



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 53

December 9, 2020

No. 23

Balancing Act

Several years ago, I heard someone say, "I don't care what party you belong to, if you will promise to get rid of daylight-saving time, I will vote for you!" I understand her sentiments. We lost an hour of sunshine during the evening on November 1 this year. Now, when I return home in the evenings it is dark, and it is cold. Therefore, I have moved my exercise routine from outside to inside. Before November 1, I walked around our neighborhood and Chowan's campus. Now, I exercise in my house aided by YouTube workout videos. Recently, I have employed a walking at home regimen. There is more to this workout, however, than walking in place. There are leg kicks, arm raises, toe taps, and more.

The lady, who leads these workouts, tries to strike a balance. On the one hand she wants you to know that the workout she leads is even better for the heart and burns even more calories than a traditional outdoor walk around the neighborhood. On the other hand, she does not want to disparage traditional neighborhood walking. It is still valuable, indeed.

I find myself attempting a similar balancing act as I lead our congregation during covid. On the one hand, I want to clearly communicate that if you are not comfortable participating in sanctuary worship due to covid concerns, please stay home and join in via Facebook Live and/or the radio station. You have your pastor's blessings. On the other hand, I want to clearly communicate that our worship gatherings in our sanctuary are low risk. If I did not believe this, I would not be there; nor would I have my family with me. Anita and I have worked hard to adjust our worship experiences due to covid. There is less music, there is no pastoral pray-

er, and our worship leaders wear masks now when they sing from the chancel. Yet, and I have been pleased with this, worship still feels like First Baptist. Kudos to Anita for working diligently to ensure that we do not sacrifice so much that the experience is not worth showing up for.

While there is no 100% guarantee, one reason I sense that our gatherings are low risk is because Anita and I have not missed a beat since March. We opted not to work from home in the early phases. Since March, I have missed two Sunday morning worship services and Anita has missed one. Through it all, including the in and out of construction crews during our sanctuary renovation, Anita and I have not caught the virus. Nor have we been sick at all. The reason: we are diligent, both on the field and off the field, to wear masks and to keep our distance from other people. Until a vaccine arrives, these practices appear to work quite well even as they are quite inconvenient. Anita and I plan to keep it up!

So, on the one hand, if you are not comfortable gathering in our sanctuary due to covid concerns, please stay home and know that you have your pastor's blessing. On the other hand, unless your practice is an all-out home quarantine (and we have a few folks who do this), I cannot imagine a safer environment than our Sunday morning gatherings.

I, in no way, want to disparage online worship or radio worship. However, in-person sanctuary worship is much better for your heart.

In Christ,
Trey

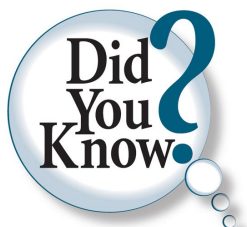
Did You Know?

★The Prayer Partners ministry that began in fall 2019 continues to bear good fruit. For example, when one of our children recently suffered an injury, he told his parents, "I need to call my prayer partner."

★Thanks to Frances Bracy's idea, and the help of eight volunteers, 400 local prisoners will receive Christmas cards from FBCA. And since these prisoners have radios in their cells, the cards invite them to worship with us via our radio broadcast. Pray that they will tune in and become regular worshippers with us.

★Our church-wide calendar is available to you through our church website: www.fbcahoskie.org.

★Our Benevolence ministry is funded by financial gifts outside of our annual budget. And the gifts continue to pour in, allowing us to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors.



★Our Christian Women's Job Corps ministry has resumed in-person meetings with new co-directors, Gail Ambrose and Noreen Hannon, under the leadership of Pat Byrd, Director.

★You now have the opportunity to financially support our church through online giving. The link is available on our website and on our Facebook page. Or you may use the following web address:

<https://onrealm.org/FirstBaptistChu73329/-/give/now>

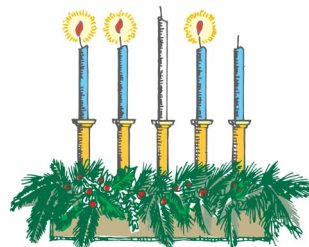
★You have responded beautifully to our hope of sending Christmas cards to our youngest and oldest members and participants. Wouldn't it be great if EVERY member and participant received a Christmas card from us? Each volunteer is given five names and asked to send a personal Christmas card to each one. If you'd like to participate, please let Anita know.

★After the Angel Tree had been up for only four days, every angel was taken! This means that every woman enrolled in our Christian Women's Job Corps ministry, and their children, are going to have a very nice Christmas.

Worshipping Together

December 13, 2020

The 3rd Sunday of Advent



Third Sunday
OF ADVENT

*Thanksgiving in Scotland/
Christmas with John*

John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 pm and 7:00 pm



Reservations are required. Though there will be no nursery. Please note that the 5:00 pm service is very close to full.

In Christian Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of Edward "Puddin" Copeland, Sr. who died on December 8. Please remember in prayer his son and wife, Ed and Susan Copeland, and his daughter Peg McLean and husband, Ben.

Good News Update Regarding Our Capital Campaign



We have some surprisingly good Christmas news that we want to share! Recently, two separate gifts in the amount of \$25,000 each were made to our Capital Campaign Fund in honor of individuals who have made significant contributions to the work of our church.

The honorees have been informed of these gifts, but the donors wish to remain anonymous. We are enormously grateful for their generosity and the boost that this additional \$50,000 gives to our campaign efforts. This moves us closer to being able to execute further improvements to our church building.

In the same spirit of giving and affirmation, perhaps there are others among us who will consider honoring others with contributions as this crazy year draws to a close. The amount of the gift is not the most important aspect, rather it is the spirit and the ultimate goal of improving our church that will make it possible for us to continue providing wonderful worship and mission experiences for all ages and allow us to serve as a beacon of Christianity for all in our community. Indeed, we are grateful!

Your Capital Campaign Committee,
Austine Evans and Charles Hughes, Co-Chairs,
Jerry Alexander, Lyndsay Britt, Harriett Byrum,
Walt Pierce, Penny Rose, and Buzzy Swain

2020—2021 Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



Our goal for this offering is \$5000. Though it will be received through March 2021, we are encouraged to contribute during the Advent and Christmas seasons in thanks for the gift of Christ to the world.

Christian Women's Job Corps Angel Tree

All of the angels have been taken. Thank you, church! For those of you who took an angel, here's important information for you.



- ◆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.

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.

2021 Church Budget

The 2021 church budget was approved by the congregation on November 29 during a called church conference.



December 6, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 30,390.00
Difference	\$ 21,259.72
YTD Needs	\$ 447,383.72
YTD Offerings	\$ 389,956.99
YTD Difference	\$ -57,426.73
Benevolence Offering	\$ 690.00
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 1,775.00

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

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of December 13 —19, 2020

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175
Buzzy Swain, 395-0255

Sound System—December 13

Josh Brinkley

Floral Offering—December 13

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— December 18

Vicky Overman

Week of Dec. 20 —26, 2020

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Charles Hughes, 287-8403
Brandon Zoch, 862-5767

Sound System—December 20

Frank Britt

Floral Offering—December 20

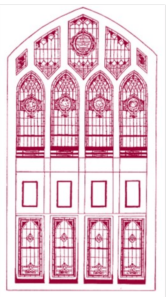
Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— December 25

Closed

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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