



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 54

October 20, 2021

No. 17

Resisting the Familiar in Favor of the Better

My thoughts have been upon the Israelites in the wilderness lately. It is a familiar narrative. Moses has confronted the Egyptian Pharaoh with the Pharaoh's oppression of the Israelite people. Finally, after a series of plagues, Pharaoh agrees to let Moses and the people leave the bonds of slavery. However, Pharaoh changes his mind. His army pursues Moses and the Israelites to the Red Sea. Moses raises his staff and God parts the waters of the sea. The Israelites pass through safely. When the Egyptian army attempts to pass through, the waters merge back together and the army drowns in the sea.

Now, the Israelites are on their way. They have escaped slavery under the Egyptians. They have a leader who will take them to the promised land – a land flowing with milk and honey, a land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. However, they soon encounter problems – big problems. They are hungry and they are thirsty. So, they grumble against Moses. They say to Moses and Aaron, “Would that we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Exodus 16:3; see also Exodus 14:10-12 and Numbers 21:5).

As crazy as it looks and sounds, we humans do this a lot. We often return to the familiar – what we know. We do this even when, with hard work and discomfort, we could have a life that is much better, a life free of abuse or alcohol or overeating, or you name it. Thank God that ultimately the Israelites did not return to slavery under the Egyptians where at least they had bread and water. Rather, under the leadership of Moses, Joshua, and others, they eventually made their way through the wilderness and entered the promised land, the land of Israel.

On June 8th, I began to make people aware that I would like to jettison “Trey” in favor of my actual,

real, legal, birth certificate name – Paul. I knew this would be difficult to do at 50. Of course, I wish I had done this earlier. An ideal time would have been when we moved to the area in 2011. And so it is with Monday morning quarterbacking! This transition from “Trey” to Paul has been difficult as I expected. I did not expect, however, that some folks would be rude and sarcastic towards me. I understand the frustration but ... I have been tempted to do a Facebook post and say, “Forget it – go back to calling me ‘Trey’.” However, deep down in my soul, I do not want to go back to the familiar, what I knew before, even though it would be so much easier. I will be grateful if I live 50 more years but the odds are against that. So, I suspect when I die, I will have been known as “Trey” for the majority of my life. Nonetheless, I want to get as much use out of Paul as I can going forward. Tempting though it has been, I do not wish to go back.

What about you? Do you need to resist the familiar in favor of the better? Are you tempted to return to slavery instead of enduring momentary difficulty and hardship – perhaps even ridicule? Let's follow the example of Moses and the Israelites. Let's fight through this temptation to return to the familiar and invest the necessary hard work to enter the promised land.

In Christ,
Paul



Worshiping Together

October 24, 2021

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 AM

Broken

Psalm 131

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Deacon Nominations

Results will be shared soon.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

It is time to prepare for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our goal this year is for our church to complete 100 boxes! We want to help boys and girls around the world know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's help share the Good News of Christ through a gift-filled box, bringing hope to a child in need.

All boxes are due at FBCA between November 15-22, 2021. For more information, please contact Melanie Byrum, OCC Coordinator for FBC.

Capital Campaign Update

On Sunday, October 3, 2021, the Capital Campaign Committee launched Phase 2, the Preparation Phase of our Capital Campaign. We have moved our focus to the lower area of our 1937 building which needs improvement comparable to that which we did in our sanctuary. We are happy to report that through the generous gifts and pledges of some of our church members, we are halfway to our goal of \$350,000. Please join us in making Phase 2 a success!



Through our version of the "Pony Express," you will be receiving at your door information about our goals and plans for improvements in our kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Everyone's pledge is important, so please pray about your contributions and let us know on the pledge cards how much your gifts will total by the end of the Campaign in December 2022. Let the renovations begin with the goal of having a lovely space where we can enjoy many intergenerational activities for years to come!

Thank you,
Jerry Alexander, Lyndsay Britt, Harriett Byrum,
Austine Evans, Charles Hughes, Walt Pierce,
Penny Rose, Buzzy Swain

Sunday, October 24th | 6 PM



From birth - grade 5.

In Sympathy



We offer our sympathy to the family of Alice Coggin who passed away on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Her funeral service will be held at Garrett-Sykes Funeral Home on Friday, October 22nd at 1:30 PM.

Stewardship Statement

October 17, 2021

Weekly Need	\$ 8,755.72
Weekly Offering	\$ 5,764.97
Difference	\$ -2,990.75
YTD Needs	\$ 367,740.24
YTD Offerings	\$ 356,768.82
YTD Difference	\$ -10,971.42
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 125.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 0.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Sundays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chair Music Ensemble 	<p>1 Mondays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PM Staff Mtg • 5:45-6:45 PM Girl Scouts Mtg 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM WMU Group 4 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM Garden Club <p>Wednesdays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6 PM Youth Group Grades 6-12 • 6 PM Adult Bible Study • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble 	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Fridays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) 	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>  <p><i>All Saints' Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion • Day Light Saving Time Ends 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM CWJC Board Mtg. 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Building & Grounds Committee 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Deacons' Mtg 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Ahoskie Women's Club 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Sabbath 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>Church Offices Closed</p> <p>Give Thanks</p>	<p>27</p>  <p><i>Brinkley & Nickert Wedding</i> 3 o'clock PM</p>	
<p>28</p>  <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				

November Birthdays

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bill Earley | 6 Susan Keel | 11 Mary Ann Umphlett | 20 Judy H. Pierce |
| 1 Lane Slachta | 7 Virginia Minton | 12 Ann Carter Barnes | 28 Margaret Winn |
| 2 Barbara Roberson | 7 Jim Wiggins | 13 Sylvia Britt | 29 Peggy Lowe |
| 3 Gary Morris | 8 Janice Morris | 13 Ben Britton | |
| 5 Carol Paul | 10 Brandon Zoch | 16 Bryant Brinkley | |
| 6 Alex Britton | 11 Jim Messer | 19 Scott Outlaw | |

If we have neglected to acknowledge a birthday, please let us know by calling the church office.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of Oct. 24-30, 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 - October 24

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

Ushers - October 24

Walt Pierce, Walter White, Andy Woodard,
Ben Woodard, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch

Sound System Operator - October 24

Brandon Zoch

Security Monitor - October 24

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering - October 24

Dana & Jim Wiggins

Home Delivered Meals - October 25

Austine Evans & Mary Ann Umphlett

Food Pantry - October 29

Kay Byrd & Vicky Overman

Week of Oct. 31 - Nov. 6, 2021

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Bill Magette, 209-4676
Penny Rose, 287-4482

Childcare During Worship - October 31

Babies: Jenni Byrd & Nancy Freeman
Ages 1 & 2: Jamie Burns & Betty Cooper
Ages 3-5: Bryan & Jessica Britton

Ushers - October 31

Eley Whitehead, Isabella Woodard, Carolyn Arrington,
Josh Brinkley, Lily Ann Brinkley, Heath Britt

Sound System Operator - October 31

Rick Burns

Security Monitor - October 31

Jordan Harrell

Floral Offering - October 31

Sandra & Stuart Pierce

Home Delivered Meals - November 1

Carol Jean Fretwell & Jerri Harrell

Food Pantry - November 5

Patrise Godwin & Marilyn Mize