



# THE WINDOW

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No.5

## Easter Baptism Anyone?

It was common practice in some geographical areas for early Christians to observe baptism on Easter Sunday. For example, when discussing the many ways in which churches in different places observe Easter, Socrates (a fifth-century church historian) states that in Thessaly (Greece), the Christians there baptize only during the days of Easter (presumably late Saturday night or Easter day). This practice caused some concern because, due to their custom of baptizing only once a year, some people died before they received baptism (*Ecclesiastical History* 5.22). Siricius, bishop of Rome from 384-399, was opposed to baptism on Christmas, Epiphany, as well as the feasts days for martyrs and apostles. Rather, Siricius favored baptism on Pentecost or Easter Sunday. Interestingly, Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem from 350-387, informs us that those prepared for baptism during Lent were baptized in the nude on Easter eve or Easter Sunday. Furthermore, upon exiting the waters, the newly baptized were clothed in a white robe. Perhaps, as Anita suggested recently, there is a connection between the white robe and, in our day and time, new dress clothes for Easter. For all you ever wanted to know about baptism among early Christians, see Everett Ferguson's *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries* (Michigan and Cambridge, 2009).

This Easter will be my fourth Easter as your pastor. Each of the three previous years we have baptized on Easter Sunday. In 2017, we baptized Steven Hollingsworth. In 2018, we baptized Camille Pierce and Fletcher Pierce. In 2019, we baptized Miracle Deloatch. Naturally then a 2020 Easter baptism is in order.

Anyone interested in Easter baptism?

Of course, there is no bad time to baptize. I would have to dig a bit to find the exact date of my baptism. However, I remember very well that it was *not* on Easter Sunday. Rather, my baptism was in Bill Sweet's pond on a hot summer evening. Nonetheless, there is indeed something profound about baptism on Easter Sunday.

Hear Paul's words in Romans 6:3-5: "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection" (NAS-UE).

Baptism is rich with imagery. When we are immersed under the water, it is symbolic of our death to sin. Jesus died *for* sin. We die *to* sin. Therefore, we are untied with Jesus in his death. When we come out of the water we are united with Jesus in his resurrection. Jesus was raised to new life as validation of his identity as the Messiah, the Christ. We too are raised. We are raised to newness of life, to live a life dedicated to obedience to Jesus' teachings.

If you are interested in baptism, please speak with me or Anita. Easter baptism anyone?

In Christ,  
Trey



## Worshipping Together

March 8, 2020

*The Second Sunday in Lent*

11:00 am

*Heart Health*

Luke 18:9-14

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Worship Music

The Sanctuary Choir

# 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!"

## Senior Fest 2020

at Chowan University

(for Senior Adults)

March 24, 2020 ♦ 9:30 am—2:30 pm

Featuring. . .

Matt Fore, Humorist, Speaker &  
Comedy Magician

Breakout Sessions

Entertainment & Lunch

Registration Fee—\$15 per person

Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration deadline is March 11. For additional info, contact Lou Ann Gilliam at 252-398-6317 or [www.chowan.edu/seniorfest](http://www.chowan.edu/seniorfest).

## JOY Fellowship

Senior Adult Lunch

March 12 at 12:00 pm

### Menu

Hamburger steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and cupcakes.

### Program

Rick Early, an Ahoskie native, will perform with traditional bagpipe selections. He played bagpipes in the Pipes and Drums Band while attending North Carolina State University.

### Cost

\$5 per person. Sign up is requested by 9:00 am Tuesday, March 10.



### March 1, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 10,799.25
Difference	\$ 1,668.97

YTD Needs	\$ 82,172.52
YTD Offerings	\$ 75,757.13
YTD Difference	\$ -6,415.39

Capital Campaign Weekly Offering	\$ 270.00
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 452.00

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



## Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8, 2020

Before retiring Saturday night, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

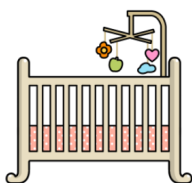
### Vote Scheduled for Capital Campaign Recommendation March 22, 2020



On February 20<sup>th</sup>, our deacons voted unanimously to accept the recommendations from the Capital Campaign Committee in relation to sanctuary renovations as well as the construction of a green space on our North Street lot.

The Capital Campaign Committee presented their recommendations to the church body on Wednesday, March 4 at which time they entertained questions. A vote on the recommendation (without discussion) is scheduled for Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, before morning worship. All church members are invited to vote during this brief business meeting.

### Christian Women's Job Corps Needs



Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) is in need of a used crib for a participant. If anyone has one they know they no longer need we can put it to good use.

Also, CWJC are very low on furniture. If anyone has furniture that is in good shape that you would like to give away, please speak with Pat Byrd, CWJC Director, 252-332-4122.

### A Staff Change

For approximately 18 months Heather Joyner has served us exceedingly well as secretary. Though we are saddened to see her go, we rejoice with her as she begins a new, full-time job at Coastal Agro-Business in Murfreesboro. Heather's last day with us will be March 13. Until then, please join the church staff in offering your thanks to Heather for the fine job she has done for us.

## The Week Ahead



### Sunday, March 8

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 4:00 pm Chair Music Ensemble
- 5:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Sunday Rehearsal

### Monday, March 9

- 11:00 am Lenten Study w/Anita, *Room 103*
- 3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Girl Scout Troops
- 6:00 pm Lenten Study w/Anita, *Room 209*

### Wednesday, March 11

- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 5:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Gathering
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 12

- 12:00 pm JOY Fellowship

### Friday, March 13

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



Let Us Pray

### Chowan University Campus Ministry Mission Trip March 7—14, 2020

During Spring Break, Rev. Mari Wiles, Minister to the University, and Amber Simpson, Associate Minister, will be leading a team of students to serve in Waianae, Hawaii as they minister in areas of poverty, and serve at the Pu'u Kahea Baptist Camp. Let us support them with our prayers.

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**Week of March 8-14, 2020**

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

**Deacons on Call**

Frank Britt, 642-2087

Betty Joyner, 398-6104

**Extended Session—March 8**

Babies: Joyce Leary & Debbie Rawls

Ages 1 & 2: Anna Dawson & Mary Page Pierce

Ages 3-5: Bryan & Jessica Britton

Floater: Susan Earley

**Ushers - March 8**

Ed Copeland Jr., Bill Magette, Camille Pierce,  
Nat Riddick, L. Taylor Rose & Isabella Woodard  
Balcony—Walt Pierce & Keith Rawls

**Sound System—March 8**

Henry Daniels

**Floral Offering - March 8**

Kim Cherry

**Home Delivered Meals - March 9**

Buzzy & Rosa Swain

**Food Pantry—March 13**

Jack & Millie Britt

**Week of March 15-21, 2020**

**Minister on Call**

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

**Deacons on Call**

Penny Rose, 287-8531

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

**Extended Session - March 15**

Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 1 & 2: Alex & Sarah G. Britton

Ages 3-5: Gretchen & Reagan Zoch

Floater: Melanie Byrum

**Ushers - March 15**

Heath Britt, J.C. Doughtie, Gail Holloman,  
Frank Rose, Peggy Springfield & Carroll  
Thompson  
Balcony—Brad & Colby Hauser

**Sound System—March 15**

Walt Pierce

**Floral Offering—March 15**

Ollie & Hannah Brown Family

**Home Delivered Meals - March 16**

Joyce Dail & Judy G. Pierce

**Food Pantry - March 20**

JoAn Downs, Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize

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## The FBC Ministers

**Trey Gilliam, Pastor**

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**Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor**

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## The Window

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