



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

April 14, 2021

No. 7

Will You Help Me?

Last Monday (4-12-2021) was a welcome blast from the past. Monday, after lunch, I visited with three different people. First, I stopped by Rachel Modlin's house to check on her after her stay in the hospital. Then, I drove to Rich Square to pray with E.L. Holloman. Finally, upon my return to Ahoskie, I spent 30 minutes or so catching up with our friend Betty Duke. I am beginning to feel like a fully functioning pastor once again.

For years, my routine has been to spend my mornings in the office working on sermons, writing newsletter articles, carrying out administrative responsibilities, and other in-house duties as needed. After lunch, oftentimes with someone from our congregation, I have then tended to pastoral visiting of the sick and others that I sense need encouragement of some sort. Through the years, I have become disciplined with visitation. And people have expressed their appreciation concerning my approach to this aspect of pastoral ministry.

Covid stole my routine. During the most concerning times of Covid, before there was a vaccine available and the number of infected people in our area was high, I did no face-to-face visiting. I made phone calls. However, I lived with the lingering feeling that our people did not get exactly what they needed. And neither did I. During pre-vaccine times, I spent my entire days in the office. I stayed busy as leading a church in the midst of a pandemic was not a class offered in seminary! Nonetheless, I have so missed looking into the eyes of our people. Perhaps, this is the reason I find myself so refreshed with the resumption of a more normal afternoon visitation routine. Now that I am fully vaccinated, and so many others are as well, I am more and more comfortable spending time with people in hos-

pital rooms and nursing homes and living rooms and at kitchen tables. Of course, it is a tremendous encouragement that hospitals and nursing homes will allow me back in!

When I visit folks now, I find these words coming out of my mouth, "I want to be a good pastor to you. Please let me know what I can do to assist you in the days ahead." Of course, I wanted to be a good pastor to our people before Covid. However, I do not recall that I was in the habit of plainly stating this desire to people. Indeed, absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Will you help me to serve as a good pastor to you? I do my best to discern the needs of our people. When someone is in the hospital, or under Hospice care, that is straightforward enough. However, other situations are not as clear cut. Someone may strongly desire to hear from their pastor, and I simply do not know. Therefore, I say to you as I have said to several others in recent days, I want to be a good pastor to you. Please let me know if you would like an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, or a voice to pray over you.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together

April 18, 2021

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30 & 11:00 am

A Cool Change

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Jesus Christ
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER.
-HEBREWS 13:8-



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
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Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Missionary Testimony



While playing with my daughter in our neighborhood park, I spoke with another father who was playing with his son after finishing the late-shift at the 24-hour convenience store his family runs. I expressed my empathy for the difficulties of such work, especially during a pandemic. Surprisingly, he expressed interest in my work and about attending a worship service. This is a rare occurrence in a nation where religion is a private matter and Christians make up less than two percent of the population. We exchanged contact information and made plans to connect soon. God works in so many ways. Sometimes it just takes a walk in the park to join in.

- Carson Foushee
CBF Field Personnel serving in Tokyo, Japan

Welcome New Members



On Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, we welcomed three new members into our fellowship. We are delighted that Claire Abshire, Karen Benthall Daly, and Jordan Harrell have chosen to make First Baptist Church of Ahoskie their church home.

High School Graduates



We are in the process of planning our baccalaureate for the high school class of 2021, and need information from seniors and their parents.

In a forthcoming edition of "The Window" we would like to list the names of the high school graduates, and their school, along with their senior picture. Please contact Rev. Thompson by May 1 at anita@fbcahoskie.org to share this information.

Children's Music & Missions



The last meeting of Children's Music & Missions for the 2020-2021 church year will be on April 28. We are thankful for the children, leaders, parents, who persevered as we provided this ministry in the midst of a pandemic. Well done, everyone!

Bracy Scholarship Applications

Any FBCA members who will be enrolled in college during the 2021-2022 academic year are encouraged to apply for our annual Bracy Scholarship. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Please contact Rev. Thompson if you would like an application.

College Graduates



In a forthcoming edition of "The Window" we would like to honor our college students who graduated in December 2020, or will graduate in May 2021. This includes graduate students.

As is our custom, we would like to list the names of the graduates, their school, and degree. Please contact Rev. Thompson by April 26 at anita@fbcahoskie.org to share this information.



April 4, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 13,104.72
Difference	\$ 4,349.00
YTD Needs	\$ 122,580.08
YTD Offerings	\$ 113,708.96
YTD Difference	\$ -8,871.12
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 600.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 415.00

Thank You for your generous gifts!



April 11, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,904.16
Difference	\$ 148.44
YTD Needs	\$ 131,335.80
YTD Offerings	\$ 122,613.12
YTD Difference	\$ -8,722.68
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 50.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 150.00

Thank You for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of April 18—24, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Bill Magette, 209-4676
Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Sound System Operator—April 18

Rick Burns

Floral Offering—April 18

Don & LuAnn Joyner

Food Pantry— April 23

Anita Thompson & Carroll Thompson

Week of April 25—May 1, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Rick Burns, 209-4058
Penny Rose, 287-4482

Sound System - April 25

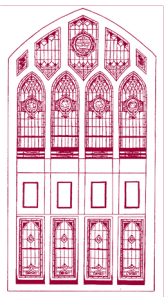
Walt Pierce

Floral Offering - April 25

Nat & Lou Riddick

Food Pantry - April 30

Robert E. & Pansy White



The Window

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