



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

March 24, 2021

No. 6

Vulnerable and Vibrant

By now, you have likely heard me characterize our church as both vulnerable and vibrant. In a recent sermon, I discussed our vulnerabilities. Our church, like most every other church, has been negatively impacted by secularization. Secularization is the reality that as people become more educated and wealthier, they *often* become less religious. Thus, in our heyday, First Baptist Ahoskie had 1000 plus members. Today, we have a church membership of 264 (notice two more now than when I preached the sermon!). I shared my experience, from Edinburgh, of eating at a restaurant that was housed in a former church building. Lou Ann and I were in the balcony; the bar was in the former pulpit and communion table area. While the food was fine, the environment was unsettling. God forbid that a couple enjoy a steak dinner and beverage from our balcony one future day. God forbid the occurrence of one-night stands in-the-making where our pulpit, communion table, and choir loft now reside. It sounds, perhaps, far-fetched. However, if we do not stop the decline, it could happen. We are vulnerable.

Nonetheless, I suggest we are as vibrant as we are vulnerable. Evidence of our vibrancy abounds. Last Sunday (3-21-2021), we baptized two people – Abigail Dotson and Perry Newbern. Last Sunday we also welcomed two new people to our church membership – Doug and Nancy Cobbs. Welcome Doug and Nancy! This Sunday (3-28-2021), we are scheduled to baptize three additional people – Isabella Woodard, Leah Woodard, and Avery Byrum. In addition, this Sunday our children will lead us in worship as they ring hand bells. Our children – and we have more on the way – are a sure sign of our vibrancy. And, based on the number of weddings I officiate these days, I expect our child population to continue to grow for several more years.

In addition to all the above evidence for our congregational vibrancy, we are meeting in a freshly, and fully paid for, renovated sanctuary. We have broken ground on our outdoor green space that your church leadership hopes will be used by all age groups within our community. We continue to assist the poor, financially and otherwise, via our Tuesday partnership with Anna and LaCount Anderson and via Christian Women's Job Corps and the North Street house. As more and more people become vaccinated, more and more people are returning to sanctuary worship. Good stuff all around!

I am very interested to discover the condition of our church in, say, ten years. As I see it, if our congregation works hard to accent the vibrancy that is currently in place, we could have a membership of between 300 and 350 in ten years. However, if our congregation chooses not to work hard to accent our current vibrancy, and instead we choose to lounge in our vulnerability, in ten years there could be a restaurant, or an apartment complex, or just another run down building on the corner of West and Main in downtown Ahoskie. God does not desire this outcome. The outcome rests in the hands of the 264 members of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshipping Together

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am

To the Baptized

Romans 6:1-14

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Baptism of Avery Byrum,
Isabella Woodard & Leah Woodard



Holy Week 2021

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28—8:30 & 11:00 am

We will gather to remember the beginning of Christ's last week before His crucifixion. We will offer our praise to the Christ, who rode to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey while followers waved branches and shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna!"

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1—7:00 pm

We will gather to remember the night Jesus met in the upper room with His disciples. It was the night Christ instituted the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2—7:00 pm

We will gather to remember the night Jesus was betrayed by one of His own and arrested and crucified for crimes He did not commit.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4—8:30 & 11:00 am

We will gather to celebrate the risen Savior!

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 am
for Children up to 5th Grade



At the farm of Stuart & Sandra Pierce
107 DT Road, Ahoskie
Bring your Easter basket and a friend.

Grades 1-5 Bell Ringers for March 28 Worship Service



The grades 1-5 children will be ringing bells for worship this Sunday, March 28. Some of the children are ringing bells for the 8:30 am service; all of the children are ringing for the 11:00 service. Here is the schedule:

8:00 am Ringers for 8:30 service meet in the sanctuary.

10:30 am All ringers meet in the sanctuary.

Dress is traditional Sunday clothes. (They will not be wearing the red turtlenecks.)

We'll provide breakfast for children who ring for both services.

Welcome New Members



We welcome Doug & Nancy Cobbs who joined our church on Sunday, March 21. They have been worshipping with us for a good while. We're delighted that they have now made their membership official.

Stewardship Statement

March 21, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,809.22
Difference	\$ -2,946.50
YTD Needs	\$ 105,068.64
YTD Offerings	\$ 91,816.52
YTD Difference	\$ -13,252.12
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 100.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 10.00


Thank you for your generous gifts!



April 2021

First Baptist Church
of Ahsokie



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays • 8:30a: Worship • 11:00a: Worship	Mondays • 3p: Staff Mtg		Wednesdays • 5p: Children's Music & Missions • 5p: Women's Bible Study	1	2 Fridays • 9a-3p: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	3 Selton Vaughan's 3rd FBCA anniversary
4  <i>Easter</i>	5 Church offices closed for Easter holiday.	6	7 No afternoon or evening activities.	8	9	10
11 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	19 • 7p: Building & Grounds Committee	20 • 6p: Deacons' Mtg.	21	22	23	24
25 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	26	27	28	29	30	



1 Lou Riddick
 2 Bracy Lawrence
 4 Adalyn Britt
 5 Colby Hauser
 5 Mike Neal
 5 Debbie Sisler
 7 Rebecca Cale
 10 Stephanie Rose
 12 Claire Presley

13 Ella Harrell
 15 Gloria Freeman
 16 Charles Hughes
 16 Debbie Magette
 16 Kathy McCaskey
 16 Mary-joe Turner
 20 Miracle Deloatch
 22 Arthur Brown
 23 Austine Evans

24 Sarah Newbern
 24 Anna Pierce
 25 Wally McKeel
 26 Anna Dawson
 26 Walt Pierce
 28 Jane Marie Hollingsworth
 28 Will Chamblee
 29 Pace Davis
 30 Josh Brinkley

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of March 28—April 3, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

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

Sound System Operator—March 28

Brandon Zoch

Floral Offering—March 28

Gayle Cross & Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry—April 2

Closed for Good Friday

Week of April 4—10, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Charles Hughes, 287-8403
Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

Sound System Operator—April 4

Josh Brinkley

Floral Offering—April 4

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry—April 9

Vicky Overman



A Memorial Service for the Rev. Ronald W. McSwain

Saturday, March 27 at 1:00 pm
in the FBC Sanctuary
The congregation is invited to attend.

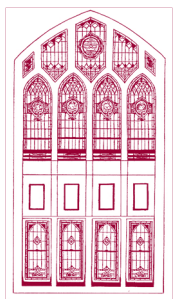
Wednesday Evening Activities for March 31 and April 7

•March 31

We will not have Wednesday afternoon/evening activities on March 31 in order to free up schedules so all may plan to attend Maundy Thursday worship on April 1, and Good Friday worship on April 2. Both services begin at 7:00 pm.

•April 7

We will not have Wednesday afternoon/evening activities on April 7 in observance of Easter/spring break.



The Window

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

phone 252-332-4003
fax 252-209-0225
email office@fbcahoskie.org
web www.fbcahoskie.org