

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of April 26—May 2, 2020

## Minister on Call

Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

## Deacons on Call

Austine Evans, 398-2724

Gloria Freeman, 395-0370

## Sound System—April 26

Rick Burns

## Food Pantry— May 1

Robert & Pansy White, Pat Askew

Week of May 3—9, 2020

## Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

## Deacons on Call

Frank Britt, 642-2087

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

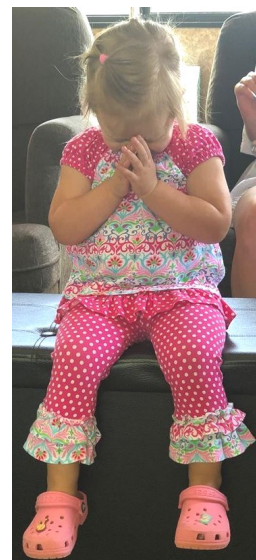
## Sound System—May 3

Frank Britt

## Food Pantry— May 8

Melanie Byrum & Judy H. Pierce

## Tell Us Your Stories



We've heard so many beautiful stories, and have seen heart-warming pictures of the ways you're being church at home. At left is Peyton Outlaw, daughter of Brian & Victoria Outlaw. As the family gathered to worship through Facebook live, Peyton bowed her head, folded her hands in prayer, and said, "Thank you for my church."

We'd love to compile your stories and pictures and share them with the church family, so please email them to us or mail them to PO Box 649.

## Bracy Scholarship Applications

Any FBCA members who will be college students during the 2020-2021 academic year are encouraged to apply for the Bracy Scholarship. Under our current shelter-in-place circumstances, applications will be mailed to homes upon request. Please contact Anita if you would like an application. The applications are due in the church office on April 30.

## The FBC Ministers

Trey Gilliam, Pastor  
tre@gfbcahoskie.org ♦ 252-398-7321

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



## The Window

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# THE WINDOW

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Volume 53

April 22, 2020

No. 8

## Sanctuary Worship During the Coronavirus Pandemic

These are strange and different days. I just re-tuned from the graveside service for Bob New-some. On the one hand, it was nice to see so many First Baptist people. On the other hand, I left the Ahoskie cemetery with a lack of closure. We all had to stand far apart from one another. In fact, I felt rude at a different graveside service when I had to remind someone, who extended his hand to greet me, that shaking hands, at this time, carries with it a degree of risk. He meant no harm of course. It was just southern culture reflex. Even so, after our graveside memorial service for Bob was complete, I was unable to shake hands, much less hug Dot and the rest of the family.

Pastoral ministry is so different now.

And so it is in our church sanctuary on Sunday mornings – different, very different. As you know, a handful of us gather in the sanctuary each Sunday and lead worship. Everyone is invited to join us in worship via Facebook Live and/or the radio station. Overall, this arrangement has gone well. I like that worship is still live. I like that our outreach has expanded. Have you noticed that we now have over 500 people in our Facebook community? I have no way to estimate how many people are a part of our radio congregation.

However, last Sunday (4-19-2020) demonstrates how different things are in our sanctuary. I missed Anita's children's time because I had to leave the platform to receive further instruction about the nature of our technical difficulties. I am not a proficient lip reader! Passing the offering plate continues to be awkward with ten people. I much prefer a smooth transition from the doxology into the scripture reading for the day's sermon. However,

last Sunday I had to give directions to help resolve our technical difficulties. I am doing my best. However, I am still not sure how to lead us into the hymn of commitment with 95% of our congregation in Facebook and radio land. Do you remember several weeks ago when the Facebook Live camera fell off the tripod mid service? Augh!

Nonetheless, there were high points last Sunday for which I am extremely grateful. First, Leah Woodard made a profession of Christian faith and, upon her baptism, will be a member of FBC Ahoskie. Over the past three weeks, six people have joined our congregation! Next, after worship was over last Sunday we all, for no apparent reason, gathered in a circle on the West Street side of our sanctuary. And it happened as it sometimes does after "normal" worship. I felt the Spirit of God linger, well after the benediction, as we talked. While maintaining social distancing, we too lingered in that circle and enjoyed one another's company.

I look forward to lingering with our entire congregation in the future. Until then, during these strange and different days at graveside services, in our sanctuary, and elsewhere, *Gloria in excelsis Deo* – glory to God in the highest!

In Christ,  
Trey



## Worshiping Together

April 26, 2020

11:00 am

*The 3rd Sunday of Easter*

*House of Cards*

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

## From the Associate Pastor

Most of you are aware that in these days of sheltering in place, Trey and I have continued to work in the church offices. We are careful with distancing, hand washing, and trying to abide by appropriate guidelines. We spend a good deal of time planning our worship services, making the necessary changes to adapt to our current circumstances. We also work to keep the lines of communication open through phone calls, our church's Facebook page, our bi-monthly "Window," and the "Window in Between." We've been helping some of our folks learn to navigate Facebook for the first time, and, since some of our Sunday School classes and our youth group are meeting virtually through an online platform called Zoom, we've been helping a bit with that too. Our deacons had their first Zoom meeting last night! (April 21)

Since we are currently without a secretary, I've been spending a good bit of time in our main office, going through files and organizing. (I do love to organize!) Rest assured that I am very careful with every file, notebook, pamphlet, and sheet of paper.

Going through these materials has served as a reminder of how strong and vibrant our church has been for over 215 years. I was reminded of the church's successful efforts of recovering from the effects of many wars, beginning with the Civil War. In 1928, just one year before the beginning of the Great Depression, our forebearers broke ground to build our current sanctuary, fellowship hall, and initial educational space. Nine years and three months later—*before* the end of the Great Depression—the building was complete!

Fast forwarding quite a few years, I began to recognize names from my childhood days in the church. I remembered Sunday School teachers, mission group leaders, choir directors, and nursery workers. I smiled at the pictures of women decked out in hats and furs. I chuckled at the pictures of men gathered in the "smoking section" outside the Main St. door near the elevator. I enjoyed reading programs from banquets, concerts, socials, musicals, weddings, and receptions. And I have loved reading about our church's successful ministries that have continued long after I left Ahoskie in the early 1980's.

With each document and picture giving testimony to the strength of FBC Ahoskie's ministry, I began to breathe a bit easier in regard to our current cir-

cumstance. Yes, today is the 24th day we've been sheltering in place. Yes, we miss being together in our beautiful church building. But, our ministry remains strong. We're still "gathering" for worship every Sunday. We're still checking on our brothers and sisters and praying for one another. We're still being good stewards. We are the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, and we're going to be all right.

Grace & peace,

*Anna*

## Welcome New Member

On Sunday, April 19, 2020 we welcomed into our church membership Leah Woodard. She comes to us upon her profession of faith, and will be baptized when we are able to gather for worship again in our sanctuary.

Leah is the daughter of Andy & Natalie Woodard, and is a student at Ridgecroft School. We are thrilled that she has embraced the Christian faith as her own, and are delighted to welcome her as an official member of our church.

## In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of Bob Newsome who passed away on April 16. A graveside service was held on Tuesday, April 21. A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary at a later time. Please remember in prayer his beloved wife of 70+ years, Dot, their daughters, Beth and Sandra, the grandchildren, and great grandchildren.



April 19, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 2,349.00
Difference	\$ -6,781.28

YTD Needs	\$ 146,084.48
YTD Offerings	\$ 122,998.62
YTD Difference	\$ -23,085.86

Capital Campaign Weekly Total	\$ 60.00
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 160.00

**Thank You for your generous gifts!**

May 2020						
First Baptist Church of Ahoskie						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Every Sunday</b> •9:45a: Sunday School •11:00a: Worship •4:00p: Chair Music Ensemble •5:00p: Sunday Sanctuary Choir		<b>Regarding Our May Calendar</b> The May calendar includes all of our usual activities in the hope that we may be able to return to some normalcy before the month ends.			1 •9a: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	2
3 <b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 	4	5	6 •10a: Women on Mission (WOM) Groups 2 & 4 •10a: Ahoskie Garden Club •3p: Ahoskie Jr. Garden Club	7	8 •9a: CWJC	9
10 <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> 	11	12 •5p: CWJC Board Mtg.	13	14 •12p: JOY Fellowship	15 •9a: CWJC	16
17 <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>	18 •7p: Building & Grounds Committee	19 •6p: Deacons' Meeting	20 •12p: Ahoskie Woman's Club	21	22 •9a: CWJC	23
24 <b>Ascension Sunday</b>	25  Church Offices Closed	26	27	28	29 •9a: CWJC	30
31  Pentecost		<b>Every Wednesday</b> •5:00p: Children's Music & Missions Women's Bible Study •6:00p: Adult Bible Study Youth & Children's Meal •7:00p: Sanctuary Choir •8:00p: Vocal Ensemble				



1 Victoria Harris  
2 Violet Williams

4 Nancy Baker  
5 Jane Holloman  
5 Gail Holloman  
7 Elijah Brown  
7 Kay Byrd  
7 Michael Harrell  
8 Heather Roberts  
9 Richard Alexander

9 Jessie Simons  
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 Blake Outlaw  
24 William Alexander  
24 Peggy Springfield  
25 Duck Harrell  
27 Tom Fretwell  
28 Howard Brown  
28 Trey Gilliam

28 Mollee Frei Lamm  
31 Donna Burden