



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

May 12, 2021

No. 9

Do You See It?

We are climbing out of covid, and God is moving in our congregation. Do you see it?

While we are still wearing masks when we gather for worship, reservations are no longer required for both the 8:30am worship service and the 11am worship service. The green light has been given for Sunday School classes to resume meeting in our building whenever they decide to begin to gather again. In fact, we will have a nursery once again during the Sunday School hour beginning Sunday, May 23rd. This is especially good news as for some people to return to Sunday School, they need the nursery for their young children. We continue to see more and more people return to sanctuary worship due to the very high efficacy rates of the vaccine. On Wednesday evenings, the sound of choir practice has resumed. For now, just the Vocal Ensemble is making music once again. Did you see them in the choir loft last Sunday? They were a sight for sore eyes!

In addition to all of the above, in recent weeks we have baptized during the 11am worship service. On Sunday, March 21st we baptized Abbigail Dotson and Perry Newbern. On Sunday, March 28th we baptized Avery Byrum, Isabella Woodard, and Leah Woodard.

We have had a nice handful of already baptized people to join our church. On Easter Sunday, April 4th, Karen Daly as well as Jordan and Claire Harrell joined our congregation.

And finally, last Sunday May 9th, Tommy Oliver made a profession of faith and requested and was granted membership into our church family. We have not yet scheduled Tommy's baptism. However,

I anticipate that it will be in the not-too-distant future.

There are times when the work of the church has some similarities with cutting grass. When you cut grass, you can tangibly see the fruits of your labor. This is especially so the higher the grass is when you begin. It is rewarding – is it not? Even as you cut, you can see your progress. And then, when you are finished, you step back and admire your work.

Our church is in grass cutting mode right now. And it is fun! Nonetheless, it is important to remember that even when the church is not in grass cutting mode, which is often in my experience, God is still at work. And we must still be about our central task of blessing God and giving God praise for God's goodness to us demonstrated through the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and coming again of Jesus the Christ.

Do you see it? Do you see all the tall grass that has been cut recently? Do take a moment, step back, and admire God's handywork in our congregation during recent days. I do not know how long this will last. However, I plan to take it all in. I hope you will too.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together

May 16, 2021

Ascension Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 am

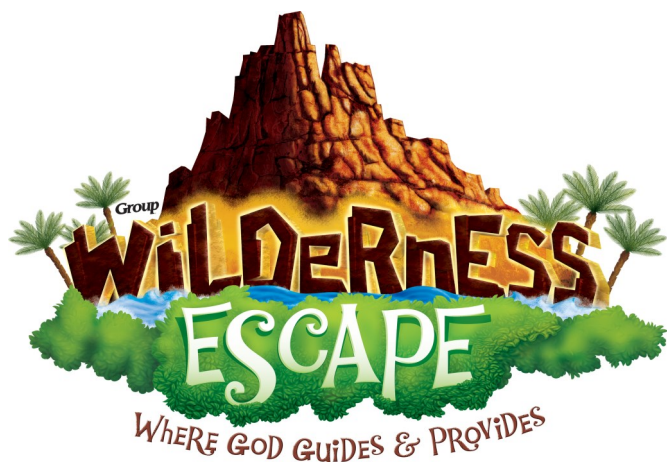
A Pastor Prays

Ephesians 1:15-23

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Summer Church Camp 2021

June 21-24
5:15—8:00 pm



Children will . . .

- ♦Discover truths straight from Moses—one of the Bible's greatest God-followers.
- ♦Caravan with Moses and the Israelites as they escape Egypt.
- ♦See, hear, touch, and even taste what it might have been like to live in the Bible-times wilderness.

Ages & Grades

Age 3 (by 8/31/21) to grade 5 (2021-22 school year).

Registration

Registration forms are available in the church office, will be emailed or mailed upon request, or you may register online by copying and pasting the following link.

<https://forms.gle/yMKcYPYk4ikxbAR49>

Registration Deadline

June 14

Volunteer Needs

Remaining volunteer needs are . . .

- ♦Decorating team members.
- ♦Age group leaders who lead the same group of children each evening from one station to another.
- ♦Childcare providers for leader's children who are under age 3.

Speak with Rev. Thompson if you are willing to volunteer.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers



For the past 14 months, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, employees at the Ahoskie Nutrition Center have taken care of delivering meals for the Meals on Wheels program. The organization reports that they are ready to return to the practice of using volunteers for the deliveries.

Jayne and Tim Frei delivered meals on May 10 and were pleased with how smoothly the hour went. Some recipients were waiting for them at the door, others requested the meal be left on a table at the door. Jayne said she saw many familiar faces from her pre-pandemic days of delivering meals.

FBC Ahoskie has a long history of providing a team of volunteers to deliver meals on Mondays. Pre-pandemic, we had enough volunteers so that individuals or pairs delivered meals once per quarter. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jayne Frei at (757) 478-6194.

Staff Anniversary

Janice Cesil
3 Years



Janice Cesil joined our staff on May 14, 2018. Thank you, Janice, for three years of faithful ministry!

Church-Wide Discussion on May 26 & Conference on June 6

In preparation for the return to one Sunday morning worship service, we have a recommendation from the deacons that we consider moving 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.

Sunday School Classes



Sunday School classes may resume meeting when they are ready. Each class may choose when to begin and adopt their own mask-wearing policy within their classroom.

Nursery care during Sunday School will resume on May 23.

If literature needs to be ordered for your class, please contact Rev. Thompson at (252) 395-0061, or anita@fbcahoskie.org.

Who are Our Artistically Inclined?



For Summer Church Camp and other ministry opportunities, the church staff is interested in knowing who among us likes to draw, paint, and color.

Who are our preschoolers who love to get their hands on crayons? Who are our grade school children, youth and adults who love to doodle or draw or paint? If you're among this group, or if your child is, please contact Rev. Thompson. We'd like to offer you the opportunity to use this joy in service to the church.

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021



On May 23 we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ to be with us to comfort and convict, guide and instruct. We'll hear the Pentecost story as found in Acts 2:1-21, and sing hymns and songs about the Holy Spirit and the role it plays in

helping the church be the church.

As is our tradition, you're invited to wear the colors of fire—reds, oranges, and yellows. Let's fill our sanctuary with the colors of fire as we give thanks for the gift of God's Holy Spirit.

Church Calendar

May 16—22, 2021

Sunday, May 16

- 8:00 am Musicians' Rehearsal
- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday School (*For classes who've decided to resume meeting.*)
- 11:00 am Worship, WQDK FM 99.3
- 2:30 pm Greek Class

Monday, May 17

- 3:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Girl Scouts
- 7:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, May 18

- 11:00 am—4:00 pm Benevolence Appointments
- 6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, May 19

- 6:00 pm Youth Group Gathering (Grades 6-12)
- 6:30 pm Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, May 21

- 9:00 am Christian Women's Job Corps

Welcome New Member

We gladly welcome Tommy Oliver into the membership of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie. On Sunday, May 9, Tommy shared his profession of faith, and requested baptism and church membership. A date for his baptism is forthcoming.



May 9, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,136.69
Difference	\$ -619.03
YTD Needs	\$ 166,358.68
YTD Offerings	\$ 155,867.10
YTD Difference	\$ -10,491.58
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 100.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 125.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of May 16—22, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

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

Sound System Operator—May 16

Josh Brinkley

Floral Offering—May 16

Larry & Diane Freeman

Food Pantry— May 21

Vicky Overman

Week of May 23—29, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Rick Burns, 209-4058
Kari Pierce, 217-8017

Sound System Operator—May 23

Frank Britt

Floral Offering—May 23

Worship Decorating Committee

Food Pantry— May 28

Arthur Brown

Our Ministry Team

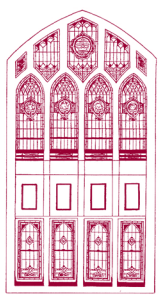
Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

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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