



# THE WINDOW

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

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## Snap, Snap, “Over Here!”

Sometime ago I participated in a North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship zoom meeting. The leader of the meeting asked us to describe, with one word, our Covid-19 experience as it relates to the church. As you have heard me say before, I chose the word, “disorienting.” As often happens after a meeting or a conversation, upon further reflection, I wished I had said something different. “Disorienting” indeed describes one aspect of my covid church experience. Another word, however, that equally describes my covid church experience is “curious.”

I am curious what the long-term effects of covid will be on the church around the world. And, of course, I am most curious what the effects will be on our congregation – FBC Ahoskie. Will we regain our pre-covid vitality and momentum? Will the weekly use of Facebook Live lead to smaller gatherings on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary? People are now out of the habit of driving to the meeting house each Sunday for sanctuary worship. Will some, many, or most find it difficult to resume their pre-covid routines?

I admit I have been surprised by our numbers for sanctuary worship. I thought they would be a tad higher than they have been. Of course, I would never put pressure on anyone in high-risk categories to make the return quickly. Nor would I ask anyone to return who is simply not yet comfortable as I know that covid cases in Hertford county are on the rise. I am also aware that we are only three weeks into our return to in-person sanctuary worship. Nonetheless, I had the impression, before the sanctuary renovation was complete, that there was a strong thirst to return to in-person worship with appropriate precautions in place. Add to my surprise over lower than expected numbers, the reality that our

weekly giving has dropped significantly, and I am simply, not yet discouraged, but curious. What exactly does this mean for our church in the future?

I reflect often on my role as your pastor. Of late, I have thought of my role as pastor in the light of a photographer. When a photographer takes a picture, s/he will direct our eyes with their fingers, often with a snap of their fingers, and they will say something like, “Look over here, look at my nose, look at my left hand.” Snap, snap, “Over here.” This is especially so if the subject of the photograph is a child or, even, a pet. Snap, snap, “Eyes over here.”

A major component of my role is to snap my fingers and say, “Look over here, look at the church!” Indeed, I snap my fingers and say over and over again, “Don’t forget about the church, you need the church, there are many activities competing for your attention but none is more important than the church!” I snap my fingers and I say, “Your children need the church, if you do not train your children now they likely will never find a significant place for the church in their lives, the church holds the message of salvation through Jesus the Christ not a football field or a basketball court!” Snap, Snap, “You need the church and the church needs you!”

I am curious indeed. It was challenging for me to get people’s attention before covid. How does a pastor compete with the beach, the mountains, shopping, football games, family gatherings, and a score of other weekend activities? What will it be like now as we begin to resume in-person activities? In due time my curiosity will be settled. And no matter the outcome, I will continue to snap my fingers and say, “Over here, over here!”

In Christ,  
Trey



**Worshiping Together**  
**October 25, 2020**  
**The 21st Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00 am**

*The Struggle*  
 Philippians 1:21-30  
 Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

**Make Your Reservation for  
 In-Person Worship**



If you would like to worship with us in-person, please make your reservation by calling the church office (252) 332-4003 or emailing

Heather Joyner at [heather@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:heather@fbcahoskie.org) by noon each Friday. A firm number is needed to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.

**Nursery Needed for Your Family?** When you reserve your place for worship, also reserve a nursery spot: 1-2 year old class and 3-5 year old class. We will not use the 2020-2021 Extended Session schedule yet; therefore, we need 2 to 4 volunteers each Sunday. We also need two volunteers to take temperatures and two volunteers to greet. Please let the church office know if you can help.

**Operation Christmas Child  
 Shoeboxes**



As we look toward the Operation Christmas Child ministry for 2020, please note these options:

- (1) Collect items and pack your own box/boxes.
- (2) Donate \$25 (includes \$9

shipping fee) for each box you wish to sponsor. Items will be purchased and boxes filled on your behalf. Boxes will be ready on Friday for pick up at the designated doors.

All monies may be given to the church office, (checks made payable to FBC Ahoskie, Inc., with OCC written in the memo line). Our 2020 goal is 150 boxes, and together we can surpass our goal. Let's help share the Good News of Christ through a gift-filled box, bringing hope to a child in need.

—Melanie Byrum, OCC Coordinator for FBC

**Food Drive for Britton Ministries**

Each fall Baptist Children's Homes of NC hosts a food drive for each of their campuses. We have the opportunity to support our local children's home, **Britton Ministries**, by purchasing gift cards for local grocery stores.

From mid October to mid November you're invited to bring or mail a gift card to the church. In mid November we'll deliver all gift cards to **Britton Ministries** as a fitting way to offer God thanks-giving for this critical ministry in our community.

**Britton Ministries** helps single mothers in north eastern North Carolina by providing a structured transitional environment that promotes relational development between mother and child as well as needed resources to help the family regain control of their lives.

**A Change Ahead**

Heather Joyner, our Communications Coordinator, will begin a new full-time job with PNC bank in Murfreesboro, on Monday, October 26. However, we are pleased to share that she will remain on church staff. For a few hours a week, Heather will continue to keep our website updated, and edit video content for our Facebook and YouTube pages as well as our website. She'll also assist with the mailed newsletter twice a month. We offer Heather our best wishes for a successful career with PNC, and rejoice that she will remain connected to FBCA.



**October 18, 2020**

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,048.00
Difference	\$ -4,082.28
YTD Needs	\$ 383,471.76
YTD Offerings	\$ 316,372.27
YTD Difference	\$ -67,099.49
World Hunger Offering	\$ 50.00
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 1,200.00






*You may access online giving on our  
 website and Facebook page.  
 Thank you for your faithful stewardship.*



# November 2020

## First Baptist Church of Ahoskie



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  <b>All Saints' Day</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Every Wed.</b> •3p: Staff Mtg. •5p: Deadline for Reservations for Wednesday Activities.	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Every Fri.</b> •9a-3p: CWJC •12n: Deadline for Reservations for In-Person Worship	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>24th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>16</b> •6p: Building & Grounds Mtg.	<b>17</b> •6p: Deacons' Mtg.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Christmas Shoebox Collection at FBC: November 16-22</b>						
<b>22</b>  <b>Christ the King SUNDAY</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> No Wednesday Activities	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>Church Office Closed Nov. 26 &amp; 27 for Thanksgiving</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>First Sunday OF ADVENT</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Every Sunday</b> •11a: Worship  <b>Every Wednesday</b> •5p: Children's Music & Missions •5p: Women's Bible Study •6p: Adult Bible Study				



1 Bill Earley  
1 Lane Slachta

2 Barbara Roberson  
3 Gary Morris  
5 Carol Paul  
6 Alex Britton  
6 Susan Keel  
7 Virginia Minton  
7 Jim Wiggins

8 Janice Morris  
10 Brandon Zoch  
11 Jim Messer  
11 Mary Ann Umphlett  
12 Ann Carter Barnes  
12 Rachael Modlin  
13 Sylvia Britt

13 Ben Britton  
16 Bryant Brinkley  
16 Fletcher Pierce  
19 Scott Outlaw  
20 Judy H. Pierce  
28 Margaret Winn  
29 Peggy Lowe

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1.  
Be sure to set your clocks **BACK** one hour at bedtime on October 31.

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of October 25-31, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

### Deacons on Call

Rick Burns, 209-4058

Brandon Zoch, 862-5767

### Sound System—October 25

Brandon Zoch & Chris Slachta

### Floral Offering—October 25

Jim & Dana Wiggins

### Food Pantry—October 30

Kay Byrd & Vicky Overman

## Week of November 1-7, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

### Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175

Charles Hughes, 287-8403

### Sound System—November 1

Josh Brinkley

### Floral Offering—November 1

Frank & Penny Rose

### Food Pantry – November 6

Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize

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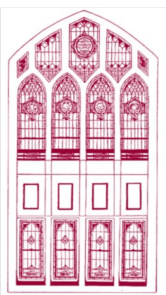
## The FBC Ministers

### **Trey Gilliam, Pastor**

trey@fbcahoskie.org • 252-398-7321

### **Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor**

anita@fbcahoskie.org • 252-395-0061



## *The Window*

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