



# THE WINDOW

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

Volume 52

October 23, 2019

No. 20

## Lessons from a Strange Sunday

\*\*\* the purpose of this piece is not to fuss; rather the purpose is to challenge us to think of church as family where the actions of one impact the rest \*\*\*

Those of us who preach on Sunday mornings do not like to see rain as we make our way to the meeting house. When I crossed the Potecasi last Sunday morning, October 20, reality sat in as the rain poured down my windshield. The following dialogue emerged in my head, "Lots of people will stay home today", "Maybe not as FBC Ahoskie often surprises me", "If this were a basketball game people would still come", "You cannot blame the elderly for staying home because they might fall and hurt themselves", "It's not usually the elderly who stay home."

Around 9:30am, I took my place at the big red doors near the columbarium and greeted folks as they entered for Sunday School. I was encouraged. I found myself greeting our young married couples and their children. I helped some of our senior adults on to the elevator. The parking lot didn't look bad. However, things are not always as they seem.

When I walked into our sanctuary for 11am worship, I was met with many empty spaces and little chatter. A wave of disappointment came over me. As our time together in worship progressed my disappointment lessened a bit. I noticed that the choir loft was full. Well done choir! A handful of late arrivers entered the sanctuary. Thank God for late arrivers! The balcony looked good. However, the space between the choir loft and the balcony was lacking in people. Later in the day, I received the actual number of people present for worship. Ouch!

I've learned something from this strange Sunday – a Sunday that initially looked like participation

might be good even with the rain but, in the end, was not. When we are not physically present for worship – even if there is a good reason for our absence – it hurts the church. I've listened back to my sermon from last Sunday. And it sounds like I recovered well from my disappointment. Nonetheless, others felt disappointment too. Someone suggested we had more people for Geraldine Tucker's memorial service Sunday afternoon than we did for Sunday morning worship. Maybe so. A sparse sanctuary causes pain because our *family* is not together.

Two weeks ago, *I* missed worship with our congregation. I was invited back by the first church I served as pastor to preach at the church's homecoming service. It was a good reason to be absent. However, my absence hurt our church. There was one less person in worship. Therefore, there was a little less vibrancy than there would have been if I were with my church *family*.

Please be aware that when you are absent from worship – even for a good reason – your absence (and mine) hurts the church. Therefore, we want to keep absences – for whatever reason – to a bare minimum.

In Christ,  
Trey



## Worshipping Together

October 20, 2019

11:00 am

**Children's Sabbath**

*Champions of Faith*

Hebrews 12:1-2

Worship Choirs

Music Friends & The Children Choristers

## Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 27

On the morning of October 27, our Children's Ministry will lead their 7th annual Children's Sabbath worship service. This year's theme is, "Champions of Faith," and will feature four of our grade school children preaching about Joseph (OT), Esther, David, and Barnabas.

The grades 1-5 children will rehearse in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. They are to wear their red turtlenecks, dark or khaki pants/skirt, dark shoes, no necklaces.

The age 3—Kindergarten children will gather in room 105 at 10:45 am. They should dress in their usual Sunday morning fashion.

### Get to Know Us!



Perry Newbern, age 8  
Sarah Newbern, age 4  
Parents are Carroll & Suzanne Newbern

## Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27

5:00—6:15 pm

- 4:00 pm Volunteers gather in Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 pm Supper (*hotdogs, chips, drinks*) & Candy Corn Bingo (*adults & children*)
- 5:45 pm Trunk or Treating (*for Birth-Grade 5*)
- 6:15 pm Dismiss



Children are encouraged to come in costume & bring your treat bag. Adults & teens are encouraged to come for supper, candy corn bingo, and to see the creative trunks.

## 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 Star City Skate & Play in Rocky Mount.

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

## Chowan Singers at FBC

Sunday, November 3

The Chowan Singers of Chowan University, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Thorburn, will serve as our worship choir on November 3.

## Christmas Shoeboxes



All shoeboxes are due the week of November 18-24. Below, is the schedule for FBCA drop off time and dates. Please place your filled box in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Melanie Byrum, coordinator.

- Nov. 18 (*Monday*): 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Nov. 19 (*Tuesday*): 8:30am-12:30pm
- Nov. 20 (*Wednesday*): 4:00pm-6:30pm
- Nov. 21 (*Thursday*): 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Nov. 22 (*Friday*): 8:30am- 12:30pm
- Nov. 23 (*Saturday*): 10:00am-12:00pm
- Nov. 24 (*Sunday*): 4:00pm-8:00pm



October 20, 2019

Weekly Need	\$ 8,639.45
Weekly Offering	\$ 7,430.01
Difference	\$ -1,209.44

YTD Needs	\$362,856.90
YTD Offerings	\$335,832.03
YTD Difference	\$ -27,024.87

World Hunger Total Offering	\$ 305.00
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 0.00

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



# November 2019

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Every Sunday</b> • 9:45a: Sunday School • 11a: Worship • 4p: Chairo • 5p: Christmas Choir	<b>Every Monday</b> • 3p: Staff Mtg. • 5:30p: Girl Scouts		<b>Every Wednesday</b> • 5-6:30p: Meal • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 6p: Adult Bible Study • 7p: Sanctuary Choir • 8p: Vocal Ensemble		<b>Every Friday</b> • 9a: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	
<b>3 Communion</b> 		<b>5</b> • 10a: Women on Missions (WOM): Groups 2 & 4	<b>6</b> • 10:30a: Ahoskie Garden Club			<b>9</b> • 10a-3p: CBFNC Children's Missions Day
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> • 5p: CWJC Board Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> • 12p: JOY Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <div>Vote on 2020 Budget</div>	<b>18</b> • 7p: Building & Grounds Mtg.	<b>19</b> • 6p: Deacons' Mtg.	<b>20</b> • 12p: Ahoskie Woman's Club	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Christmas Shoebox Collection at FBC: November 18-24						
<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <div>Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</div>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



**NOVEMBER**  
BIRTHDAYS

1 Bill Earley  
 1 Lane Slachta  
 2 Barbara Roberson  
 3 Gary Morris

5 Carol Paul  
 6 Alex Britton  
 6 Susan Keel  
 7 Virginia Minton  
 7 Jim Wiggins  
 8 Janice Morris  
 10 Brandon Zoch  
 11 Jim Messer

11 Mary Ann Umphlett  
 12 Ann Carter Barnes  
 12 Rachael Modlin  
 13 Ben Britton  
 13 Sylvia Britt  
 16 Bryant Brinkley  
 16 Fletcher Pierce  
 18 John Burns

19 Scott Outlaw  
 20 Judy H. Pierce  
 28 Margaret Winn  
 29 Peggy Lowe

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**Week of Oct. 27-Nov. 2, 2019**

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

**Deacons on Call**

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Brandon Zoch, 862-5767

**Extended Session—October 27**

Babies: Angela Kinlaw

Ages 1 & 2: Jessica Brinkley & Georgia Copeland

Ages 3-5: James & Eva Early

Floater: Judy H. Pierce

**Ushers - October 27**

Lanie Byrum, J.C. Doughtie, Tim Frei, Mollee

Frei Lamm, Edgar Swain & Justice Zoch

Balcony—Makynley Roberts & Chloe Rose

**Sound System—October 27**

Walt Pierce

**Floral Offering - October 27**

Jim Wiggins & Cecelia Bracy

**Home Delivered Meals - October 28**

Austine Evans & Mary Ann Umphlett

**Food Pantry—November 1**

Virgia Nichols & Wanda VanNeil

**Week of Nov. 3-9, 2019**

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

**Deacons on Call**

Betty Joyner, 398-6104

Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

**Extended Session - November 3**

Babies: Brian & Victoria Outlaw

Ages 1 & 2: Nat & Lou Riddick

Ages 3-5: Landis Chamblee & Elizabeth Davis

Floaters: Heath & Lyndsay Britt

**Ushers - November 3**

Kay Byrd, Larry Freeman, Jane M. Hollingsworth,

Patricia Hughes, Bill Magette & Chip Rose

Balcony—Walt Pierce & Andy Woodard

**Sound System - November 3**

Rick Burns

**Floral Offering—November 3**

Charles & Patricia Hughes

**Home Delivered Meals – November 4**

Jayne Frei & Jerri Harrell

**Food Pantry – November 8**

June & Otis Payne

## Wednesday Night Meal Servants

Oct. 30: Sandra Pierce & Lou Riddick

Nov. 6: Lou Ann Gilliam & Jerri Harrell

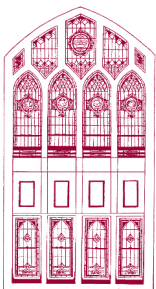
## The FBC Ministers

*Trey Gilliam, Pastor*

trey@fbcahoskie.org • 252-398-7321

*Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor*

anita@fbcahoskie.org • 252-395-0061



## The Window

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