



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 53

February 5, 2020

No.3

Basketball and Church

I was watching the first-round basketball game of a local high school conference tournament. I could not help but to notice the body language of both the losing team and their coach. Furthermore, because I sat right behind the team's bench, I was able to hear some of the conversations between players and between players and coach. I was close enough to the game itself that I was able to hear comments made by players on the court. And it was clear that the weaker of the two teams was not putting forth their best effort.

The coach was friendly with his players. He laughed with his players as his team went down by 10 points and then 20 points and then 30 points. I would have preferred the coach of the losing team, and the players on the losing team, to exhibit a bit of passion, enthusiasm, and desire to, at least, make the game respectable. I even heard one player say, "I don't want to dribble!"

As the church of Jesus the Christ, it often appears that we too are overmatched. For those of us who love the church, for those of us who have been moved to action by the message of Jesus' cross, for those of us who have centered our lives around the activity of the church, it is sad to see a day when fewer and fewer people choose to participate in the life of the church with regularity. I had someone say to me recently, "I remember FBC Ahoskie in the 1970s when you had to wiggle a bit to find a place in a pew for Sunday morning worship." For those energized and encouraged by high levels of church participation, it is disappointing that we no longer need to wiggle. Of course, this is not unique to our church. During his visit with us last weekend, Paul Baxley told me that churches are smaller wherever he goes.

So, what do we do? Well, we do not lose heart like the overmatched basketball team and coach. We simply cannot refuse to dribble. It is imperative that we continue to compel people to turn from their sin to new life in Christ. There is a reason our churches are smaller – many people are lost and without an awareness God in their life. How sad indeed!

I was encouraged after our worship experience together last Sunday, February 2. We all heard an excellent sermon from Paul reminding us of our total dependency on God. And we had new faces in some of our otherwise empty spaces. Of late, I have exhorted our congregation to reach out and to invite others to visit with us. I know that some, perhaps many, of our people have done just that. It showed last Sunday! Please keep inviting people to be a part of our community.

As the secularization of our society deepens, we, as the church, often feel overmatched. However, we must continue to evangelize with passion, enthusiasm, and desire. We must continue to share the message that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself (2 Corinthians 5:19).

In Christ,

Trey



Worshipping Together
February 9, 2020
The 5th Sunday after Epiphany
11:00 am

Bells and Whistles
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Music
Chairo

PASSPORT

2020 Passport Summer Camp Dates

Passport Kids Camp

July 11-14

St. Andrews University

Laurinburg, NC

Children who are currently in grades 3-5 are eligible to attend. Secure your place with a \$60 check payable to First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, Inc. The deadline is Easter Sunday, April 12. The total cost per person will be determined after fundraisers. (Passport charges \$305 per child.)

Passport Youth Camp

July 20-25

Furman University

Greenville, SC

Youth who are currently in grades 6-12 are eligible to attend. Secure your place with a \$90 check payable to First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, Inc. The deadline is Easter Sunday, April 12. The total cost per person will be determined after fundraisers. (Passport charges \$445 per youth.)

This summer's theme is . . .

BE God gives us the power to live,
to move, and to BE who we are.
—Acts 17:28

Who are you created to BE? We believe everyone is created by God to BE a person of worth, loved by God, living in community and in communion with our world. This summer, come BE still, BE loved, BE one and BE with us as we uncover the masterpiece that God has created you to BE!"

Childcare for Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Susan Cherry-Keel is working to arrange childcare for one and two-year-olds on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm so their moms can fully participate in the Women's Bible Study. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan at 287-6496.



JOY Fellowship Valentine's Lunch February 13 at 12:00 pm

Menu: Country ham, fruit salad, baked sweet potatoes, string beans & red velvet cake
Program: Mike Lassiter from Aulander, NC will perform musical selections.
Cost: \$5 per person. Sign up is requested by 9:00 am Tuesday, February 11.

Upcoming Meetings

February 11

6pm Missions Committee, *Library*

February 17

7pm Building & Grounds Committee,
Fellowship Hall

February 18

6pm Deacons' Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*



Summer Church Camp

July 27—20

Monday—Thursday ♦ 5:30—8:00 pm

For Age 3—Grade 5 ♦ Supper Included

Save the date!

Stewardship Statement

February 2, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 12,035.27
Difference	\$ 2,904.99
YTD Needs	\$45,651.40
YTD Offerings	\$42,242.74
YTD Difference	\$ -3,408.66
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 365.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

From the Associate Pastor

*What does the LORD require of you?
To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

—Micah 6:8

The Children's Time that we provide each Sunday as part of our worship service is one of my favorite moments of the week. I enjoy the challenge of coming up with age-appropriate ways to communicate complex theological teachings to young children. I love the way our children freely participate in the discussion, even when their contributions move us far off topic!

Last Sunday the children enthusiastically stayed on topic as we talked about kindness and what it looks like. I loved it when four-year-old Lila Stuart Pierce chimed in with her description of kindness. "It's when you have good manners . . . and you don't hit."

Since Sunday, Stuart's description has been running through my mind quite a bit. My first thought is this: Though many of us could probably use a manners check-up, I think most of us are pretty good about saying "Please" and "Thank you," "Yes, ma'am," or "No, ma'am," and "Yes, sir," or "No, sir." We hold the door open for others. And we try to be helpful.

But what about hitting? That's my second thought. Of course, I hope to goodness none of us are physically hitting others. But it occurs to me that there are other ways of "hitting" someone, and unfortunately, many of us are too readily engaging in those other ways.



When we purposely embarrass someone, that's a type of "hit." When we disparage someone because his/her politics are different from ours, that's a type of "hit." When we use social media to attack those

persons or organizations we perceive as "other"—other races, other religions, other nationalities, other cultures — that's a type of "hit." When our thoughts are too filled with an "us vs them," or "I vs you" mentality, those thoughts lead to speech and actions that are a type of "hit." And these type of "hits" need to stop.

The world needs us to be more kind to one another." (Ephesians 4:32) We need to take Stuart's definition of kindness and Micah's directive from God, and pray that God's Holy Spirit will help us live them out each day.

Don't hit.
Do justice.
Love kindness.
Walk humbly with God.
Lord, please help us.

Grace & peace,

Lila



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 26, 2020

6:00 pm Meal

6:45pm Service of Worship

We begin the Season of Lent dining and worshiping together. After enjoying a delicious meal in our fellowship hall, we'll move to the sanctuary where we'll engage in a time of reflection and confession as we observe the tradition of the imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday falls 46 days before Easter Sunday and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is traditionally a 40-day period — a reference to the time Jesus spent being tempted in the desert — that seeks to prepare the heart for the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death. It concludes and is followed by a joyous Easter Sunday celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Feb. 9-15, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Charles Hughes, 287-8403

Brandon Zoch, 862-5767

Extended Session—February 9

Babies: Noreen Hannon & Debbie Rawls

Ages 1 & 2: Bryan & Jessica Britton

Ages 3-5: Bea Harrison & Anna Pierce

Floater: Jamie Burns

Ushers - February 9

Lanie Byrum, J.C. Doughtie, Pike Harrington,

Bill Magette, Pate Pierce, Carroll Thompson

Balcony—Brad & Colby Hauser

Sound System—February 9

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering - February 9

Ruth Ward

Home Delivered Meals - February 10

Frank & Penny Rose

Food Pantry—February 14

Pat Askew, Robert Earl & Pansy White

Week of Feb. 16-22, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Rick Burns, 209-4058

Peggy Springfield, 287-3121

Sunday School at Creekside Care

Genesis Class

Extended Session - February 16

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 1 & 2: Alex & Sarah G. Britton

Ages 3-5: Harriet Byrum & Claudia Morris

Floater: Melanie Byrum

Ushers - February 16

Carolyn Arrington, Tim Frei, Duck Harrell,

Spencer Matthews, Peggy Springfield, Edgar

Swain

Balcony—Keith Rawls & Andy Woodard

Sound System—February 16

Rick Burns

Floral Offering—February 16

Cierra Poag & Family

Home Delivered Meals - February 17

Bill & Susan Earley

Food Pantry - February 21

Melanie Byrum & Judy H. Pierce

The FBC Ministers

Trey Gilliam, Pastor

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Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor

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The Window

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