



W THE INDOW

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

Volume 51

November 7, 2018

No. 20

First Baptist on Fifth and First Baptist on Main

I tagged along with Lou Ann recently to a funeral at First Baptist Church on Fifth Street in Winston-Salem. A combination of factors inspired me to arise at 5:15 on a Saturday morning, forego my no-shave Saturday tradition, get all spiffed up, and drive 3 ½ hours one way. First, I thought Lou Ann would like some company as well as a chauffeur. Second, the funeral was for Dr. Roy J. Smith – a well-respected North Carolina Baptist leader. And, finally, I had read about recent happenings at First Baptist on Fifth and I was curious about the church.

Under the pastoral leadership of Emily Hull McGee, First on Fifth recently tore down two large buildings that were a part of their campus. These buildings housed, among other things, a child care center and a basketball court. In its heyday, First on Fifth had over 2000 members. Today, the church has 500 members with a weekly worship attendance of around 220. Due to the decline in membership, the congregation can no longer afford to maintain the two buildings. In an article from the July 8, 2018 edition of the Winston-Salem Journal, McGee says the congregation has been led by God to downsize to remain a gospel light in downtown Winston-Salem during a time when more people are moving to the area yet fewer and fewer people are actively attending a church anywhere.

The situation with First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem on Fifth Street causes me pause when I ponder the future of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie on Main Street. There are so many good happenings in our church currently. The North Street house is now used to provide shelter for women trying to get back on their feet. Beginning November 13th (next week!), we will have Anna and LaCount

Anderson in Ahoskie on Tuesdays to assist with our benevolence outreach. Sunday morning worship and Sunday School participation are up. Our finances are stable.

However, we too are a church that is considerably smaller than we were say in the 1970s. And while we too live in a community where fewer and fewer people are actively involved in church, we do **not** live in a community, such as Winston-Salem, that has a growing population. This is one reason we are so pleased with the number of babies and children in our congregation (yet another baby dedication is on tap for this Sunday!). Nonetheless, a significant percentage of our population consists of senior adults. We know that these folks, many of whom contribute to the backbone of FBC Ahoskie, will not live forever.

Life is good – from my perspective very good – right now at FBC Ahoskie. However, like First on Fifth, we need to be proactive. What will our church look like in a decade? Will the donut hole, that is the first few center rows in our large sanctuary, grow? I want to do everything I can to prevent this! Therefore, as your pastor, I continue to love you and to push you. My response to the current climate we find ourselves in is to ask more from the membership of FBC Ahoskie. I ask you to pray more for our church. I ask you to give more, both of your finances and your time, to our church. And I ask you to be more faithful in your participation of both Sunday morning worship and Sunday School. Of course, as you raise your level of commitment to our church, you will become a more mature disciple of Jesus the Christ. And, at a more gut level, we know that the future vitality of First Baptist Ahoskie **depends** on an increased commitment from her members.

In Christ,
Trey

From the Associate Pastor

For those of you who know me well, you're quite aware of how much I like things to be organized, neat, and tidy. (Although sometimes my office does not reflect this preference!) But the events of the last few weeks have served as a reminder that there is so much about life that is neither organized, neat, or tidy. "Life," a ministry colleague of mine succinctly stated, "is messy." "And," she adds, "we are called to be faithful and compassionate followers of Christ in the midst of the mess."

Life is MESSY

Life does indeed get messy. It's messy when there is a sudden, unexpected, tragic death. It's messy when medical test results reveal a challenging diagnosis. It's messy when there is job loss or demotion. It's messy when a marriage is strained to the point of collapse. It's messy when the relationship between parent and child becomes adversarial.

But life also gets messy when positive things happen. When there's a birth, a wedding, a graduation, or a promotion, life gets messy! It's how we deal with the mess that matters.

The past few weeks have served as a very real reminder of how messy life can be. But it has also served as a very real reminder of how vital the Body of Christ is in navigating the mess.

Church, we've dedicated a baby, pledging to help her "grow up to be like Jesus." We've held in the Light our sister in Christ and church staff member, Janice Cesil, as she deals with the mess of the sudden and tragic death of her husband. We've celebrated Children's Sabbath, and joyed in the beautiful mess of the children's worship leadership. We've stood with friends and neighbors who've been hospitalized, placed in hospice care, or have buried loved ones. We've joyed over the birth of a daughter to our Minister to Youth & Children, Elizabeth Villegas, and her husband, Jason. We have been and are continuing to be faithful and compassionate followers of Christ in the midst of life's messes.

Though we can try to keep our lives organized, neat, and tidy, odds are we won't succeed. Something messy will happen, a positive mess or a negative one. It's how we live in the midst of the mess that matters. How grateful I am that we, the First

Baptist Church of Ahooskie, are journeying through the mess of life together.

*Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts, and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear. - John Fawcett, 1740-1817*

Grace & peace,

Anita

Stewardship Statement

October 28, 2018

Weekly Need	\$ 8,555.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,711.90
Difference	\$ (-2,843.10)
YTD Needs	\$ 367,865.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 351,986.37
YTD Difference	\$ (-15,878.63)
YTD World Hunger Offering	\$ 304.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Stewardship Statement

November 4, 2018

Weekly Need	\$ 8,555.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,365.23
Difference	\$ (-189.77)
YTD Needs	\$ 376,420.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 360,351.60
YTD Difference	\$ (-16,068.40)
YTD World Hunger Offering	\$ 349.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 627.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

The Week Ahead



Sunday, November 11

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 4:00 pm Chair Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Christmas Choir
- No Youth Group Meeting
- 5:45 pm Sanctuary Choir Sunday Rehearsal

Monday, November 12

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

Tuesday, November 13

- 2:00 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved thru 7:00 pm
- 3:00 pm CWJC Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 14

- 12:00 pm Ahoskie Woman's Club Meeting
- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 5:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 7:45 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, November 16

- 9:00 am Christian Women's Job Corps



Christmas Shoeboxes

All shoeboxes are due the week of November 12—18. Please place your filled box in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Melanie Byrum, coordinator.

FBC Security System Volunteers

Scott Outlaw is putting together a security team to take turns monitoring our security cameras during worship services. If you would be interested in serving on this team, please contact Scott at 252-287-6721.

Childcare Volunteers Needed

... during the Christmas Cantata on the evening of December 16. With the cantata also being held on the morning of December 23, perhaps you might volunteer to provide childcare on the 16th, and attend the Christmas cantata on the 23rd. Contact Debbie Magette if you'd like to volunteer.



Worshiping Together

November 11, 2018
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Intimacy with God, Part II

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Choir: The Sanctuary Choir
Dedication of Wells Andrew Britton

November Church-wide Mission Project



Throughout the month of November, we will join our fellow churches in the West Chowan Baptist Association in collecting items for the Christian Women's Job Corps North Street House ministry.

The items we have been assigned are: Rice, Dish-washing Detergent, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Sanitary Pads, and One Inch 3-Ring Binders. Collection boxes are located under the "Hospital Board" on the first floor hallway.

- The Missions Committee

Congratulations



... to Elizabeth and Jason Villegas on the birth of a daughter, Miriam Elizabeth, on November 4. The proud older brothers are Worth and Phillip,

Elizabeth will be on maternity leave until mid December. We offer thanks for the volunteers who will be leading our youth and children's ministry programming during this time.

In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Taylor Futrell Rose and family in the October 30th death of her paternal grandmother, Mary Frances Futrell of Conway, NC, and to Mary Frances' sister-in law, Katherine Allen, and nephew, Eddie Allen.

... and to Keith Rawls and family in the November 5th death of his paternal uncle, John Rawls of Ahoskie.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of November 11-17

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Claire Presley, 287-6132

Peggy Springfield, 287-5119

Extended Session - November 11

Babies: Jean Parker & Debbie Rawls

Ages 1 & 2: Justin & Sarah Freeman

Ages 3-5: Jessica Britton & Anna G. Dawson

Floater Needed

Ushers -November 11

Lanie Byrum, Tim Frei, Pike Harrington,

Mollee Frei Lamm, Bill Magette & Pate Pierce

Balcony- Henry Joyner & Dawson Rose

Sound System - November 11

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering - November 11

Oliver Fleming

Home Delivered Meals - November 12

Henry & Pat Byrd

Food Pantry - November 16

Kay Edwards, Carolyn Harrell & Kathy Maxham

Week of November 18-24

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Nancy Freeman, 287-9104

Margaret Winn, 209-1495

Sunday School at Creekside Care

Genesis Class

Extended Session - November 18

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 1 & 2: Susan Earley & JoAnn Herring

Ages 3-5: Alex & Sarah G. Britton

Floater: Melanie Byrum

Ushers - November 18

Jane M. Hollingsworth, Spencer Matthews,

L. Taylor Rose, Peggy Springfield, Carroll

Thompson & Justice Zoch

Balcony- Colby Hauser & Andy Woodard

Sound System - November 18

Rick Burns

Floral Offering - November 18

Charles & Patricia Hughes

Home Delivered Meals - November 19

Edgar & Rosa Swain

Food Pantry— November 23

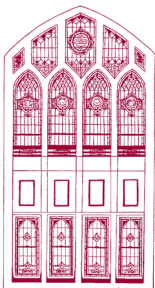
Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

The FBC Ministers

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

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



The Window

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Main and West Streets

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