



# THE INDOW

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

Volume 53

November 4, 2020

No. 21

## So Far, So Good!

Church is more difficult these days. Reservations must be made. Masks must be worn. Seating charts must be drawn. We have a six-foot stick that we use to make sure there are six feet between families. It seems like most every week there is some, usually small but significant, technological glitch with Facebook live and/or the radio station. Each time we gather we must find two people to assist with temperature checks. Our pool for staffing the nursery is much smaller now due to coronavirus concerns among our elderly who would normally assist with caring for our children. When we gather in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship we are required to sing in our hearts or, at least, to sing under our breath. When we observe communion now, we do so with prepackaged communion elements placed in the seats before the service begins. We do not pass the offering plate nor the peace. Rather, people place their offering in the offering plate as they enter the sanctuary and wave to one another.

Indeed, church is more difficult these days. Nonetheless, at this stage in our fight with Covid-19, it is well worth the extra effort and the added inconveniences. During the early days of covid, many of us thought that it would be better just to join in via Facebook live and/or the radio station due to the needed sacrifices to make worship a low-risk activity for spreading the virus. However, after the passing of considerable time and the awareness that we do not know when a vaccine will be readily available, our first impressions have matured. Now, the consensus appears to be that the adjustments required for us to gather again in-person in a safe worship environment are more than worth it.

And so far, so good!

Of course, there is no 100% guarantee that the virus will not spread during one of our worship gatherings. However, the science at this point tells us that the virus is spread through our mouths and noses. Therefore, if we will keep our mouths and noses covered as well as maintain our distance from one another, the risk of the virus spreading is low. For all the fuss about masks, they really are a simple solution that enables us to carry out our daily activities until a vaccine is on the scene.

I offer a hearty thank you to the many people who are working diligently, and often behind the scenes, in order to enable us to return to in-person activities on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. I am also grateful for the high level of cooperation, from our FBC Ahoskie community, in relation to mask wearing and social distancing. We have had to deal with very few disgruntled customers.

So far, so good!

I look forward to greeting more and more of you as more and more of you become more and more comfortable with the low-risk nature of worship in our sanctuary and activities on Wednesday nights.

In Christ,  
Trey



## Worshiping Together

**November 8, 2020**  
*The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

### *What Now?*

Philippians 2:14-18  
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam



## A New Baby!

Congratulations to Bryan and Jessica Britton on the October 27th birth of a son, Grady Hollo-man Britton. The thrilled older siblings are Ben and Mollie.

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Collection Week is November 16-22; FBCA is once again serving as a drop-off location.

Boxes are located at the West St. entrance, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway. If you would like someone to pack a shoebox for you, donate \$25 (includes \$9 shipping fee) for each box you wish to sponsor. Items will be purchased, and boxes filled on your behalf. 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



**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S  
JOB CORPS®**  
a ministry of WMU®

The Christian Women's Job Corps ministry will resume weekly Friday meetings on November 6. Under the Covid-19 circumstances the group will be smaller than usual. All appropriate guidelines will be observed.

We offer our thanks to Frank Britt and Bill Magette for assisting with repairs to the North St. House which continues to serve as a much-needed component of the CWJC ministry.

Pat Byrd continues to serve as Executive Director, with Gail Ambrose and Noreen Hannon serving as the new site co-coordinators. Board members are: Linda Alexander, Jill Awuni, Pat Byrd, Shirley Harmon, Elaine Myers, Barbara Marks, and Claire Presley.

## 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.

Through 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 thanksgiving 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.



## Results of Deacon Nominations

The following persons received the most nominations and have agreed to serve as a deacon for a three year term beginning January 1, 2021. Per our bylaws, a vote shall be taken on the second Sunday in December (the 13th) to approve the list of five nominees.

Don Joyner  
Bill Magette  
Scott Outlaw

Kari Pierce  
Chuck Revelle



**November 1, 2020**

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 6,999.58
Difference	\$ -2,130.70
YTD Needs	\$ 401,732.32
YTD Offerings	\$ 331,545.96
YTD Difference	\$ -70,186.36
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 775.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 280.00

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

## *From the Associate Pastor*

The sounds of children's laughter has returned to our building! It has been such a thrill these last two Wednesdays to welcome our children. Their energy and excitement has brought back a bit of much needed normalcy to our church.

Though we lament not being able to sing together, we are grateful for the opportunity to engage in other spiritually formative activities with the children. The age 3—kindergarten children are exploring Jesus' love for them. A Bible lesson, art, creative movement, and prayer are intertwined to teach this truth.

The grades 1-5 children are developing their bible skills. (Remember bible drills?) They're memorizing the books of the Bible in order. They know that the first five books of the Bible are called the books of law and the Pentateuch. (sometimes confused with Pentagon!) We've been memorizing Deuteronomy 6:5: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your strength." (New International Reader's Version—NIRV)

Attendance has been great with both groups. Thank you, parents! The children have done well with the covid-19 guidelines. Bless you, children! And I can't say enough good things about the leaders. They've adjusted to all the changes so well, and take seriously their role of helping the children "grow up to be like Jesus." Well done, leaders!

As the preschoolers are learning about Jesus' love for them, I hope during these strange days you are purposefully engaging in activities that remind you that Jesus loves *you*. And while our grade school children are developing their bible skills, perhaps you can use this time to develop your own. If you've never learned the books of the bible in order, this may be a great time to do so. Have you committed any scripture to memory? Psalm 23? John 3:16? Here are some other scriptures you may try to commit to memory so that they may minister to you and others during this very difficult year.

♦*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. —Psalm 46:1*

♦*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. —Psalm 121:1-2*

♦*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. —Proverbs 3:5-6*

♦*Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. —Isaiah 41:10*

♦*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. —Matthew 11:28-30*

♦*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. —John 14:27*

♦*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —Romans 15:13*

♦*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:6-7*

All of the above scriptures are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

In the midst of our current chaos, we very much need those things which provide stability, comfort, and assurance. As disciples of Christ, may we find our stability in the eternal truths of scripture, and from them, receive the comfort and assurance we need each day.

Grace & peace,



# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of November 8—14, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321  
trey@fbcahoskie.org

### Deacons on Call

Claire Presley, 287-6132  
Peggy Springfield, 287-5119

### Sound System

Frank Britt

### Floral Offering—November 8

Oliver Fleming

### Food Pantry— November 13

Otis & June Payne

## Week of November 15—21, 2020

### Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061  
anita@fbcahoskie.org

### Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104  
Jim Wiggins, 287-9790

### Sound System

Rick Burns

### Floral Offering—November 15

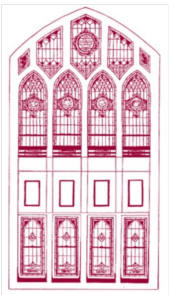
Charles & Patricia Hughes

### Food Pantry— November 20

Vicky Overman

## 2021 Church Budget

Our Finance Committee presented the 2021 church budget to our Deacons on October 28. It is now ready to be sent to you. Soon you will receive in your mail a copy of the budget and a schedule for discussion and vote. We are thankful for the good work of the Finance Committee whose members are: Jerry Alexander, William Alexander (chair), Carolyn Arrington, Alex Britton, Nancy Freeman, Brad Hauser, Charles Hughes, Stuart Pierce, Buzzy Swain, Lou Wilson, and Andy Woodard.



## *The Window*

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie  
Main and West Streets  
PO Box 649  
Ahoskie, NC 27910-0649

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG.  
BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
AHOSKIE, N. C.  
PERMIT NO. 64

phone 252-332-4003  
fax 252-209-0225  
email [office@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:office@fbcahoskie.org)  
web [www.fbcahoskie.org](http://www.fbcahoskie.org)