



# THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

February 10, 2021

No. 3

## In the Know

To keep our First Baptist community in the know, I provide the following information which I also posted on our church Facebook page earlier in the week. I am aware that not all our people are on Facebook and that others do not regularly look at their Facebook page. I hope you find the below information as encouraging as I do!

### Our First Sunday with Two Morning Services

Sunday, February 7, we had 83 people in the sanctuary between the two services. We had seven children in the nursery and four adult nursery workers for a total of 11 people in the nursery. So, our total, for February 7, was 94 participants for in-person worship.

Three observations:

1 – During covid, we prefer to have no more than 70 people in our sanctuary at a time. Therefore, the two services met an immediate need right out the gate.

2 – We had more than 94 reservations. Each week we usually have between 10 and 15 people who reserve a spot but do not make it for a variety of reasons. Thus, there was the potential for an even higher level of participation last Sunday.

3 – Our climb out of covid will be slow, I think. Remember our goal in terms of numbers: For 2019, we average 181.34 people in worship. For 2020, before covid struck, we averaged 173 people in worship. I am optimistic that we will return to this level of worship participation. In fact, as I said Sunday, I would like to see us average 200 people in worship post-covid. Perhaps, two services will help us do this!

## More Good News!



1 – Our offerings were rock solid yesterday. In fact, we have now exceeded the \$5000 goal for our Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering (this number will be reflected in next week's stewardship statement)! Please do continue to

give as all this money goes towards CBF missionaries in the United States and around the world.

2 – We had over \$1000 given towards benevolence. How appropriate in the light of last Sunday's sermon!

3 – Our general budget offering was the highest it has been this year, though still not quite what we need each week to meet budget. \*\*\* this is a correction from the original Facebook post \*\*\*

Let us keep up the good gospel work as we climb out of covid!

In Christ,  
Trey



## Worshiping Together

February 14, 2021

*The Last Sunday of Epiphany*

8:30 & 11:00 am

*But It Is*

James 3:1-12

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam



## Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17

6:15 pm in the Sanctuary

As with all our worship services, we are adapting our Ash Wednesday service to meet Covid-19 guidelines. Reservations are required, and masks must be worn.

As the children and women's Bible study will be meeting at their usual 5:00 pm time, we hope they will plan to remain for the Ash Wednesday service.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) that lead up to Easter. This first day of Lent and the following liturgical season are marked with a somberness as Christians reflect on their mortality, their sinfulness, and the dying of self that comes with new life in Christ.

Ashes are a biblical reminder of our mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The spreading of ashes on foreheads is a visible reminder of this. The ashes also represent sorrow and repentance for sin.

## Two Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:30 and 11:00 am



On Sunday February 7, we began offering two Sunday morning worship services. The first worship service begins at 8:30am; the second at 11am. The 11am service is live-streamed on Facebook, and broadcast on our local radio station, WQDK, 99.3. Reservations will still be required. And, of course, we will still wear masks and observe appropriate distancing. As it stands now, there is not a nursery for the 8:30am service. There is a nursery for the 11am service.



2020—2021

## Global Missions Offering

Our goal for this annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offering is \$5000. 100% of our gifts go to CBF missionaries in the US and around the world. We will receive this offering through March 2021.



February 12, 2021

Trey Gilliam

4th Anniversary as FBCA Pastor



February 7, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 7,803.02
Difference	\$ -952.70

YTD Needs	\$ 52,534.32
YTD Offerings	\$ 38,827.62
YTD Difference	\$ -13,706.70

CBF Global Missions Total	\$ 2,136.69
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 250.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 1,235.00

*Thank you for your generous gifts!*

## From the Associate Pastor

As I've been planning for Lent 2021, I recalled how, in 2020, we had traveled only a few weeks into the Lenten season before our world was shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was on the third Sunday in Lent, March 15, when we first limited the number of in-person worshipers. Both the Sanctuary Choir and Chairo were scheduled to sing, so those musicians, a sound system operator, and the ministers were the only folks in the sanctuary. Everyone else worshiped with us via the radio broadcast. (We had not yet broadened our media savvy to include Facebook live-streaming.) It was certainly the most unusual Lenten season any of us had experienced. Who would have thought that, a year later, we would begin yet another Lenten season still under the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic? Yet, this is our reality.

With Ash Wednesday just around the corner (February 17), we're coming full circle as we begin the 2021 Lenten season, still under Covid-19 pandemic conditions. Last year we were blindsided. This year, we enter the Lenten season knowing what pandemic life looks like. In light of almost a year of pandemic suffering, the Lenten practices of sacrifice (giving up) and embrace (taking on) have the potential to challenge us in ways that move us significantly toward greater Christlikeness.

As I was considering what my Lenten journey might look like this year, I came across the study, "Again & Again," written specifically for 2021 by the creative team at *The Sanctified Art*. I'm using it for my Lenten journey, and invite you to read below the artistic team's description, and consider if this study may be a good fit for your journey, too.

*In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you. I love you. I will lead you to repair." Again and*

*again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.*

*This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshiping apart, we continue to come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us.*



*In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings and prompts at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you. May the art, reflections, and poetry strengthen and*

*stretch you, shaping you into a more faithful disciple.*

*This Lent, may God's steadfast love cradle our laments. May God's grace wash over our weariness. And may we bring all of who we are to God—trusting that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.*

- Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Sarah Are,  
Hannah Garrity, Lauren Wright Pittman  
[www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org)

This devotional comes in downloadable form. We've purchased the rights to print and/or email copies for you. And though it is self-led, I welcome any engagement you're willing to take on. We could go to lunch and chat about our questions and insights!

However you journey through the 2021 Lenten season, I pray it is meaningful and life-giving for you. May we all be drawn closer to the Christ we love and serve, and seek to reflect in the world.

Grace & peace,

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of February 14 - 20, 2021

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Austine Evans, 398-2724  
Claire Presley, 287-6132

### Sound System Operator — February 14

Chris Slachta

### Floral Offering—February 14

Trey & Harriet Byrum

### Food Pantry— February 19

Melanie Byrum

## Week of February 21-27, 2021

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Rick Burns, 209-4058  
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

### Sound System Operator — February 21

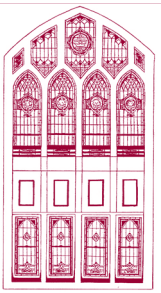
Josh Brinkley

### Floral Offering—February 21

Duck & Jerri Harrell

### Food Pantry— February 26

Arthur Brown



## *The Window*

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