



# THE WINDOW

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

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No. 1

## How Do You Know?

I suspect most (all) people of Christian faith, who have more than their basic needs of nutrition, housing, and clothing met, ask this question at some time in their lives. Am I greedy? How do I know when I cross the line and enter greedy territory? How do I know how much more is too much more? It is a tricky and sensitive question for the person of Christian faith, especially in light of Jesus' teachings to love our neighbor and to care for the poor, perhaps best encapsulated in Jesus' words about the sheep and the goats found in Matthew 25.

There are, probably, numerous acceptable (to God) answers to this question. I provide one answer – one that works for me. Tithing. Tithing, I believe, keeps me from crossing over into the land of greed. Without tithing, I am confident I would become a greedy person in the sight of my God – the God who revealed himself in Jesus the Christ. My grandmother first shared this saying with me, “Some people say they cannot afford to tithe. Other people say they cannot afford **not** to tithe.” Granny GG never told me what category she was in! However, I am among those who cannot afford **not** to tithe. I have practiced tithing from the earliest days of my Christian journey. I tithed when my income was minimal, and I tithe now that my income is stable. Tithing simply works!

The Old Testament standard for a tithe is 10 percent of one's income – in this case mostly agricultural income (Leviticus 27:30-32; Numbers 18:21-24; Deuteronomy 14:22-24). In fact, the word tithe means one tenth. Interestingly, the New Testament does not appear to repeat the specifics of tithing we find in the Old Testament. Jesus, of course, affirms tithing (Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 23:23). Paul instructs Christians to give as they

are able (1 Corinthians 16:1-4). Paul also tells us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). However, there is no specific mention of a tenth in the New Testament.

Due to the lack of specific directions as to how much to give in New Testament teaching, throughout my life I have simply gone with the Old Testament concept of a tithe as a tenth. Earlier this week, I received my 2021 FBC Ahoskie giving statement. As I looked it over, I was reminded yet again that tithing works. Indeed, at this stage in my life, I am fortunate to have a stable income, a nice house to live in, and more than enough food on my table. And I give, at least, a tenth of my income to the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie. We are a church that takes seriously the worship of God and the love of neighbor. Tithing, indeed, is an excellent repellent to greed.

In Christ,  
Paul R. Gilliam III

	<b>Worshiping Together</b>
	<b>January 23, 2021</b>
	<b>11:00 AM</b>
	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>
	<i>There He Goes Again</i> Galatians 6:1-10 Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

## Meetings in the Church Building

Whenever a committee or group plans to meet in the church building outside of regularly scheduled meetings, please share those details with the church office in advance.

## A Winter Prayer

Creative God, You created seasons for a purpose.



Spring is full of expectation—buds breaking, frosts abating, and an awakening of creation before the first days of summer.

Then the sun gives warmth and comfort to our lives, reviving aching joints, bringing color, new life, and crops to fruiting.

Autumn gives nature space to lean back, to relax and enjoy the fruits of its labor with mellow colors in sky and landscape as the earth prepares to rest.

Then winter arrives, cold and bare, as nature takes stock, rests, unwinds, sleeps, until the time is right.

It is an endless cycle and yet a perfect model. We need a winter in our lives—a time of rest, a time to stand still, a time to take stock of the faith in which we live.

It is only then that we can draw strength from the One in whom we are rooted, take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of Your springtime, to blossom and flourish, to bring color and vitality into this world—Your garden.

Thank You, God, for the seasons — even winter.  
- John Birch

## Adult Bible Study & Soup Supper 6 PM Wednesdays | Fellowship Hall

### *How Did We Get Our Bible(s)?*

January 19<sup>th</sup> | Part 3: New Testament Canon  
January 26<sup>th</sup> | Part 4: The Other Gospels

Have you ever wondered why the Gospel of Matthew is in the Bible but not the Gospel of Thomas? Why do Protestants, Catholics, and Greek Orthodox have different Bibles? We will discuss these and other issues.

If you plan to be present, please sign up on the bulletin board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway, or call the church office (252-332-4003). Coffee, crackers, and various soup flavors will be served! Come join us!

## A Message from our Pianist

To my church family:

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your church accompanist for these past 27 years, but the time has come for me to retire. My last Sunday will be April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Thank you for all the love and support that you have given me over the years.

Bland Baker

## Altar Flowers for Worship



October 30<sup>th</sup> is available on the 2022 Altar Flower Schedule. Flowers may be provided in our sanctuary for worship services in memory of or in honor of a loved one or may mark any special accomplishment or milestone. If you would like to reserve October 30<sup>th</sup>, please call the church office.

## Phone Notifications

In the event that we need to make a churchwide announcement, like we did the morning of January 16 when church activities were canceled due to inclement weather, we use a system called "One Call Now." The church's phone number, (252) 332-4003 should show up as the caller ID. If you would like to be added to the call list, please call the church office.

## *Stewardship Statement*

January 16, 2022

Weekly Need	\$ 9,143.50
Weekly Offering	\$ 11,985.00
Difference	\$ 2,841.50
YTD Needs	\$ 27,430.50
YTD Offerings	\$ 32,541.25
YTD Difference	\$ 5,110.75
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 660.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 0.00
Global Missions Total	\$ 3,139.00

*Thank you for your generous gifts!*

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b>		<b>1</b> • 10 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4	<b>2</b> • 10:30 AM Garden Club  • 4 PM JR Garden Club	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  Holy Communion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> • 7 PM Building & Grounds Mtg	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <i>Paul Gilliam's                      5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary                      as Pastor</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Happy                      Valentine's                      Day!</b>	<b>15</b> • 7 PM Deacon's Mtg	<b>16</b> • 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  PRESIDENT'S DAY	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Transfiguration                      of the Lord</i> 	<b>28</b>	<u>Sundays</u> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chair Music Ensemble	<u>Mondays</u> • 3 PM Staff Mtg • 5:45-6:45 PM Girl Scouts Mtg	<u>Wednesdays</u> • 5 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6 PM Youth Group (Gr. 6-12) • 6 PM Adult Bible Study • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble	<u>Fridays</u> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)	

# February Birthdays

- |                  |                   |                      |                     |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Kathryn Outlaw | 5 Sharon Roope    | 13 Penny Rose        | 17 Avery Byrum      | 21 Lee Wilson     |
| 2 Cheryl Slachta | 7 Butch Hassell   | 14 Kade Slaughter    | 17 Pat Dixon        | 23 Beth Hassell   |
| 4 Inez Bracy     | 8 Heath Britt     | 15 Madison Alexander | 18 Shirley Pierce   | 23 Chloe Rose     |
| 5 Jordan Harrell | 11 Larry Matthews | 15 L. Taylor Rose    | 19 Victoria Outlaw  | 24 Mari Wiles     |
| 5 Nancy Perry    | 12 Mac Chamblee   | 16 Boyd Tisdale      | 21 Mary Page Pierce | 25 Arlene Raiford |

*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 Jan. 23 - 29, 2022

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Charles Hughes, 287-8403  
Kari Pierce, 217-8017

### Childcare During Worship - January 23

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

### Ushers - January 23

Walt Pierce, Frank Rose, Peggy Springfield,  
Edgar Swain Jr., Carroll Thompson, Walter White

### Sound System Operator - January 23

Frank Britt

### Security Monitor - January 23

L. Taylor Rose

### Floral Offering - January 23

Gene & Jo Ann Herring

### Home Delivered Meals - January 24

Charles & Gloria Freeman

### Food Pantry - January 28

Arthur Brown & Vicky Overman

## Week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2022

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Nancy Freeman, 287-9104  
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

### Childcare During Worship - January 30

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

### Ushers - January 30

L. Taylor Rose, Andy Woodard, Ben Woodard,  
Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch, Eley Whitehead

### Sound System Operator - January 30

Josh Brinkley

### Security Monitor - January 30

Andy Woodard

### Floral Offering - January 30

Judy H. Pierce

### Home Delivered Meals - January 31

Jack & Millie Britt

### Food Pantry - February 4

Patrise Godwin