



THE WINDOW

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

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Déjà vu

By now, word has spread far and wide about my return to Chowan University as the Director of the Religion program and Professor of Religion. Facebook is good for getting the word out! This news should sound somewhat familiar – perhaps it engenders a déjà vu experience of sorts. It is Chowan that brought the Gilliams to Hertford County in 2011. I came as Assistant Professor of Religion. Soon after we arrived Lou Ann was hired as Chowan's Director of Church and Community Relations – a position she continues to hold.

While serving in my first position with Chowan, I continued to assist churches as supply preacher, Wednesday night Bible study leader, and interim pastor. This is what enabled our paths to cross. In February 2017, I became your interim pastor. In October 2017, I became your permanent pastor. At first, I continued teaching at Chowan. However, I soon decided that holding down two jobs was a bit much. Therefore, long story short, I resigned my position at Chowan in order to focus more completely on my church responsibilities.

While my return to Chowan as the Director of the Religion program and Professor of Religion might, indeed, seem like a déjà vu experience, there are significant differences this time around. First, our only child is now away at college. The empty nest frees up significant time I have not had for the last 20 years or so (though I sure do miss that kid!). Second, I am now established as your pastor. I know our congregation well. And I know the surrounding community much better than I did in 2017. In other words, I no longer must ask Anita where the light switches are. Well, maybe every once in a while, still! And, finally and unfortunately, our church is smaller than it was in

2017. I am pleased that it is *not* a rarity for someone to join our church or for us to step into the baptismal waters. However, our gains are simply not matching our losses. Last Sunday after worship, one of our faithful members said to me, “We are really thinning, aren’t we?” I responded, “Yes, we are.” For what it is worth, I think an answer to all the declining congregations in our area is for congregations, who are generally likeminded, to join with one another. However, I have discovered first-hand that the resistance to this idea is fierce.

Perhaps then I should pause here and ask the inactive members of First Baptist Ahoskie to please come back. We need you! And, if I may be so bold as to say, you need us too. If you would like to talk about whatever may have upset you in the past, that caused you to withdraw from the life of our church, please do contact me. I welcome the conversation.

This time around I have a different position with Chowan. I am the director of the religion program. This means I have the opportunity to shape and mold the program. I am tasked with building the program, providing leadership and vision for the program. This excites me. Déjà vu – well, sort of.

Please know that First Baptist Ahoskie will not suffer because of these added responsibilities. What it does mean, however, is that I will get earlier starts on my day than usual. No problem there – the timing is just right.

In Christ,
Paul R. Gilliam III



Worshiping Together

September 19, 2021

17th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

The Next Step

Psalm 8

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Chairo Music Ensemble



The Chairo Music Ensemble sings Praise & Worship music as well as global church music. It's our intergenerational choir which is open to students in grades 6-12, college students and adults of all ages.

Chairo is pronounced "KY—roh," and is an English transliteration of the Greek word, **καίρω** which means, "to rejoice."

Chairo rehearses on Sundays at 2:00 PM in the Choir Room. You do not have to know how to read music in order to sing with Chairo. Speak with Rev. Thompson if you have any questions, or just show up for a rehearsal.

Wednesday Night Activities



5:00 PM Children's Music & Missions
Age 3-K: Room 105
Grades 1-5: Choir Room

6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
Choir Room



2022 Budget Preparation

During the month of September, the Finance Committee will distribute 2022 budget preparation forms to appropriate committee chairs and church staff. Committees are encouraged to begin now to consider their budget needs for the year 2022. The requests are due by Friday, September 24th. Details are forthcoming regarding when the proposed budget will be mailed, when the church will meet to discuss it, and when the church will vote on it.

October Birthdays

3 Cindy Henderson
3 Barbara Martin
4 Eley Whitehead
5 Phil Sisler
5 Jenni Byrd
6 Sophia Sumner
7 Lawson Marsh
10 Michelle Mustian Boyd
11 Stan Dixon
15 Rita Bula
17 Christine McKeel
19 Corbett Britton
20 J. C. Doughtie
23 Timothy Pierce
24 Tommy Oliver
26 Catherine Harrell
27 Melanie Byrum Byrd
30 Ronald Coburn
31 Ryan Britt

Save the Dates



♦Sunday, October 24 *Children's Sabbath*

Our age 3 through grade 5 children will lead us in worship.

♦Sunday, November 7 *All Saints' Sunday*

We remember and give thanks for our FBCA brothers and sisters who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.

♦Sunday, December 12 *Christmas Cantata at 6:00 PM*

♦Sunday, December 19 *Christmas Cantata at 11:00 AM*

Children's Mission Project



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
North Carolina

Children are encouraged to collect aluminum pop tabs from any container (soda can, soup can, pet food, etc.) to benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville, NC. The leadership of Ronald McDonald House takes the pop tabs to a local recycler to turn them into money to provide for the families who stay in the house.

The Ronald McDonald House program helps reduce stress and financial burden for families when they must travel far from home to access medical care for their child.



A collection box will be located in the 1st floor hallway. Let's gift the RMH with a boatload of pop tabs by the March 21, 2022 deadline!

Memorial Service



A private memorial service for Oliver Fleming was held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 11:00 AM. If you would like to watch the service, visit our YouTube Channel.

In Sympathy



We offer our sympathy to Spencer Matthews and family in the September 6, 2021 death of Spencer's wife, Dolores. A private memorial service was held in our columbarium on Wednesday morning, September 8th.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, September 17th | 9 AM
Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)

Monday, September 20th | 3 PM
Staff Meeting

Monday, September 20th | 7 PM
Building & Grounds Meeting

Tuesday, September 21st | 7 PM
Deacons' Meeting

Stewardship Statement

September 12, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,141.43
Difference	\$ -614.29
YTD Needs	\$ 323,961.64
YTD Offerings	\$ 318,036.07
YTD Difference	\$ -5,925.57
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 110.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 530.00
Heck-Jones Offering Total	\$ 2,611.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Sept. 19 - 25, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

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

Childcare During Worship - September 19

Babies: Faith Burnett & Kari Pierce
Ages 1 & 2: Claire & Jordan Harrell
Ages 3-5: Avery & Harriet Byrum

Ushers - September 19

Josh Brinkley, Lily Ann Brinkley, Kay Byrd,
Sophia Byrd, Lanie Byrum, Lee Byrum

Sound System Operator - September 19

Walt Pierce

Security Monitor - September 19

Heath Britt

Floral Offering - September 19

Family of Dot Williford

Home Delivered Meals - September 20

Georgia Copeland & Jayne Frei

Food Pantry - September 24

Pansy & Robert E. White

Week of Sept. 26 - Oct. 2, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175
Austine Evans, 398-2724

Childcare During Worship - September 26

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

Ushers - September 26

J.C. Doughtie, Gloria Freeman, Larry Freeman,
Tim Frei, Duck Harrell, Jordan Harrell

Sound System Operator - September 26

Chris Slachta

Security Monitor - September 26

Jack Britt

Floral Offering - September 26

Jamie & Rick Burns

Home Delivered Meals - September 27

Charles & Gloria Freeman

Food Pantry - October 1

Sandra Pierce