



# W THE INDOW

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

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No. 18

## Seven Churches / One Church

We have come now to the end of our Sunday morning studies of the seven churches of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. In his book, *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*, Bruce Metzger observes that though each church is addressed directly, the conclusion of each address says, “the one who has an ear, let that one hear what the spirit says to the churches.” Metzger finds it significant that the word “churches” is in the plural. He writes, “That is, the message to each church is at the same time a message to all the churches” (46). Therefore, the problems that exist in each church can exist in any church. Inspired by Metzger’s astute observations, I provide a brief review of the challenges that each of the seven churches presented.

1 – First Baptist Ahoskie has been in existence since 1804. We are 214 years old. Therefore, the words of Christ to the church in Ephesus challenged us to maintain our passion for the work of the church over the long haul.

2 – The church in Smyrna helped us to see the point of Revelation. For all the debates, from the early church down to our own time over Revelation, the point of Revelation is to call the Christian to faithfulness to Christ amid our day-to-day living. We are to be faithful when it is easy to do so and when it is nearly impossible to do so.

3 – We were reminded by the church in Pergamum that we sometimes get off track in our Christian living. The environment we live in does not complement the teachings of Jesus. Our society is filled with violence, greed, and racism. If we are not careful, we may end up reflecting secular society more than we do the teachings of Christ.

4 – Christ tells the church of Thyatira that their most recent deeds are better than their first. Their situation is the opposite of the Ephesian church. We were reminded of the importance Christ places on what a church does. And, as such, we are in search of our next mission project.

5 – The church in Sardis enabled us to see that our finances can be strong, participation numbers high, a spirit of excitement present in the church, and we can still be dead in the sight of Christ. Once again, we were confronted with the importance of not only believing in Christ but carrying out deeds of kindness and mercy in the name of Christ.

6 – The message to the church in Philadelphia encouraged us to hold on to our faith in Christ even when the difficulty of our circumstances makes it hard to believe in God.

7 – And finally, we experienced Christ’s rebuke to the church of Laodicea. We were commanded to repent of the lukewarm Christianity that pervades the American landscape. How comforting to know that Christ stands at the door and knocks awaiting our repentance.

In Christ,  
Trey

### Worshiping Together

October 14, 2018

11:00 am

*21st Sunday after Pentecost*

*What’s a Deacon to Do?*

Acts 6:1-7

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir: Chair

Dedication of Mollie James Britton

## From the Associate Pastor . . .

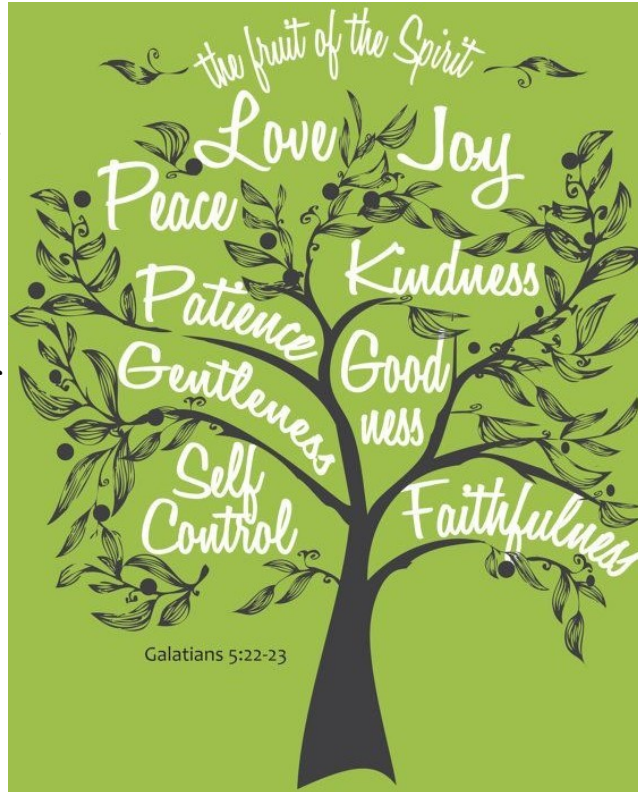
For the past five weeks the children who participate in our Wednesday Music & Missions ministry have been immersing themselves in our theme for this year: ***The Fruit of the Spirit***. Through songs, bible study, and a myriad of activities, we are memorizing Galatians 5:22-23... ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control***...and we're praying that these fruit will grow freely in us.

Each Wednesday, I share with the grades 1-5 children how the Fruit of the Spirit informs my prayer life. For example, last week I told them that my elderly dog, Carlton, has begun to "mess up" in the house, and how irritating it is to have to clean up after him. We talked about what some of the negative responses to Carlton's behavior might look like. And we talked about which of the Spirit's fruit I could pray for to help me be a good mom to Carlton.

"You should pray for gentleness," one boy commented. "God can help you be gentle with Carlton." "I think you could use some patience, too," said one of the girls. "If I had to clean up after a dog I'd need a lot of patience."

These conversations about our need for the Spirit's fruit to grow abundantly in our lives have become holy moments for me. It is such a blessing to hear a child pray for self-control to help him/her deal with a difficult relationship at school. It is a blessing to hear a child pray for joy for a person who is experiencing sadness. And it is a blessing to hear a child pray that our world would will be filled with peace. It is my prayer that these conversations will overflow into their daily lives, informing *their* prayer life, and equipping them to live as Christ-like as possible at home, at school, at church . . . everywhere!

Our conversations have helped me be more mindful of how much I need the Spirit's fruit to help me respond to the daily stresses and strains of life. When I read news reports about the combative tone that permeates our nation's politics, do I respond with patience? When I'm confronted by someone whose politics differ from mine, do I respond with self-control? When I stand with the grieving, do I respond with gentleness? When I'm burdened by sadness, do I tap into Spirit-filled joy? When my faith is tested, do I respond with faithfulness?



While immersing myself in a study of the Fruit of the Spirit, I came across the following poem which I found both inspiring and convicting. I hope you find it has meaning for you too.

*If people looking for the evidence of our faith turn to the church today, what do they see?*

*Is there a danger that they will find:*

- *indifference, when they need love:*
- *moaning and complaining, when they need joy:*
- *bickering and back-biting, when they need peace:*
- *hasty dismissal, when they need patience:*
- *a sharp reply, when they need kindness:*
- *careless selfishness, when they need goodness:*
- *cynicism, when they need faithfulness:*
- *harsh words, when they need gentleness:*
- *anger, when they need self-control?*

*If we, as Christians, recognize any of these failings in ourselves, why are we surprised that so many people reject our faith because when they seek to find the difference that it makes, there seems to be none?*

©Marjorie Dobson

Grace & peace,

*Anita*



**Trunk or Treat 2018**  
**Sunday, October 28**  
**5:00—6:15 pm**

This year the Missions Committee decided to return to our previous tradition of providing a free meal of hotdogs, chips and drinks.

And during the meal we'll play Candy Corn Bingo.

We'd love to see adults of all ages seated side by side with our dear costumed little ones. And adults, if you'd like to come in costume, you're welcome to do so too! (But it's not required.)


Here's the schedule for the evening:

- 5:00 pm Supper & Candy Corn Bingo
- 5:45 pm Trunk or Treating  
For Birth—Grade 5
- 6:15 pm Dismiss

Here's how you can help:

- Decorate a Trunk
- Grill the hotdogs
- Serve in the kitchen

If you are willing to help in any of these ways, please speak with Anita, sign up on the second floor bulletin board, or call the church office, 332-4003.



**Save the Date**

The Gilliams will host a Christmas party on Sunday, December 9th.



**Annual Christmas Choir Rehearsals Have Begun**

Sundays from 5:00 to 5:45 pm  
 Wednesdays from 7:00 to 7:40 pm

Adults and students in Grades 9-12 are invited.

The cantata will be performed on the evening of December 16, and the morning of December 23.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Oct. 16 Missions Committee, 5:45 pm
- Oct. 23 Deacons' Meeting, 7 pm  
*(Moved from regular 3rd Tuesday date.)*



**Sunday, October 14**

- 9:15 am Chairo Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 4:00 pm Chairo
- 5:00 pm Middle School Youth
- 5:00 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 pm Sanctuary Choir Sunday Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Snack Supper
- 6:30 pm High School Youth

**Monday, October 15**

- 3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Girl Scout Troops

**Tuesday, October 16**


- 5:45 pm Missions Committee

**Wednesday, October 17**

- 12 noon Ahooskie Woman's Club
- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 5:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study, FH
- 6:00 pm Christ's Kids (Grades 1-5)
- 7:00 pm Christmas Choir
- 7:40 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

**Friday, October 19**

- 9:00 am Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)



**October 7, 2018**

Weekly Need	\$ 8,555.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 9,482.85
Difference	\$ 927.85
YTD Needs	\$ 342,200.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 329,815.90
YTD Difference	\$ (-12,384.10)
YTD Global Missions Offering	\$ 6,448.97
YTD Hurricane Relief Offering	\$ 6,286.00

***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**Week of October 14-20**

**Week of October 21-27**

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

**Deacons on Call**

Justin Freeman, 287-9750

Debbie Magette, 209-7021

**Extended Session - October 14**

Babies: Jean Parker & Debbie Rawls

Ages 1 & 2: Sarah & Justin Freeman

Ages 3-5: Bea Harrison & Anna Pierce

Floater Needed

**Ushers - October 14**

Bill Magette, Alan Myers, Camille Pierce, Pate

Pierce, Lane Slachta & Justice Zoch

Balcony— Andy & Isabella Woodard

**Sound System - October 14**

Rick Burns

**Floral Offering - October 14**

Family of Mary Frances Johnson

**Home Delivered Meals - October 15**

Jayne Frei & Margaret Winn

**Food Pantry - October 19**

Melanie Byrum & Vicky Overman

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

**Deacons on Call**

Bryan Harrell, 370-8440

Don Joyner, 396-1957

**Sunday School at Creekside Care**

Hannah Brown Class

**Extended Session - October 21**

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 1 & 2: Debbie & Bill Magette

Ages 3-5: Harriet Byrum & Claudia Morris

Floater: Melanie Byrum

**Ushers - October 21**

Lee Byrum, J.C. Doughtie, Fletcher Pierce, Nat

Riddick, Frank Rose & Edgar Swain

Balcony— Charles & Patricia Hughes

**Sound System - October 21**

Frank Britt

**Floral Offering - October 21**

Malcolm Copeland

**Home Delivered Meals - October 22**

Gloria & Charles Freeman

**Food Pantry— October 26**

Bess Leary & Judy Pierce

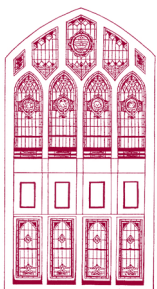
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## The FBC Ministers

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