



W THE INDDOW

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No. 8

Were You There

My most memorable Good Friday occurred early in ministry. I served as pastor of Henrietta First Baptist Church from 1997-2001. So, this Good Friday service occurred sometime during those years. I decided to schedule the Good Friday experience at 9am, the time that Jesus was put on his cross according to Mark's gospel. Most Good Friday services occur in the evening. By the time they begin, Jesus has already died. According to Mark (and Matthew and Luke), Jesus' death occurred around 3pm Friday afternoon. He was on the cross approximately six hours. As crucifixion was designed to bring about a very slow and a very painful death, six hours is not considered that long. Perhaps, Jesus' relatively short time on the cross is indicative of the severity of the beating he took before he was placed on the cross.

I anticipated the 9am time would exclude some people due to work schedules. Therefore, I expected a small gathering. Indeed! I remember the front pew occupied by seven people or so. The tools employed for the worship of God, on this occasion, were simple – scripture readings, a brief sermon, and someone sang the African-American spiritual "Were You There". Do you know this hymn? The opening stanza: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord, Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord, Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble."

All these years later, when I recall this time of Good Friday worship, I feel like I was there. As I reflect on this occasion, I think it was the combination of our attempt at historical accuracy (meeting at the time and on the day when Jesus was likely nailed to his cross), the simplicity of the worship tools, the small gathering (perhaps like the women at the cross), and one beautiful voice that trans-

ported me back 2000 years to a dark, dark Friday.

My experience this year, on Good Friday, in our sanctuary was similar. We did not meet in the morning. Rather, we met at 7pm. However, there was a tornado warning in our area. I thought about talking with our church leadership about canceling the service. However, my gut led me in the opposite direction. And I am glad it did.

Matthew's gospel states that when Jesus was crucified, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom (indicating, perhaps, direct human access to God), the earth shook, and rocks split open. There appears to have been an earthquake of some magnitude.

As we carried out our Tenebrae service on Friday, April 19, a storm could be heard. We heard rain and thunder. We saw lightning. It was especially moving when the Christ candle was carried out of the sanctuary. After the Christ candle exited, the lights in the sanctuary were turned off – complete darkness and complete silence. Except that is for the sound of thunder, the sound of rain, and the sight of lightning. And, once again, due to the power of the Tenebrae service and the timing of the storm, yes, I was there.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together

April 28, 2019

11:00 am

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Unshackled

Luke 24:13-23, 28-32

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Thank you!

**Roanoke Chowan
Christian Women's Job Corps**

**Invites you to our
Thank You Celebration**

Saturday May 11, 2019
5:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie,
Fellowship Hall

RSVP to Pat Byrd at 252-332-4122,
or pbyrdcwjc@hotmail.com by May 4.



Children's Music & Missions End-of-Year Program

Wednesday, May 1

6:00 pm Meal in Fellowship Hall
6:45 pm Program

Nursery News!

I would like to thank ALL of the many (over 50!) volunteers who help with our nursery. We have 26 children with 4 more on the way! Your dedication and commitment to our children is outstanding! I want you to know your willingness to help with our little ones is greatly appreciated. I especially thank those of you who gave your time during Holy Week. It is our busiest time of the year and we needed many extra hands. Not being in the sanctuary may seem like you missed out, but most who are involved in the nursery will disagree with that. Watching these little ones learn, grow, and love is very spiritual. If you haven't been by the nursery lately, please stop by. We're hopping!

Sincerely,
Debbie Magette

PASSPORT™

Meet the Passport Campers

My name is Avery Byrum. I am 12 years old and I go to Ridgcroft School. I look forward to going to Passport so I can hang out with my friends, meet new people, and grow in my relationship with Christ.

To donate to Avery's trip, send a check to the church with "Avery Byrum's Passport" on the memo line.

My name is Chloe Rose. In my free time, I love to learn about God, and hang out with my friends! I play basketball, tennis, run cross country, and cheer. I go to school at Ridgcroft School. At Passport, I am looking forward to learning about God and what He has done to help us in our life. I hope that I will have a great time at Passport and all of the people that are going.

To donate to Chloe's trip, send a check to the church with "Chloe Rose's Passport" on the memo line.

Stewardship Statement

April 21, 2019

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Weekly Need | \$ 8,639.45 |
| Weekly Offering | \$ 7,938.00 |
| Difference | \$ -701.45 |
| YTD Needs | \$138,231.20 |
| YTD Offerings | \$132,393.26 |
| YTD Difference | \$ -5,837.94 |
| CBF- Global Missions Total | \$ 4,380.00 |
| Benevolence Weekly Offering | \$ 30.00 |

Thank you for your generous gifts!

May 2019

First Baptist Church
of Ahoskie

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|----------|
| <p>Every Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:45a: Sunday School • 11:00a: Worship • 5:00p: Youth Group: Grades 6-12 • 6:00p: Youth Snack Supper | | <p>Every Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00a: Soul Feast Study • 3:30p: Staff Mtg. • 5:30p: Girl Scouts • 6:00p: Soul Feast Study | | <p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10a: Ahoskie Garden Club • 3p: Junior Garden Club • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 6p: Children's End of Year Meal & Program | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 3rd Sunday of Easter: Observance of the Lord's Supper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4p: Chairo • 5p: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10a: WOM Groups 2 & 4 | <p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6p: Adult Bible Study • 6p: Christ's Kids • 7p: Sanctuary Choir • 6p: Vocal Ensemble | <p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12p: JOY Fellowship | <p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a: CWJC | <p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5p: CWJC Thank You Dinner | |
| <p>12 4th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Happy Mother's Day!</p>  | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5p: CWJC Board Mtg. | <p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12p: Ahoskie Woman's Club Mtg. • 6p: Adult Bible Study • 6p: Christ's Kids • 7p: Sanctuary Choir • 6p: Vocal Ensemble | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a: CWJC | <p>18</p> | |
| <p>19 5th Sunday of Easter</p>  <p>BACCALAUREATE</p> | <p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7p: Building & Grounds Mtg. | <p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6p: Deacons' Mtg. | <p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6p: Adult Bible Study • 6p: Christ's Kids • 7p: Sanctuary Choir • 6p: Vocal Ensemble | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a: CWJC | <p>25</p> | |
| <p>26 6th Sunday of Easter</p> | <p>27</p>  <p>Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9a: CWJC | | |



1 Victoria Harris
2 Violet Williams
4 Nancy Baker

5 Jane Holloman
7 Elijah Brown
7 Kay Byrd

8 Heather Roberts
9 Richard Alexander
9 Jessie Simons
10 Leslie Lawrence
10 Geraldine Tucker
15 Pat Byrd
16 Finette Matthews
17 Bryan Britton

17 Camille Pierce
18 Lily Ann Brinkley
18 Suzanne Newbern
18 Judy G. Pierce
19 Pike Harrington
20 Graham Lawrence
20 Blake Outlaw
24 Peggy Springfield

25 Duck Harrell
27 Tom Fretwell
28 Howard Brown
28 Trey Gilliam
28 Mollee Frei Lamm
29 Bob Newsome
31 Donna Burden

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of April 28-May 4

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Jamie Burns, 332-9461

Brandon Zoch, 862-5767

Extended Session - April 28

Babies: Austine Evans & Sandra Pierce

Ages 1 & 2: Jessica Brinkley & Georgia
Copeland

Ages 3-5: James & Eva Early

Floater: Judy H. Pierce

Ushers - April 28

Tim Frei, Pike Harrington, Jane M.

Hollingsworth, Mollee Frei Lamm, Nat Riddick
& Reagan Zoch

Balcony— Brad Hauser & Andy Woodard

Sound System—April 28

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering - April 28

Nat & Lou Riddick

Home Delivered Meals - April 29

Buzzy & Rosa Swain

Food Pantry - May 3

Robert Earl & Pansy White

Week of May 5-11

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Extended Session - May 5

Babies: Brian & Victoria Outlaw

Ages 1 & 2: Nat & Lou Riddick

Ages 3-5: Landis Chamblee & Elizabeth Davis

Floater: Heath & Lyndsay Britt

Ushers - May 5

Josh Brinkley, Gloria Freeman, Bill Magette,

Pate Pierce, Chloe Rose & Edgar Swain

Balcony— Henry Joyner & Keith Rawls

Sound System - May 5

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering - May 5

Joe Williams

Home Delivered Meals - May 6

Frank & Penny Rose

Food Pantry - May 10

JoAn Downs, Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize

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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