



THE WINDOW

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

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August 11, 2021

No. 14

What I Like About Sunday School

It may surprise you to learn that I am in a Sunday School class for the first time in my life. Indeed, I am teaching the Hannah Brown Sunday School class during the summer months. I was not raised in church. Therefore, I did not participate in Sunday School as a child or adolescent. During the early years as a pastor, I tried to participate in a Sunday School class. However, there were two issues. First, I discovered that people are not always comfortable with the pastor in the class. And second, I simply felt rushed moving from Sunday School into worship. Therefore, I decided to use the Sunday School hour for final preparations for the 11am worship service. And such has been my practice for years – until now.

So – here is what I like about Sunday School.

1 – I enjoy preparation. I enjoy sitting down with a Sunday School quarterly and reading the lesson. For years, I have heard people mention, in casual conversation, reading their Sunday School lesson. After my experience this summer with the Hannah Brown Sunday School class, it strikes me that this is a good discipline for learning the Bible as well as receiving nourishment from the Bible.

I often hear church folks lament that they do not know much about the Bible. Active participation in Sunday School will change that. Lou Ann has been in Sunday School all her life. To this day, when I cannot clearly recall an account from the Old Testament, the first person I go to is Lou Ann. She knows her Bible! Sunday School is the primary method through which our child has learned the Bible. She has a solid foundation upon which to build in her adult years.

2 – I enjoy meeting with other people, in my case

senior ladies, who have read and reflected upon the same biblical text. When people prepare in advance, the discussion is rich and rewarding. Furthermore, as I noticed last week, because we bring our own experiences to the reading of the Bible, we learn more about each other when we gather for Bible study. In other words, authentic community develops in a Sunday School class.

3 – You know that feeling you have after leaving worship? Even if the sermon did not speak to you or we did not sing any of your favorite hymns, you simply feel good about having met with other believers for the worship of God. For the Christian, meeting with other people (in person!) for the worship of God is the right thing to do. I find the feeling of satisfaction is even stronger with the addition of Sunday School.

If you have participated in worship this summer, you have likely noticed that many of our people are regularly choosing other activities over gathered worship on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary. Currently, our numbers are as low as I have ever seen them. This is even more so with Sunday School participation. I do think, with a little bit of effort, you too would find the Sunday School experience fulfilling.

In Christ,
Paul



Worshiping Together

August 15, 2021

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

God Has Dirty Hands

Luke 15:1-10

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Welcome New Members



On Sunday, July 11, 2021 we welcomed Elizabeth Craft into our church membership. She joined by transfer of letter from Ahoskie United Methodist Church.

On Sunday, August 1, 2021 we welcomed Ashlee' Perry and Lily Ann Brinkley into our church membership. Ashlee' is the Activities Coordinator for Easterseals/UCP Ahoskie. She joined by transfer of letter. Lily Ann joined by profession of faith and requested baptism. She is the daughter of FBC members Josh and Jessica Brinkley.

We rejoice over these new church members and look forward to partnering with them in ministry.

Bible Presentations

August 15, 2021



As is our tradition, we will present Bibles to our 1st and 6th graders as we celebrate their transition to grade school and youth ministries.

Wednesday Night Activities

The following full slate of activities will resume on August 25, 2021.

- 5:00 PM Children's Music & Missions
- 6:00 PM Youth Group Gathering
- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

2021 General Assembly Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

August 25-28, 2021

Experience it virtually or at the North Carolina/South Carolina regional event in Charlotte. You may register online at <https://cbf.net/general-assembly>.

This year's theme is "Being Renewed from the Inside Out." Amid pandemics on a global scale and in our nation, in the midst of exhaustion and uncertainty, and preparing to face new seasons in our congregations and in our mission – there's hope found in Christ Jesus.

Church Conference on August 22

We will vote on the Nominating Committee's recommendation of leadership for the 2021-2022 church year which begins September 1.



Baptism on August 29

We look forward to celebrating the baptism of Lily Ann Brinkley on August 29. Lily Ann is 10 years old and will begin the 5th grade at Ridgcroft School on August 18.

Classes Begins for Local Schools

Throughout the month of August our local schools begin welcoming students for the 2021-2022 school year. Let us pray for the teachers, students, parents, staff and administrators as they navigate yet another school year under pandemic conditions.

Heck-Jones Offering for WMU NC



We will receive the annual Heck-Jones offering for the entire month of August. This offering provides funds for the mission and ministries of the Woman's Missionary Union of NC. One of those ministries is Christian Women's Job Corps which is an important ministry of our church.

Stewardship Statement

August 8, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 6,709.82
Difference	\$ -2,045.90
YTD Needs	\$ 280,183.04
YTD Offerings	\$ 280,671.89
YTD Difference	\$ 488.85
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 610.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 175.00
Heck-Jones Offering Total	\$ 471.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

From the Associate Pastor

My love of the church is as long as my memory of it. As a young child I found church to be a warm and welcoming place. Caring hands fed me juice and crackers. Voices of varying ages sang songs about God's love for me. And dedicated teachers shared stories from the Bible that reinforced the message in those songs.

In those rapidly changing and often confusing years of middle school and high school, my love of church grew ever stronger. In that time when a sense of belonging was everything, church was where I felt I belonged. I marveled at how so many people, quite different from one another, could belong together and be unified in worship and in ministry through Christ. I began to see that everyone's gifts are valuable; everyone's gifts are needed, even mine. This led to the important understanding of the church as less of a "where" and more of a "who."

I am profoundly grateful for all those with whom I have been church over the course of my life. Recently I was reminded of how grateful I am for being church with you, the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie.

The first two days of Summer Church Camp had gone well. We had a great group of children who all came back for night two! We had enjoyed two yummy meals prepared by terrific volunteers. The youth volunteers were doing a great job of caring for, teaching, and engaging the children. And the same could be said of the adult leaders. As I left the church on Tuesday evening my heart was filled with joy as I gave God thanks for all the good ways we were being church together.

Then, on Wednesday morning I received word about the automobile accident. As I began to work my way through shock and grief, my phone began to ring and texts began to come through. Over and over again I was greeted with this message from the beloved folks of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie: "I know you're going to need help with Summer Church Camp tonight; how can I help? What do you need?"

I learned that we were going to need a few people to step in from start to finish that evening. You met that need. I also learned that most of the youth wanted to be present for the majority of the evening, but leave in time to attend the prayer vigil at Ridgescroft School. When they slipped out, others

seamlessly slipped in. You met that need. When we welcomed the children Wednesday evening, every leadership position was taken care of.



While some of the church helped with Summer Church Camp, others ministered in a myriad of ways. Some provided shoulders to cry on, others took food to the homes of the affected families. Some offered childcare, others prayed and called upon others to pray. Some provided a much needed ministry

of presence when there were just no adequate words. The beautiful church of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie gathered and scattered to be the hands and feet of Christ in the midst of tragedy. Bless you!

We all hope and pray that we never have to be church in the same way again. Yet we know that this earthly life is filled with difficult, even tragic circumstances. What a blessing it is to know that when they do, the church will be there.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts, and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear. And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

—John Fawcett (1740-1817)

Grace & peace,

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of August 15 - 21, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Austine Evans, 398-2724
Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

Childcare During Worship - August 15

Babies: Nancy Cobbs & Judy H. Pierce
Ages 1 & 2: Alex & Sarah Grace Britton
Ages 3-5: Avery & Harriet Byrum

Ushers - August 15

Josh Brinkley, Tim Frei, Duck Harrell,
Gail Holloman, Charles Hughes, Patricia Hughes
Peggy Springfield, Buzzy Swain

Sound System Operator - August 15

Frank Britt

Floral Offering - August 15

Earl & Linda Futrell; April Futrell & Austin Yeager

Home Delivered Meals - August 16

Bill & Susan Earley

Food Pantry - August 20

Arthur Brown

Week of August 22 - 28, 2021

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III, 398-7321
paulrgilliam@fbcahoskie.org

Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

Childcare During Worship - August 22

Babies: Debbie & Keith Rawls
Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene
Ages 3-5: Jessica, Josh, Lily Ann Brinkley

Ushers - August 22

J.C. Doughtie, Gloria Freeman,
Pike Harrington, Brad Hauser, Colby Hausser,
Jane Hollingsworth, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch

Sound System Operator - August 22

Rick Burns

Floral Offering - August 22

Russell Overman

Home Delivered Meals - August 23

Austine Evans & Maryann Umphlett

Food Pantry - August 27

Sandra Pierce