



# THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

April 28, 2021

No.8

## FBC Ahoskie and the Changing Covid Landscape

The availability of the Covid-19 vaccine in our area has changed the covid landscape significantly. I know of no one, in our area, who wants the vaccine but has been unable to get it. In fact, my understanding is that vaccine supply is greater than vaccine demand. With the high efficacy rate of the vaccine, and fewer infected people in our immediate community, we are most fortunate here in north-eastern North Carolina.

In light of the above, our deacons have approved the following adjustments to our daily and weekly church operations.

1 – Sunday School classes may resume anytime they are ready to do so. While the wearing of masks continues to be mandatory in the sanctuary during worship, each Sunday School class is free to decide whether to make mask wearing mandatory or optional.

2 – We recognize, of course, that for some to return to Sunday School, there must be a nursery during the Sunday School hour. The nursery then, for our littlest ones, will be available beginning Sunday, May 23.

3 – Reservations are no longer required for the 8:30am worship service. Just come on, like old times! However, we do request that people continue to sit on every other pew. Reservations are still required for the 11am worship service.

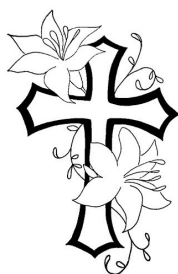
4 – Finally, in preparation for the return to one Sunday morning Worship service, **we have a motion from the deacons that we move our Sunday morning worship time from 11am to**

**10am, and that we move our Sunday School time from 10am to 9am.** A church-wide discussion, without a vote, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 at 7pm in the church fellowship hall. A vote on this motion, without discussion, is scheduled for Sunday, June 6 at the beginning of worship.

Please do be patient. I know that for some we are moving too fast. I sense that for many others we are not moving fast enough. Your current church leadership has never locked down church activities before due to a pandemic (or for any other reason). And your current church leadership has never gradually reopened church activities due to the easing of a pandemic (or for any other reason). This is all new territory. There is no blueprint stashed away in a closet somewhere for us to find and pull out.

If you should have any questions or concerns you would like to share, please do speak with me, Penny Rose (deacon chair), Scott Outlaw (deacon vice-chair), or any of our current deacons.

In Christ,  
Trey



**Worshiping Together**  
May 2, 2021

**The 5th Sunday of Easter**  
8:30 & 11:00 am

*Would Paul Wear a Mask Now?*  
Romans 14:13-23  
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

## From the Associate Pastor

Prior to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, clergy colleagues introduced me to a book I found helpful in trying to understand and interpret the cultural shifts affecting the Christian church. *Shift*, is written by Mark Tidsworth, founder of Pinnacle Leadership Associates (PLA). As one reviewer summarizes, “Tidsworth deconstructs the large-scale cultural shifts that have taken place in the last 50 years, and helps make sense of the current cultural context for churches in North America. Tidsworth then identifies and follows three hopeful shifts every church is called to make: (1) member identity to disciple identity, (2) attractional church to missional church, and (3) consumer culture to sacred partnering.”

As I made my way through the book, my mind was filled with exclamations like “Yes!,” and “Oh!” and “Hm.” So when I received an invitation from Tidsworth to be part of a Clergy Collective that PLA was organizing, I immediately said yes.

Since last September I’ve been meeting virtually once a month with a group of approximately 50 clergy representing multiple denominations, and located from New England to Florida, and from the East Coast to the Midwest. We’ve been reading and discussing Tidsworth’s sequel to “Shift,” titled, “Re-Shape: Emerging Church Practice in a Volatile World.”

Additionally, each of us are part of a smaller group which also meets once a month; this time is for coaching, questions, and encouragement. It saddens me to know this experience ends in May.

A good bit of what I shared with you last Sunday in my sermon is growing out of my experiences in this Clergy Collective. Sharing our collective grief over what was, and exploring the possibilities of where God is leading has been deeply meaningful.

Every time we meet, Tidsworth reminds us that the Christian church in North America was in serious decline long before the pandemic began. He then asks, “Why, then, would we return to our pre-pandemic church life?”

There have been times in my ministry, when I thought it would be helpful if the church would take the time to stop doing everything but worshiping and providing pastoral care, so we could evalu-

ate our various ministries, structure, etc., in order to determine what we need to keep doing, what we need to alter, what we need to let go of, and what we need to try anew. The Covid-19 pandemic offers us that opportunity.

As we look ahead to post-Covid life, why not spend some time asking questions like these.

What do you need from your church in order to help you mature in the faith? Bible study tools? Resources to strengthen your prayer life? Grief resources? Help with faith practices in the home? Service opportunities? Help exploring your spiritual gifts?

What is it about our Sunday School ministry that works well? What doesn’t?

Is our committee structure supporting efforts to help God’s kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven?

Has your participation in the ministries of First Baptist Church helped you grow into a more mature Christian in the last year? The last 5 years?

Phyllis Tickle, in her book, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, suggests that we are living in a time when the church is moving toward reformation. Using the metaphor of a giant rummage sale, she believes God is calling the church to scour its ministry “from attic to basement,” throwing out what is no longer valuable, repairing or tweaking that which needs to change, embracing what God calls us to keep, and welcoming God’s gift of the new. I think Tickle is on to something.

If any of this intrigues you, I invite you to invest in one or all of the books I’ve mentioned. If you need helping getting them, just let me know and I’ll get them for you. If any of you are interested in being part of a discussion group, using these books as our guide, I’ll be glad to organize such a group. Again, just let me know.

I hope it is obvious that I love the church! I’ve loved it for as long as I can remember. I so want to serve it well during this most unusual time. May God help us to do so.

Grace & peace,



# 2021 2021

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sundays</b> • 8:30a: Worship • 9:45a: Sunday School • 11a: Worship	<b>Mondays</b> • 3p: Staff Mtg				<b>Fridays</b> • 9a-3p: Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	1
2 Baccalaureate at 8:30 service.	3	4 • 10a: WMU Group 4	5 • 6:30p: Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary	6	7	8
9  Mother's DAY	10	11	12 • 6:30p: Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary	13	14 Janice Cesil's 3rd Staff Anniversary	15
16	17 • 7p: Building & Grounds Committee	18 • 6p: Deacons' Mtg.	19 • 6:30p: Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary	20	21	22
23  Pentecost SUNDAY	24	25	26 • 7:00p: Church Conference	27	28	29
30	31  MEMORIAL DAY					



1 Victoria Harris  
 2 Violet Williams  
 4 Nancy Baker  
 5 Gail Holloman  
 7 Elijah Brown  
 7 Kay Byrd  
 7 Michael Harrell  
 8 Heather Roberts  
 9 Richard Alexander

9 Jessie Simons  
 15 Pat Byrd  
 16 Finette Matthews  
 17 Bryan Britton  
 17 Camille Pierce  
 18 Lily Ann Brinkley  
 18 Suzanne Newbern  
 18 Judy G. Pierce  
 19 Pike Harrington

20 Blake Outlaw  
 24 William Alexander  
 24 Peggy Springfield  
 25 Duck Harrell  
 27 Tom Fretwell  
 28 Howard Brown  
 28 Trey Gilliam  
 28 Mollee Frei Lamm  
 31 Donna Burden

## Our High School Class of 2021



*Mollee Frei Lamm*

Falls Lake Academy  
Butner, NC  
June 5, 2021  
Daughter of Tim Frei



*Lane Slachta*

Ridgecroft School  
Ahoskie, NC  
June 4, 2021  
Son of Chris & Cheryl Slachta

## Children's Ministry News



### Children Leading in Worship on May 2

On Sunday, May 2, grades 1-5 children will ring bells for both worship services. The children who will ring for the 8:30 service will gather in the sanctuary at 8:00 am. Breakfast will be provided between the two services. The children who will ring for the 11:00 service will gather in the sanctuary at 10:45 am. Dress is usual church attire.

The age 3—kindergarten children will be signing the song, "We Believe," during the 11:00 worship service. Suzanne Newbern, this age group's leader, will provide further details.

### Summer Church Camp 2021

We are planning to hold Summer Church Camp this summer and need parents and children's ministry volunteers to help in determining dates and other details. If you've not already completed the survey, you're invited to do so by copying and pasting the following link. Please respond by April 30.

<https://forms.gle/kG8mfgziy9iVe3ELA>



## Wedding Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to Jordan Harrell and Claire Abshire who were united in Christian marriage on April 25, 2021. We offer our best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Harrell.

### Stewardship Statement

**April 25, 2021**

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,463.05
Difference	\$ -3,292.67
YTD Needs	\$ 148,847.24
YTD Offerings	\$ 137,236.17
YTD Difference	\$ -11,611.07
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 60.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 25.00

***Online giving is available on our website.  
Thank you for your generous gifts!***



## Our 2021 College Graduates



### *Ruthie Daniels*

Meredith College

May 15, 2021

Bachelor of Science in Food & Nutrition, with a Concentration in Dietetics

### *Lauren Harrell*

UNC Chapel Hill

May 15, 2021

Bachelor of Science in Biology

### *Jordan Martin*

East Carolina University

May 7, 2021

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, with a concentration in Musical Theatre

### *Kathryn Outlaw*

East Carolina University

May 7, 2021

Bachelor of Science in Public Health Studies,  
with a concentration in Pre-Health Professions, and a Minor in Science.

## Memorial Service for Bob Newsome

**Sunday, May 2, 2021  
12:00 noon to 12:30 pm**

At the close of the regular worship service, we will take a 5 minute break before beginning the memorial service. Those who need to leave may do so at that time.

## In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to . . .

- Joanna Dunn in the April 17th passing of her husband, David. A memorial service was held April 20. Please hold in prayer Joanna, daughter, Chloe Dunn Eure, and son, Finn Dunn.
- The family of FBCA member, Eloise Miller, who passed on April 21. A graveside service was held on April 25.
- The family of FBCA member, Jean Hudson, who passed on April 22. A graveside service was held on April 26.

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

**Week of May 2—8, 2021**

**Minister on Call**

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

**Deacons on Call**

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

**Sound System Operator—May 2**

Chris Slachta

**Floral Offering—May 2**

Dot Newsome & Family

**Food Pantry— May 7**

Jack & Millie Britt

**Week of May 9—15, 2021**

**Minister on Call**

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

**Deacons on Call**

Austine Evans, 398-2724  
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

**Sound System Operator—May 9**

Brandon Zoch

**Floral Offering—May 9**

The Henry & Iris Bazemore Family

**Food Pantry— May 14**

Arthur Brown

## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

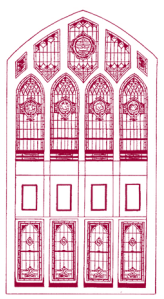
Rev. Anita D. Thompson  
*Associate Pastor*

Mr. W. Bland Baker  
*Music Associate/Pianist*

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III (Trey)  
*Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Miss Bridget Deveney  
*Music Associate/Organist*



## *The Window*

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Ahoskie, NC 27910-0649

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