



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 53

December 30, 2020

No. 24

Inactive Church Members!

I was struck, during the 2020 deacon nomination process, by how many eligible church members I did not know. Each year we send out a list of resident church members who are eligible to serve as deacons. In fact, I have the list in front of me now. I have gone through the list and identified 51 inactive church members. Of the 51, I would not recognize 32 of you if I ran into you in the grocery store! It should not be this way. The first Sunday in February will mark the completion of my fourth year as pastor of First Baptist Ahoskie. Pre-covid I was diligent about visiting. I plan to resume this post-covid. In preparation for post-covid days, I use my last newsletter article of 2020 to make our inactive church members aware of my desire to get to know you in 2021.

If you are an inactive church member, I want to state the obvious: your church needs you to become involved once again if First Baptist is to remain a vibrant Christian community shining the light of Christ in Ahoskie, Hertford County, and around the world. We need you. And, if I may be so bold as to say, you need your church as well! You acknowledged your need for the church when you joined our fellowship. Due to various circumstances, you have simply lost sight of your need for the church of Jesus the Christ. It happens, unfortunately, with regularity.

So, how can I get to know the inactive members of First Baptist Church in 2021? I propose two avenues for us to become better acquainted. First, you could take the initiative. You could join us for worship on Sunday morning. This is a good time to reunite with the church in worship as our numbers are smaller due to covid. You could call me (252-398-7321). I would love to chat with you. Perhaps there

is a specific reason you are no longer active and you would like to share that with me. Great! Second, I could take the initiative. I could call you and introduce myself to you.

However it happens, one of my goals for the new year is to meet and hear the stories of the 51 (the number is actually a little higher, I think) inactive church members on our church roll. It has been almost four years after all. You should know your pastor and I should know you.

As we begin 2021, would you consider reuniting with your church? I know First Baptist is not perfect. We are flesh and blood, and therefore sinful, people after all. However, our congregation is strong. We have good leadership. We are committed to Christian growth and maturity through worship, Bible study, and fellowship. And we are committed indeed to sharing the light of Christ with a weary world.

There was something about our church you found attractive in the past. I am hopeful the flame can be rekindled in the year to come.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together
January 3, 2021
The 2nd Sunday after Christmas

A New Year Refresher
Revelation 4
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

A Prayer for the Turning of the Year

*O Christ the same, through all our story's pages, our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
Eternal Lord, the King of all the ages, unchanging still, amid the passing years:
O Living Word, the source of all creation, who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation, we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.*

*O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
Still as of old upon your body bearing the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven, O Prince of life, in all your saving power,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given, we bring our thanks for this the present hour.*

*O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping, our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:*

*O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.*

- Timothy Dudley Smith, ©1984 Hope Publishing Company



Deacon Officers for 2021

Penny Rose, *Chair*
Scott Outlaw, *Vice Chair*
Jim Wiggins, *Secretary*

Deacon Ordination

Sunday, January 10, 2020
Kari Perry Pierce



In fall 2020, our church identified Kari Pierce as one whose ministry gifts will serve us well in the role of deacon. Giving thanks for Kari's willingness to serve, we look forward to ordaining her to deacon ministry on Sunday, January 10 during the 11:00 am worship service.

Since Covid-19 circumstances prevent us from practicing the laying on of hands, church leadership invites each member and participant to write a note of blessing or a prayer for Kari. We'll gather all the notes and present them to Kari on January 10.

Kari is the wife of Brent Pierce, and they are parents of Henry, Bennett, and Lucy.

Reservations for In-Person Worship

Call the church office (252) 332-4003 or email Anita Thompson at anita@fbcahoskie.org by 5:00 pm each Friday.

Nursery Needed for Your Family? When you reserve your place for worship, also reserve a nursery spot.

Please let us know if you need to cancel your reservation.



December 27, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 14,479.03
Difference	\$ 5,348.75

YTD Needs	\$ 474,774.56
YTD Offerings	\$ 429,540.68
YTD Difference	\$ -45,233.88

Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 28,344.92
Benevolence Weekly Offering	\$ 240.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

2021 january 2021

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays • 11a: Worship	Mondays • 3p: Staff Mtg.		Please Note: Wednesday afternoon/evening activities will resume the first Wednesday in February.		1  Church Offices Closed	2
3 2nd Sunday after Christmas 	4	5	6  No Afternoon or Evening Activities	7	8 Fridays • 9a-3p: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	9
10 Epiphany Observance 	11	12 • 4p: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) Board Mtg.	13 No Afternoon or Evening Activities	14	15	16
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	18  • 7p: Building & Grounds Mtg.	19 • 6p: Deacons' Mtg.	20 No Afternoon or Evening Activities	21	22	23
24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	25	26	27 No Afternoon or Evening Activities	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany	<div>  <div> 1 Jeanne Benthall 1 Virginia Chitty 1 Peyton Outlaw </div> <div> 2 Oliver Fleming 4 Lauren Harrell 6 John Boyd 6 Betsy McSwain 7 Rosa Swain 8 Bennett Pierce 8 Lou Wilson 9 Mollie Britton </div> <div> 9 Makynley Roberts 16 Henry Byrd 17 Bonnie Revelle 20 Jack Britt 20 Debbie Rawls 21 Tony Bracy 24 Bess Leary 25 Erik Kirksey </div> <div> 26 Beverly Bazemore 26 Jerri Harrell 26 Dana Wiggins 27 Malcolm Copeland 27 Chris Slachta 27 Isabella Woodard 31 Jean Hudson </div> </div>					

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of January 3 - 9, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

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

Sound System—January 3

Chris Slachta

Floral Offering—January 3

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— January 8

Melanie Byrum

Week of January 10 - 16, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Austine Evans, 398-2724
Don Joyner, 396-1957

Sound System—January 10

Brandon Zoch

Floral Offering—January 10

Carroll Thompson & Anita Thompson

Food Pantry— January 15

Jack & Millie Britt

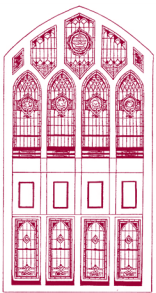
2020—2021 Global Missions Offering Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Our goal for this offering is \$5000.
It will be received through March 2021.

Staff Anniversary

January 6, 2020
Bland Baker

26 Years as Music Associate/Pianist



The Window

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

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