



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 53

November 25, 2020

No. 22

Guest Columnist, Anna Anderson

On Christ the King Sunday I heard two sermons on the scripture passage in Matthew 25 where Jesus talks about separating the sheep and the goats or the righteous from the unrighteous. He reminds the listeners that the righteous are the ones who end up welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, visiting the prisoner, clothing the ones who have no clothes because in so doing, these are the ones who do it for Jesus. How do we live as followers of Christ, as those for whom Christ surely reigns in our own lives? I have thought much about this passage today as it relates to our benevolence partnership with you, the congregation of First Baptist.

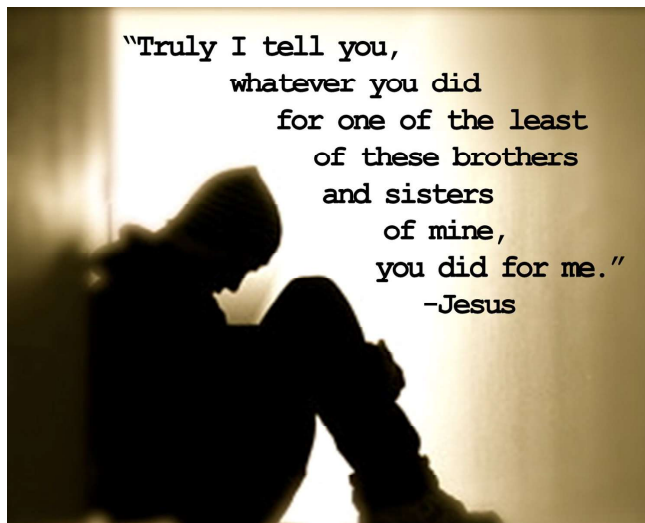
This month makes 2 years that LaCount and I have been actively coming to the church to interview folks in the community, assessing needs, and offering help where we believe the church can be the most effective. Sometimes this work looks like housing help, sometimes help with food, sometimes help with utility bills, sometimes clothing, but regularly listening. Always listening. I know that sometimes we might wonder whether or not this ministry is really making a difference in someone's life. We wonder whether there will be any change, any significant improvement or reordering of someone's path when help is offered. And the truth is we just simply don't know. It may or may not make a difference in the long run, but we know for sure it makes a difference in that person's

day. I wish that you could see the tears of gratitude, the smiles of relief, the raised hands of prayers to God when a solution for that day's problem is reached. I wish you too could be a part of seeing the young man that we met just last week who has recently been released from prison. He had found a house to get into and had no idea how to provide a deposit or his first month's rent. He prayed before coming to his appointment with us that God would provide a way for him to have this house and to have a safe place where he can live with his children. I wish you could have seen the thanksgiving that poured from this man.

I just wanted to tell you as a church that you are making a difference. Do not grow weary in thinking that we can't do enough, or that we can only do so little to make an impact for the long run. However small, however little, what we are all doing together is significant in

the kingdom of God. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Thank you for giving to this benevolence ministry so that the community can see Jesus at work in you. We are so grateful to partner with you in this way.

Anna Anderson





Worshipping Together

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
11:00 am

2020- Anything Good?
Mark 13:24-37
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Dedication of Hudson Franklin Rose
Son of Lee Taylor & Taylor F. Rose



Vote – Sunday, November 29

The vote will take place just prior to the start of worship.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Our church is responsible for staffing the Ahoskie food pantry every Friday. Since some of our volunteers can no longer serve due to aging issues or illness, we are in need of more volunteers.



Volunteers may serve monthly or bi-monthly. Besides distributing food boxes to clients, responsibilities include arrival at 9:15 am, recording temperatures in refrigerators and freezers, shelving food items, and preparing boxes for clients.

The food pantry serves clients Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 12 noon. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vicky Overman, FBC food pantry coordinator, at 396-5729.

Also, the **Backpack Ministry** of the food pantry is in need of volunteers to gather as needed to pack backpacks for students in the Hertford County school system. Currently, under pandemic conditions, 75 backpacks are picked up each week by school personnel. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Margaret Winn at (252) 209-1495.

Christian Women's Job Corps Angel Tree



If you would like to help a Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) family celebrate Christmas, here's how:

- Select an angel from the tree in the 1st floor hallway. Needs are listed on back.
- Sign the sheet next to the tree; include your name and angel number.
- Keep your angel with your unwrapped gifts when you bring them to church. This helps identify each family's gifts.
- Have gifts at church by Dec. 17. They will be given to the families at graduation on Dec. 18.

Beginning Sunday, November 29, the Angel Tree will be located in the 1st floor hallway.

All of the families are in Christian Women's Job Corps, attending our classes and/or living at the North Street House. They are all working towards independence and/or a relationship with God. Your love will be a blessing to them on their journey. God bless you all. For more information, please contact Pat Byrd at 209-4301.



November 22, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,190.00
Difference	\$ -3,940.28
YTD Needs	\$ 429,123.16
YTD Offerings	\$ 353,275.99
YTD Difference	\$ -75,847.17
Benevolence Offering	\$ 50.00
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 85.00

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



December 2020

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday • 11a Worship		1	2 • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 5p: Women's Bible Study • 6p: Adult Bible Study	3	4 • 5p: Deadline for Reservations for Sunday In-Person Worship	5
6  <i>Second Sunday</i> <small>OF ADVENT</small>	7 • 3p Staff Mtg. • 5p: Deadline for Reservations for Wednesday Activities.	8	9 • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 5p: Women's Bible Study • 6p: Adult Bible Study	10	11 • 5p: Deadline for Reservations for Sunday In-Person Worship	12
13  <i>Third Sunday</i> <small>OF ADVENT</small>	14 • 3p Staff Mtg. • 5p: Deadline for Reservations for Wednesday Activities.	15	16 • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 5p: Women's Bible Study • 6p: Adult Bible Study	17	18 • 5p: Deadline for Reservations for Sunday In-Person Worship	19
20  <i>Fourth Sunday</i> <small>OF ADVENT</small>	21 • 3p Staff Mtg.	22	23 No Wednesday Activities	24  <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25  <i>Unto Us</i> <small>A CHILD IS BORN</small>	26
27 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i>	28 • 3p Staff Mtg.	29	30 No Wednesday Activities	31 New Year's Eve 		

Happy Birthday!

1 Tim Frei
 1 Nancy Outlaw
 2 Tara Fowler
 2 Bea Harrison
 2 John Jones

2 Eunice Sellars
 3 Chip Rose
 4 Gayle Cross
 4 Barbara Earley
 5 Brad Hauser
 6 Lisa Outlaw
 7 Jamie Burns

8 Dempsey Pierce
 8 Eddie Joyner
 9 Bland Baker
 9 Cecelia Bracy
 9 Lucy Pierce
 16 Brenda Jones
 17 Don Joyner

17 Macy Roberts
 18 Judd Byrd
 18 William Leary Sr.
 19 Amanda Henderson
 20 Linda Alexander
 20 Elizabeth Davis
 21 Jordan Martin

22 Gracie Boswell
 23 Tiffany Warren
 29 Jimmy Bracy
 29 Charles Freeman
 30 Bill Magette
 31 Georgia Copeland

From the Associate Pastor

This Sunday, November 29, we begin a new Christian year. As always, the year begins with the season of Advent, a word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” It’s a season when we are immersed in the scriptures that tell of Jesus’ two Advents or “comings” . . . His first coming long ago as the Babe born in Bethlehem, and His second coming at yet a time unknown.

Traditionally, the color for Advent has been purple, but more recently, many churches, ours included, have chosen to use the color blue, a color often considered a symbol of hope. Another benefit of using the color blue for Advent is that it helps us differentiate between it and the season of Lent (purple).

As is our usual practice, each Sunday of Advent we will light candles on the Advent wreath. On November 29 we will light the candle of hope. On December 6, the candle of peace. On December 13, the candle of joy. And on December 20, the candle of love. Then on Christmas Eve, we will light the candle that is central to all, the Christ candle.

If you don’t have an Advent wreath in your home, I encourage you to include one in your at-home Advent observance. The wreath doesn’t have to be just like the one at church. Use the candles you already have in your house. Place them in a circle; put a larger candle in the center to use as the Christ candle. Add greenery from your yard. If you’re an internet user, search for make-at-home Advent wreath ideas. There’s a great deal of creative options available.

After many years of observing the season of Advent, it has become my practice to consider, over the course of the season, how I need the Christ to come more fully into my life so that I may mature in my faith and grow into more Christlikeness. For Advent 2020, there are a myriad ways I need to experience Christ. I certainly need His hope as we head into the 9th month of the pandemic. I need His peace to permeate my mind and heart. I need His joy to counter the despair of our current circumstances. And I need to be so filled with Christ’s love that it cannot help but overflow into the lives

of those I meet along the way. And so I pray: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! O Come, O Come, God-with-us!*

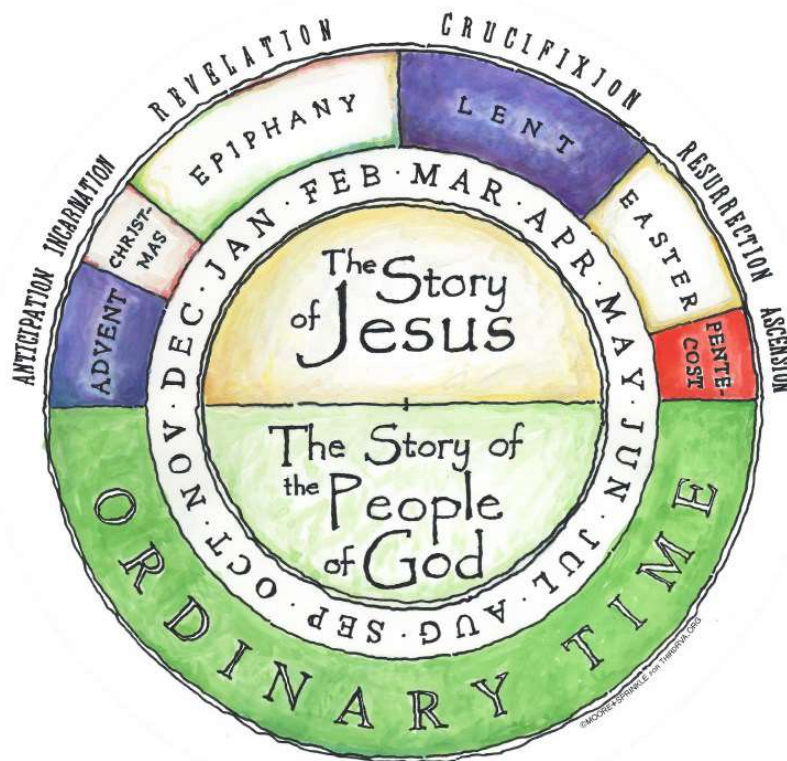
For my Advent journey this year I’ve chosen a resource published by Mark Tidsworth and his colleagues at Pinnacle Leadership Associates. I’m currently part of a Clergy Collective that Mark is leading, and have found him to be an inspiring and comforting minister and leader.

The devotional is titled, *Preparing to*

Hear God’s Call: 2020 Advent Resource for Reshaping Church. It’s a free resource which comes in downloadable form. If you’d like to try this resource too, please let me know and I’ll either email you a copy, or print one for you.

Additionally, on the other side of this page is an Advent calendar which may be used by individuals, couples or families.

May your Advent journey be a meaningful one,



ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Advent 1 What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.	30 Go Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person as God does.	1 Learn Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?	2 Pray Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – "Here I am, God" – until time is up.	3 Bless The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?	4 Turn In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. From what do you need to turn in order to be generous of heart?	5 Rest From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.
6 Worship Advent 2 What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?	7 Go Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.	8 Learn Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.	9 Pray Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.	10 Bless Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with this person how they are a blessing.	11 Turn Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.	12 Rest Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.
13 Worship Advent 3 Pray for each person as they receive Communion. Imagine whom you would like to see at church next week. Invite that person to join you.	14 Go Today, choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play. Whom or what did you encounter differently?	15 Learn Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.	16 Pray Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on the person's behalf as you move through your day.	17 Bless Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.	18 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.	19 Rest In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?
20 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love.	21 Go Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join in that love.	22 Learn Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.	23 Pray Set aside a time today to pray for others. Include three minutes of intentional silence, asking God to speak to you.	24 Bless If you are gathering with others today, take turns naming a way the person on your right or left has blessed you.	25 Turn Christmas Day Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.	

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Nov. 29 — Dec. 5, 2020

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Frank Britt, 642-2087
Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Sound System—November 29

Chris Slachta

Floral Offering—November 29

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— December 4

Sandra Pierce

Week of Dec. 6 —12, 2020

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Penny Rose, 287-8531
Margaret Winn, 209-1495

Sound System—December 6

Brandon Zoch

Floral Offering—December 6

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— December 11

Pansy & Robert Earl White

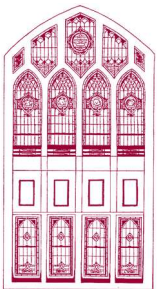
The FBC Ministers

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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