



# THE WINDOW

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

Volume 53

August 19, 2020

No.16

## What I Like

I admit it. Every day around our church offices feels like Christmas because of our sanctuary renovations. In fact, when there is a break in work as we say goodbye to one construction crew and await the arrival of another, I feel disappointment. I like all the activity, all the noise, and all the progress. Indeed, one of the employee benefits has been such proximity to our sanctuary renovations. I still get to breathe the holy air (even if dusty at times) in our sanctuary daily.

I also enjoy giving tours of the sanctuary as people stop by for various reasons. I wish I had kept count of how often I have heard this: "To be honest, I was not sure about a blue ceiling, but it is just beautiful." Indeed, as Anita and I have pointed out to numerous people, the color of the walls and the ceiling accent the primary colors in the stained-glass windows. I find satisfying the comments from people who have stepped in the sanctuary, as well the comments generated from pictures posted on our church Facebook page, about the beauty of the refinished floors. I agree. And now that the pews are back in the sanctuary, though not properly placed and secured just yet, we are able to appreciate the stateliness of this eighty-plus year-old refinished furniture. Furthermore, the pews in the balcony give the sanctuary a more refined look than it had before.

What I like most about our sanctuary renovations, however, as we near completion, is the simplicity of our work. We have done nothing fancy. We replaced old, stained, and in some cases falling ceiling tiles, with drywall – painted a light shade of blue. We fixed numerous cracks in our sanctuary walls and

then painted the walls. We took up the beautiful, but worn, red carpet and refinished the mint condition white oak floors that lived underneath that carpet for years and years. We refinished the attractive woodwork that is found throughout the sanctuary. We still have carpet to put down at the Main Street entrances, the chancel area, and the two aisles on the ground floor of the sanctuary. It occurs to me that all of this work falls under the category of needed maintenance. In other words, it was time to devote some tender love and care to our sanctuary. No structural changes were needed be-

cause so many people love the sanctuary as it is; and our ancestors built it strong the first time (during the depression)!

Our capital campaign committee discussed the theology of the sanctuary. We wanted to balance the need for space to meet for worship with the cost of the project. We did not want to be too extravagant because we all know that God is not

moved by the color of the ceiling or the stain on the hardwood floors. Rather, God is moved by sincere worship. Nonetheless, God's people need a safe place to gather. And, just like the temple of old, our place of worship must be maintained through the years. Indeed, it is true that God is just as happy with sincere worship offered by 15 people gathered in someone's living room as God is with sincere worship offered in a packed medieval cathedral. However, in addition to our songs, prayers, meditations, and sermons, we offer to God in worship the beauty – in our case the simplistic beauty – of the space in which we gather.

In Christ,  
Trey





**Worshiping Together**  
**August 23, 2020**  
**The 12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 am**

*Solidarity with the Psalmists*  
Selected Verses from  
Psalms 13, 69, 136 and 145.  
Rev. Anita Thompson



**CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.**

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee report containing the names of those who will serve in leadership positions during the 2020-2021 Church Year was mailed on August 17. Please note the following additions to that report:

- Building & Grounds Committee  
Serving Sept. 1, 2020 to Aug. 31, 2024:
  - Michael Harrell
  - Nat Riddick
  - Lee Wilson

As you read the report, please give thanks for all those who have said “yes” to serving, and pray that any vacancies will be filled by the start of the new Church Year on September 1st.

On Sunday, August 30, we will hold a church conference for the purpose of approving the report.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact a Nominating Committee member: J.C. Doughtie, Joyce Leary, Arlene Raiford, Lou Riddick and Mary Ann Umphlett.

## An Apology

We offer our apology to the Futrell Family for an error in the August 16th order of worship regarding the worship flowers. Here is the correct wording: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Earl & Linda Futrell, and April Futrell & Austin Yeager, in memory of Eston E. Futrell, Sr., Jake Bullock, Mary L Bullock, and Viola B. Futrell.

## Heck-Jones Offering

*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 offering 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. Will you help WMU NC to remain firmly planted by giving to this offering?

## Our Radio Broadcast

Your church staff knows how valuable the radio broadcast of our worship services are to so many, and how much more valuable this ministry is during the pandemic. Please know we are working diligently with the WQDK leadership to get us back on the air as soon as possible.

## Congratulations



Congratulations to Gayle Cross on the birth of twin great grandchildren. Michael Timothy, and Elizabeth Grace, were born on July 11, and are the children of Will & Sara Bratton. Will is the son of Carolyn Cross Bratton. Welcome to the world, Michael and Elizabeth!



**August 16, 2020**

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 9,762.47
Difference	\$ 632.19
YTD Needs	\$ 301,299.24
YTD Offerings	\$ 253,700.45
YTD Difference	\$ -47,598.79
Heck-Jones Offering	\$ 285.00

***Please remember to be generous!***



# September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Our 11:00 am Sunday worship services are broadcast live on WQDK 99.3 FM, and live-streamed on our church Facebook page. The services remain on Facebook for later viewing.		1	2 •6p: Adult Bible Study via Facebook Live	3	4	5
6 <b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 	7 <b>Church Offices Closed for Labor Day</b>	8	9 •6p: Adult Bible Study via Facebook Live	10	11	12
13 <b>15th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	14 •3p: Staff Mtg.	15 •6p: Deacons' Mtg.	16 •6p: Adult Bible Study via Facebook Live	17	18	19
20 <b>16th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	21 •3p: Staff Mtg.	22	23 •6p: Adult Bible Study via Facebook Live	24	25	26
27 <b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	28 •3p: Staff Mtg.	29	30 •6p: Adult Bible Study via Facebook Live			



1 Betty Cooper  
 4 Tony Marra  
 6 John Alexander  
 6 Helen Chamblee  
 9 Jayne Frei  
 10 Larry Freeman

10 Jackson Kinlaw  
 11 Rick Burns  
 11 Libby Pierce  
 12 Betty Duke  
 12 Jean Parker  
 13 Earl Futrell  
 14 Patricia Hughes  
 18 Alice Brown  
 18 Jim Minton  
 18 Hudson Rose  
 20 JJ Freeman

22 Millie Britt  
 22 Joanna Dunn  
 23 Henry Joyner  
 25 Sandra Pierce  
 27 Clair Saunders  
 30 Katherine Jernigan



If we have neglected to acknowledge a birthday, please let us know by calling the church office at 332-4003.

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of Aug. 23-29, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

### Deacons on Call

Penny Rose, 287-8531

Margaret Winn, 209-1495

### Sound System—August 23

Frank Britt

### Floral Offering—August 23

Russell Overman

### Food Pantry— August 28

Trey Gilliam & Bonnie Revelle

## Week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

### Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2174

Buzzy Swain, 395-0255

### Sound System—August 30

Walt Pierce

### Floral Offering—August 30

Trey & Harriet Byrum

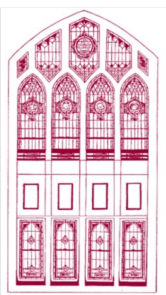
### Food Pantry – September 4

Vicky Overman

## Sunday School Study Guides & Reflections Devotions

*Reflections* devotion booklets for September—December are now available. They may be picked up at the church, just inside the West St. entrance, or, if needed, Jayne Frei has graciously volunteered to deliver booklets to those who request it. Just call the church office and let Heather know you'd like your copy delivered to your home.

The *Formations* and *Connections* Sunday School literature for September—December should arrive by the end of next week. We'll let you know when it is available for pick up.



## *The Window*

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