



W THE INDOW

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

Volume 51

July 25, 2018

No. 13

Early Results?

Our 12 Sundays challenge has not officially started. However, I think we are already experiencing early results. I do not know for sure, of course. However, my curiosity is peaked. Have you noticed that summer worship attendance has not been bad? The professor in me suggests we let the numbers speak. Last year, from August (when we began counting) to December, we averaged 160.65 people in Sunday morning worship. This year, our current average for Sunday morning worship stands at 161.18 people. Now, notice our average worship attendance for May, June, and July of this year: 154.08 people.



There has been no major summer dip! We have averaged 7.1 less people through the summer months. This is not bad; in fact, I have been pleasantly surprised. The obvious question: why has there been no major summer dip in worship attendance?

Well, I do not know. I do know, however, that there has been much discussion around our 12 Sundays challenge that begins August 19. I have so enjoyed the banter. Here is a sampling of comments I've heard: "I've not missed 12 Sundays in my life!", "Perhaps, I should try for 15 Sundays first!", "If I am present for five Wednesday nights, can I have an extra Sunday?", "Does listening on the radio count?", and "Can I get half-credit for listening on the radio?"

I am hopeful that our 12 Sundays challenge is going to be a success. I am hopeful that it will assist us in moving the church of Jesus the Christ more to the center of our lives instead of, where it often dwells, on the periphery of our lives. I am hopeful that, because of this challenge, more and more

people will choose church participation over other competing activities. I am hopeful that the church will win more and lose less in the lives of Christians. I am hopeful that a deep appreciation and affection for the church will take root in the lives of our people. I am hopeful that First Baptist will avoid the status of yet another once strong congregation on the decline. I am hopeful that our congregation will view participation in the life of the church of Jesus the Christ as the privilege that it is – we are a people that have received abundant life in the here and now and eternal life in the future through the forgiveness of God granted in Christ. Most of all, I am hopeful that we will become more committed disciples of Jesus the Christ.

I cannot see the future. Perhaps the current cultural trends are so strong that they cannot be contested. However, the summer months at First Baptist this year give me reason for optimism. I am very curious about what First Baptist will look like beginning August 19. As it now stands, 56 people have committed to try to miss no more than 12 Sundays for the year. Can we add your name to the list?

In Christ,
Trey





Worshiping Together

July 29, 2018
11:00 am
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Squeaky Clean
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam
Worship Choir: The Vocal Ensemble

From the Associate Pastor . . .

The week of July 22-27 I had the joy of participating in the semi-annual Conference for Worship, Theology, and Music at St. Olaf College, a Lutheran school in Northfield, Minnesota. I attended with my dear friend, Rev. Sharon Welsch, Associate Pastor for Worship & Education at Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill, NC. She and I had been wanting to attend this conference for several years, but for various reasons we just couldn't get it to work out. But I'm so glad it finally did!

The theme of the conference was "Living Breath of God." and was framed in a three part structure—Create, Promote, and Empower. "The Spirit **creates** community and we are created to worship and to serve. Working through scripture and preaching, the Spirit **provokes** us; we are called to open our eyes to God's vision of mercy and justice. Finally, we are **empowered**. The Spirit empowers us to take the Good News of God into the world."

Through thoughtful worship, beautiful music, and challenging conversation I was immersed in this theme. It is a blessing to have been engaged in such a meaningful event that left me still processing all that I experienced.

While flying home on Friday I wondered if any of my brothers and sisters in Christ at FBC Ahoskie would be interested in experiencing a week like the one I experienced at St. Olaf. Oh how I wish you would. You don't have to go to Minnesota to have such an experience. There are many opportunities within driving distance of Ahoskie. If you'd like to consider spending a week—give or take a few days—engaged in thoughtful worship, beautiful music, and challenging conversation, all framed in a way to help you grow as a follower of Jesus, please let me know. I'll be happy to let you know of opportunities that may work well for you.

Grace & peace,



Thank You

A Thank You note has been received from Pat Byrd, Director, Christian Women's Job Corps. It may be found on the bulletin board outside the main office.

12 SUNDAYS

CHALLENGE



The "12 Sundays Challenge," issued by our pastor, challenges the church to make a commitment to try and miss no more than 12 Sundays in a year (from August 19, 2018 to August 18, 2019).

On August 19, in order to kick-off the "12 Sundays Challenge" we are planning a "Get Everyone Here" Day. Begin now to reserve August 19th so you may join us for worship, a group picture on the Main Street steps, and a church-wide lunch.



Newborn Baby Clothes Needed

Our Christian Women's Job Corps ministry is in need of newborn baby clothes for an expectant mother enrolled in CWJC classes. She is expecting a boy. If you have any that you would like to donate would you please get in touch with Pat Byrd, Christian Women's Job Corps director?

Stewardship Statement

July 22, 2018

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Weekly Need | \$ 8,555.00 |
| Weekly Offering | \$ 7,544.00 |
| Difference | \$ (-1,011.00) |

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| YTD Needs | \$ 248,096.02 |
| YTD Offerings | \$ 234,740.33 |
| YTD Difference | \$ -13,355.69 |

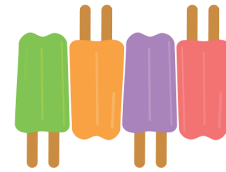
YTD Global Missions Offering \$ 6,055.01

Thank you for your generous gifts!



August 2018

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|--|-----|
| Sunday Schedule 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11:00a Worship 5:00p Youth (Grades 6-12) | Wednesday Schedule 6:00p Adult Bible Study 6:00p Christ's Kids (Grades 1-5) | | 1 | 2 • 1p WOM Group 5 | 3 • 9a Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) | 4 |
| 5 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 6 • 3:30p Staff Meeting | 7 • 10a Women on Mission (WOM) Groups 2 & 4 • 7p WOM Group 3 | 8 | 9 | 10 • 9a CWJC | 11 |
| 12 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i>  | 13 • 3:30p Staff Meeting | 14 | 15 • 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Resume • 8p Vocal Ensemble Rehearsals Resume | 16 | 17 • 9a CWJC | 18 |
| 19 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 20 • 3:30p Staff Meeting • 7p Building & Grounds Com. | 21 • 6p Missions Committee • 7p Deacons' Mtg. | 22 • 7p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal • 8p Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal | 23 | 24 • 9a CWJC | 25 |
| 26 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 27 • 3:30p Staff Meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 • 9a CWJC | |



Birthdays



- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Frank Rose | 17 Ann Daniels | 24 Patsy Daniels |
| 1 Jameson Brown | 18 Henry Pierce | 25 Garrett Magette |
| 4 Beverly Harrington | 18 Frank Britt | 25 Grace Britton |
| 6 Landis Chamblee | 18 Debbie Green | 25 Henry Daniels |
| 11 Claudia Morris | 18 James Earley | 25 Justin Frederes |
| 12 Katherine Earley | 19 Madelyn Messer | 28 Phillip Villegas |
| 13 Cole Magette | 19 Jackson Alexander | 29 Carson Rose |
| 13 Grady Sumner | 19 Reagan Zoch | 31 Erin Messer |
| 13 Elizabeth Villegas | 19 Thristian Riddick | 31 Steven Hollingsworth |
| 14 Cade Harrell | 21 Andy Burgess | |
| 14 Lou Ann Gilliam | 21 Linda Futrell | |
| 15 Jessica Britton | 22 Carolyn Arrington | |

Did You Know?

- Your church staff holds Staff Meeting on Monday afternoon.
- We have an excellent website that can help you stay up-to date with our ministries. Visit it at www.fbcahoskie.org.
- We have a Facebook page that also helps you remain connected.
- We have an online calendar that may be accessed through our church website.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of July 29 – August 4

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

James Earley, 395-2163

Extended Session - July 29

Birth-Age 2: Kay Byrd, Nancy Freeman, &
Sylvia Britt

Ages 3-5: Lyndsay Britt & Drew Phillips

Ushers - July 29

J.C. Doughtie, Gloria Freeman, Charles
Hughes, Bill Magette, Frank Rose, L. Taylor
Rose; Balcony—Brad Hauser, Colby Hauser

Sound System - July 29

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering - July 29

Don and LuAnn Joyner

Home Delivered Meals - July 30

Henry & Pat Byrd

Food Pantry - August 3

Sandra Pierce

Week of August 5 – 11

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Lee Wilson, 332-4563

Justin Freeman, 287-9750

Sunday School at Creekside Care - August 5

Bess Leary

Extended Session - August 5

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

Ages 3-5: Nancy Perry, Mary Page Pierce

Ushers - August 5

Kay Byrd, Ed Copeland, Jr., Tim Frei, Spencer
Matthews, Lane, Slachta, Carroll Thompson;
Balcony—Charles Hughes, Henry Joyner

Sound System - August 5

Rick Burns

Floral Offering - August 5

Bill & Carolyn Arrington

Home Delivered Meals - August 6

Noreen Hannon & Joyce Leary

Food Pantry - August 10

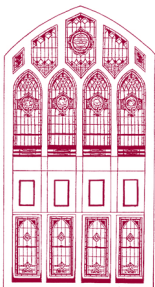
Kathy Maxham, Carolyn Harrell, Kay Edwards

The FBC Ministers

Trey Gilliam, Pastor • trey@fbcahoskie.org • 252-398-7321

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

Elizabeth Villegas, Minister to Youth & Children • elizabeth@fbcahoskie.org • 757-434-6235



The Window

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Main and West Streets

PO Box 649

Ahoskie, NC 27910-0649

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

phone 252-332-4003

fax 252-209-0225

email office@fbcahoskie.org

web www.fbcahoskie.org