luke 12:13-21) warn us about the sin of greed and inform us that God becomes very angry when we invest too much of our extras into ourselves.

So, I ask you in light of the above: will you join me? Will you increase your giving to our church? Will you give \$15 more a week or \$20 more or \$10 more or \$5 more or \$2.50 more? We have good momentum. Now, with great thankfulness, let's pay for it!

In Christ,
Trey

From the Associate Pastor . . .

As the temperatures lower (finally!) and the leaves begin to turn, I find myself reflecting on what an exceptionally good Fall our church has experienced thus far. In addition to what has become our usual Fall activities (“Get Everyone Here Day,” Picnic in the Park, etc.), we’ve been richly blessed by the ministry of Mary McDonald, and we’ve had an overwhelmingly good response to our Prayer Partners Ministry.

On the weekend of September 21-22, Mary McDonald shared her considerable musical gifts and faith with the Sanctuary Choir, our church, and our community. In all my years of undergraduate and graduate music education, I’ve never known a pianist who is as gifted at “playing by ear” as Mrs. McDonald. On our way to dinner Friday evening, she asked me about my own piano playing skills. “Do you play by hear, or are you tied to the music on the page?” she asked. When I told her that I was pretty much tied to the page, she responded, “Well, I think what’s on the page is just a suggestion!” Choir members, who spent all of Saturday with Mrs. McDonald, described the experience as revival-like. And folks are still talking about the Saturday evening concert, and the meaningful way she led us in worship on Sunday morning. We’ll definitely invite Mrs. McDonald to join us again.

I’m grateful for the many volunteers who helped make the weekend with Mrs. McDonald such a success. Susan Earley and Jayne Frei volunteered early on to head up the Saturday breakfast and lunch. Harriet Byrum took the leadership role for the post-concert reception. These three women, in turn, recruited numerous persons to assist them. Thank you!

I’d also like to add my thanks to the late David Robertson who bequeathed the FBC Music Ministry with funds that we are able to use for events like the Mary McDonald weekend. As David and I were the same age, together we were active in FBC’s music ministry from preschool choir, through every age level choir thereafter, and on through adulthood. David would have LOVED the Mary McDonald weekend, and most likely, would have coaxed her into playing a jazz piano duet with him!

While still basking in the glow of the Mary McDonald weekend, I turned my attention to the

new Prayer Partners Ministry. Oh, how thankful I am for the families who agreed for their children to participate, and for the adults who volunteered to serve as prayer partners to those children. Twenty-one children have a prayer partner who prays for them every day. And in turn, those twenty-one children pray daily for their adult prayer partner.

On the morning of October 6, we kicked off the Prayer Partner Ministry with a delicious breakfast hosted by the Genesis Sunday School class. (Thank you, gentlemen. Well done!) Our fellowship hall was filled with the beautiful sounds of children’s chatter and adults’ joy, as over fifty persons gathered at tables to get to know one another. Photographs were exchanged, favorite colors, foods, and interests were shared. Most importantly, a commitment was made by the prayer partners to pray for each other every day through May 2020. We’ll gather for another breakfast in May. I can’t wait to hear the stories of how relationships will have been strengthened through the Prayer Partners Ministry.

Grace & peace,



Chairo Rehearsals

Chairo rehearses each Sunday at 4:00 pm in the Choir Room. New singers, from students in grades 6-12 as well as adults of all ages, are always welcome.

Christmas Choir Rehearsals

Sundays at 5:00 pm in the Choir Room, beginning October 13.



Worshipping Together

October 13, 2019
11:00 am
The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

I Never Lost My Praise
Job 1:20-21, Psalm 34:1
Rev. Dr. Montrose Streeter
Vice President for Student Affairs
Chowan University

Worship Choir
The Vocal Ensemble

Get to Know Us!



Ben Britton, age 3
Mollie Britton, age 1 1/2
Parents are Bryan & Jessica Britton



Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27 at 5pm

Trunk Decorators are needed. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board, or call the church office, 332-4003.

Deacon Nominations

Sunday, October 20



SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
IN LOVE.

GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

Resident church members will receive in the mail this week a list of persons who are eligible to serve as deacons for a three year term beginning January 2020. You are invited to prayerfully consider who you feel may be gifted for deacon ministry. On October 20th, you will have the opportunity to nominate five persons.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, October 14

7:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, October 15

5:00 pm Finance Committee

6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Youth Roller Skating

Grades 6-12

Saturday, October 26



We are planning to leave the church parking lot at 10:00 am, eat lunch together, and then head to the roller rink. The roller rink is yet to be determined— we are checking out all of the options!

Children's Mission Day 2019



Grades 1-5 students are invited to participate in the annual CBFNC Children's Mission Day on Saturday, November 9 from 10am to 3pm. This event will be held at Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville. The cost is \$15 per child. Through the Acts 8 story of Phillip and the

Ethiopian, the children will learn that God's love is for all people. Mission rotations will include food, songs, and culture from other countries. Payment of \$10 by October 20th reserves your spot. Please contact Heather in the church office, (252) 332-4003 or heather@fbcahoskie.org, to sign up your child/children.

Wednesday Night Meal Servants

Oct. 16: Gail Holloman & Jim & Dana Wiggins

Oct. 23: Tracey Brown & Penny Rose

Oct. 30: Sandra Pierce & Lou Riddick

Contact the church office at 252-332-4003, or heather@fbcahoskie.org. Come join us for a fun-filled day.

Stewardship Statement

October 6, 2019

Weekly Need	\$ 8,639.45
Weekly Offering	\$ 7,690.44
Difference	\$ -949.01

YTD Needs	\$345,578.00
YTD Offerings	\$320,634.63
YTD Difference	\$ -24,943.37

Heck-Jones Total Offering	\$ 1,685.00
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 1,870.31

Thank you for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Oct. 13-19, 2019

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Peggy Springfield, 287-5119

Margaret Winn, 209-1495

Extended Session—October 13

Babies: Joyce Leary & Debbie Rawls

Ages 1 & 2: Bryan & Jessica Britton

Ages 3-5: Bea Harrison & Anna Pierce

Floater: Jamie Burns

Ushers - October 13

Larry Freeman, Ian Kinlaw, Liza Pierce, Pate
Pierce, Frank Rose & Isabella Woodard

Balcony— Charles & Patricia Hughes

Sound System—October 13

James Early

Floral Offering - October 13

Family of Mary Frances Johnson

Home Delivered Meals - October 14

Jayne Frei & Margaret Winn

Food Pantry—October 18

JoAn Downs, Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize

Week of Oct. 20-26, 2019

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Bill Arrington, 395-0937

Jamie Burns, 332-9461

Sunday School at Creekside Care

Genesis Class

Extended Session - October 20

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 1 & 2: Alex & Sarah Grace Britton

Ages 3-5: Harriet Byrum & Claudia Morris

Floater: Melanie Byrum

Ushers - October 20

Josh Brinkley, Gloria Freeman, Peggy Spring
field, Edgar Swain, Camille Pierce & L. Taylor
Rose

Balcony— Henry Joyner & Nat Riddick

Sound System - October 20

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering—October 20

Elizabeth Harrell

Home Delivered Meals - October 21

Charles & Gloria Freeman

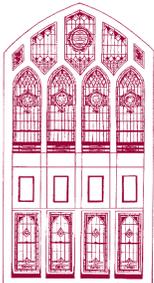
Food Pantry - October 25

Bonnie Revelle

The FBC Ministers

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Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor • anita@fbcahoskie.org • 252-395-0061



The Window

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