



THE WINDOW

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

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August 5, 2020

No.15

Pastor-Scholar

Do you remember October 15, 2017? On this Sunday, nearly three years ago, I was installed as pastor of our church. I said to you then that this was not my day. The day belonged to the church. I reminded us that there had been many pastors before me since our church's founding in 1804. And, if the Lord tarries, there will be many pastors after me.

Does any of this ring a bell? What about this? Do you remember that I presented Claire Presley, our deacon chair at the time, a copy of my book – *Ignatius of Antioch and the Arian Controversy*. I had no expectation then or now that anyone from our congregation would read the book; though our current deacon chair, Andy Woodard, has looked at it enough to tell me the book needs pictures! The gift of the book to our church was a symbolic act. The book symbolized how I would serve our congregation. I would serve our church as a pastor-scholar; a model that is not as prevalent as it once was.

What does this mean?

It means that I am committed to preaching relevant and well thought through sermons with the goal of assisting our congregation in living lives in such a way that is pleasing to God – the God that revealed himself to us through Jesus the Christ. It means that I am committed to sharing life with our community – births, dedications, weddings, sicknesses, death, and more. It means I am to provide compassionate and patient supervision to our church staff.

However, there is more to this pastor-scholar model. I am also to maintain my scholarly commitments that led to my previous role as a college professor. I am to stay abreast of the developments within my field. I am to research. I am to publish the results of my finds. This activity, combined with that of the

previous paragraph, makes me a more complete minister.

So, I want to make you aware of a couple of developments in relation to the scholar part of the pastor-scholar model – the part you do not see up close. First, I now have a rough draft of the four chapters that make up my current book project that I have been at work on since 2015 – *William Whiston and the Apostolic Constitutions: Completing the Reformation*. In fact, I have begun discussion with a possible publisher for this book. Second, I recently submitted a book review of Rob Iliffe's book *Priest of Nature: The Religious Worlds of Isaac Newton* to the journal *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*. The publication of a book review is not a big deal. In fact, it can be chalked up as service to the discipline (though, you do get a free copy of the book you review). However, I admit I smiled when I typed my name and institution at the conclusion of the review: Paul R. Gilliam III, First Baptist Church, Ahoskie, NC.

I am grateful for a congregation where the pastor-scholar model still works.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together

August 9, 2020

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am

Surprise Endings

Genesis 33:1-10

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Heck-Jones Offering

*A tree that is firmly planted is healthy
and prepared for the challenge of each new day.*

Firmly Planted is this year's theme for the annual Heck-Jones Offering which supports the ministries of the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) of NC. All of its missions and ministries are made possible through this offering. The state WMU goal is \$400,000.

WMU NC seeks to inspire and equip believers to be radically involved in the mission of God. This offering will be received through the month of August. You will find a Heck-Jones Offering envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Will you help WMU NC to remain firmly planted by giving to this offering?

In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of Mary Jane Pace Herring, age 96, who passed away on July 29 in Franklin, VA.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study



Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm.
Live-streamed on our church Facebook page.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Nick & Kaitlyn Diego on the July 31st birth of their son, Ryan Hunter Diego. The proud older sisters are Madison and Maranda.

Welcome New Member

On Sunday, August 2, 2020, we welcomed into our church membership Jonathan B. Edwards. A previous member of FBC Ahoskie, he comes to us by transfer of letter. We are delighted to welcome back Jon as an official member of our congregation.

Worship Flowers

During this time of sheltering in place, persons who have signed up to provide worship flowers have the option of observing our usual practice, or using the lovely peace lily that one of our families provided. The choices have varied from Sunday to Sunday. At the appropriate time, please let the church office know of your preference. Here is the schedule for August.

Aug. 9 Malcolm Copeland
Aug. 16 Earl, Linda & April Futrell
Aug. 23 Russell Overman
Aug. 30 Trey & Harriet Byrum



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

2020-2021 Nominating Committee

Our Nominating Committee continues their work of matching members' ministry gifts with places of service for the 2020-2021 Church Year which begins September 1. We are so thankful for all who've had said "Yes" to the invitation to serve. If you are sensing a call to serve in a particular ministry, please let a committee member know of your desire. We will vote on the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee Booklet on Sunday, August 23. Committee members are J.C. Doughtie, Joyce Leary, Arlene Raiford, Lou Riddick, and Mary Ann Umphlett.



August 2, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,361.00
Difference	\$ -3,769.28
YTD Needs	\$ 283,038.68
YTD Offerings	\$ 234,584.26
YTD Difference	\$ -48,454.42

Capital Campaign Weekly Total	\$ 125.00
Benevolence Weekly Total	\$ 300.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

From the Associate Pastor

When I was a child, the beloved William R. “Billy” Raynor served faithfully as organist at FBC Ahoskie. Though we don’t know the exact date of the beginning of his ministry, we believe it was sometime around the mid to late 1960’s. He retired in 1992. Therefore, he was our organist for 25+ years, a very rare tenure these days amidst the international shortage of organists!

Recently, I became curious about our organists’ tenures following Mr. Raynor’s retirement. Consulting Jesse Croom’s book, *Faithful and Free*, a history of FBC Ahoskie, I noted that Tom Kiff has been our longest tenured organist since Mr. Raynor’s retirement. He served for five years in the late 1990’s. Otherwise, our organists have averaged a tenure of approximately two years. Oh, how I wish God would bless us with another Billy Raynor! But, alas, with the reality of the shortage of organists, it is doubtful.

On July 5, Belinda Butler shared with me her need to resign as organist due to health reasons. I began our search for a new organist that very afternoon. I updated and activated our ad on the American Guild of Organists website. I shared our organist vacancy with music ministry colleagues.

And I contacted Andrew Scanlon, Teaching Assistant Professor of Sacred Music and Organ Performance, at East Carolina University. It was through Professor Scanlon that I was introduced to the young woman who will become our new Music Associate/Organist on August 16.



Bridget Deveney, a native of Rochester, NY, is an incoming master’s degree student pursuing a graduate degree in sacred music at East Carolina University. In May 2020, she graduated from Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA, with a Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music with Honors. Through correspondence, phone calls, and a Zoom virtual meeting, I have found Bridget to be a delightful young

woman of deep faith who is filled with energy and enthusiasm, and is passionate about music ministry. It was not at all surprising to receive glowing references for Bridget.

Since the degree Bridget is pursuing requires two years of study, she may join the long line of organists in FBC Ahoskie’s history who have served approximately two years. It is my hope and prayer that Bridget will become so delighted with her ministry with us that she will choose to remain with us throughout her graduate degree studies. Please pray this with me. And because you’ll only get to meet her virtually as long as in-person worship remains unsafe due to the coronavirus; I invite you to connect with her through email or a written note. We have her contact information in the church office. Give us a call and we’ll share it with you.

When Bridget joins our church staff, we will have been without an organist for only two weeks. That’s pretty amazing! Let us offer our thanks to our amazing God!

Grace & peace,

2020-2021 School Year



The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year will be unlike any we have experienced. Therefore, let us support with prayer the students, their parents, the teachers, administrators, and staff as they navigate the difficult path the pandemic requires.

Here is the schedule of the first day of classes for schools where FBC Ahoskie’s students attend, and/or adults serve as teachers, staff, or administrators:

August 6—Hertford County Early College High School

August 17—The remainder of Hertford County public schools, Gates County public schools, and Northeast Academy

August 19—Ridgecroft School and Southampton Academy (Courtland)

September 3—Woodberry Forest School (VA)

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of August 9-15, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Austine Evans, 398-2724

Gloria Freeman, 395-0370

Sound System—August 9

Brandon Zoch

Floral Offering—August 9

Malcolm Copeland

Food Pantry—August 14

Jack & Millie Britt

Week of August 16-22, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Frank Britt, 642-2087

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Sound System—August 16

Rick Burns

Floral Offering—August 16

Earl, Linda & April Futrell

Food Pantry – August 21

JoAn Downs, Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize

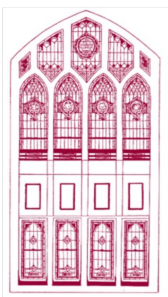
The FBC Ministers

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