



THE WINDOW

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Money, Money, Money

Dave Richards is the rector (pastor) of St. Paul's and St. George's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh, Scotland. Lou Ann, Matty Grace, and I participated in P's and G's, as it is called, during the years we lived in Edinburgh. P's and G's is a vibrant Christian congregation. During the first half of our time with them their lovely (a good British word) sanctuary and church facility were in the process of renovation. We treasure, not only our experience in Edinburgh, but also the Christian growth that occurred as a result of the ministry of P's and G's.

Nonetheless, I distinctly remember thinking, "Dave sure does ask the congregation for money a lot." Money, money, money seemed to be a consistent theme. Now that I too serve as pastor to a vibrant Christian congregation during a big renovation project, I understand better Dave's persistent reminder that maintaining a vibrant congregation during a big renovation project is not inexpensive. Furthermore, and at a deeper level, I understand now that Dave's request that his congregation give generously flowed from his deep belief in the good gospel work of St. Paul's and St. George's church in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

In other words, as I have learned during my time with our church, it is not difficult – in fact it is quite natural – to ask others to invest in something that you yourself are persuaded is good and godly.

Therefore, I would like to share with you a recent development in my own life and ask you to

join in with me. My pledge to the first phase of the capital campaign fund has long been met. As I have watched with great excitement the renovation that is taking place in our sanctuary (I can hear banging as I type), I decided to start giving to phase two now. In due time, the capital campaign committee will send out official pledge cards. I, of course, will make my official pledge then. However, because I am aware that a vibrant church is worth the cost and because I so believe what we do as FBC Ahoskie is good and godly, two weeks ago I started making a weekly contribution to phase two of the capital campaign fund. Of course, this weekly gift is over and above my regular tithes and offerings. I am giving more because I believe in the good gospel work and worship of our congregation.

I look forward to making my official capital campaign pledge sometime in the future. In the meantime, what a privilege it is to further support the work of our church that has led so many people into a relationship with God through Christ, tenderly nurtures Christian growth, provides assistance to persons in need in the name of Christ, and offers gathered worship to our most great and magnificent God.

Will you join with me in giving more – a little or a lot – to the current and future vibrancy of FBC Ahoskie? Money, money, money!

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together
July 12, 2020
The 6th Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 am

God and the Outcast
Genesis 21: 9-21
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Sanctuary Balcony Seats

If you requested a balcony seat, it is ready for pick up. All seats are located in the fellowship hall, and are marked with the names of their new owners.

Stewardship Statement

July 05, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 6,423.31
Difference	\$ -2,706.97

YTD Needs	\$ 246,517.56
YTD Offerings	\$ 210,877.03
YTD Difference	\$ -35,640.53

Capital Campaign Weekly Total	\$ 565.00
Benevolence Weekly Total	\$ 625.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Sanctuary Renovation Progress

On Monday July 6, "mudding" was completed. This is covering up the cracks and nails in the sheetrock. Next they will begin sanding, priming, and painting. Francisco, the job foreman, says the hardest part of the whole project is now done - hanging the sheet rock in the ceiling. You may keep abreast of the progress through photos posted on our church Facebook page.



From the Associate Pastor

“Change is the only constant.”

– Heraclitus, 6th century BCE

Twenty-six centuries later we can respond to the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, with a firm, “You ain’t kiddin’!”

Generally speaking, I think change can be a good thing. A change of attitude, a new job, a change of scenery, a new hairstyle! . . . all manner of changes can be good for us. I believe our sanctuary renovation is a prime example of a really good change. She has been in need of care for sometime, and our willingness to provide that care is an act of good stewardship and faithfulness. Upon completion, I think we’re going to look back on all that was done and agree that this change is indeed a good one.

But, of course, there are changes that don’t feel at all like a good thing. The coronavirus readily comes to mind. The changes it requires are anxiety producing and exhausting. As are the myriad political, cultural, and societal changes that are taking place in our country.

“Some changes look negative on the surface but you will soon realize that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge.”

– Eckhart Tolle

Some of the changes that we, at first, deem unpleasant, may turn out to be really good changes. For instance, sheltering-in-place has resulted in a return to traditional family dinners where everyone eats together at the same time and catches up with what’s going on with one another. Not being able to worship in person has reminded us of how much we cherish that weekly tradition. Having to teach children at home has resulted in a greater appreciation for educators. And the slower pace that the pandemic has required for some has lead many of us to determine that we don’t want to return to the pre-pandemic, fast-paced lives we were living.

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”

– William Arthur Ward

I could choose to complain about the many changes that are happening around me right now. I could choose to wait expectantly for what the changes

will bring. Or, I can adjust the way I journey through the changes. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will help me do very little of the first, more of the second, and decidedly more of the third. Who wants to pray this with me?

Handbell Ministry

On Friday, July 3, our handbells—ten cases!—were boxed up and shipped to Jeffers Handbell Supply in Irmo, South Carolina for cleaning and refurbishment. This is not the first time they’ve received this kind of love, but with our oldest set going on forty-plus years, they were due a bit of care.

I had an ulterior motive for getting our handbells taken care of. It occurs to me that though we cannot sing as a group for the foreseeable future, we might be able to ring handbells if we do so while masked and practicing social distancing. I’m thinking we could start with two handbell choirs for adults and youth combined: one for experienced ringers, and one for beginners. And I’d love to add a handbell choir for grade school children.

The key to having any handbell choir is attendance. For example, in a singing group, though the absence of voices affect the sound of the choir, their absence doesn’t necessarily mean the group cannot sing. But in a handbell choir, trying to ring without all the ringers present is like trying to play a piano with a lot of keys missing. It’s awfully hard to do.

As I begin to dream about what our handbell ministry might look like in the fall, it would be helpful if you would let me know if you are interested in being part of a handbell choir. Knowing how to read music is not required. It’s helpful, but not required.

Organist Update

On Sunday, July 5, Belinda Butler informed me that due to health issues related to her back, she is resigning her position as organist. Her last Sunday with us will be July 26. Belinda has served us well since she began her ministry with us on January 5 of this year. Join me in praying for the health of her back so that she may be able to return to an organ bench and use her God-given gifts to the glory of God. Thank you, Belinda, for partnering in ministry with us.

Grace & peace,



SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of July 12-18, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175

Charles Hughes, 287-8403

Sound System—July 12

Frank Britt

Floral Offering—July 12

Ernie & Austine Evans

Food Pantry— July 17

Anita Thompson & Carroll Thompson

Week of July 19-25, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Claire Presley, 287-6132

Peggy Springfield, 287-5119

Sound System—July 19

Walt Pierce

Floral Offering—July 19

Trey & Harriet Byrum

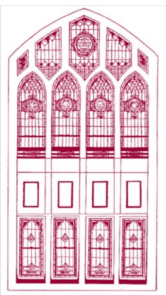
Food Pantry – July 24

Melanie Byrum & Judy H. Pierce

2020-2021 Nominating Committee



Our Nominating Committee is beginning the work of matching members' ministry gifts with places of service for the 2020-2021 Church Year which begins September 1. If you are sensing a call to serve in a particular ministry, please let a committee member know of your desire. Members are Malcolm Copeland, J.C. Doughtie, Joyce Leary, Arlene Raiford, Lou Riddick, and Mary Ann Umphlett.



The Window

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