



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 55

February 9, 2022

No. 2

The Livestream Bandwagon

I want to share with you a handful of reasons I am *not* on the worship livestream bandwagon. Many congregations now livestream, or record and post later, their entire worship service from beginning to end. Our church is out-of-step with this trend. I made our deacons aware, several months ago, of my hesitations about continuing to livestream our worship services now that we have a safe and highly effective vaccine and mask wearing is optional in our buildings. Now, I pass on these hesitations with the wider congregation – you!

Perhaps this first concern of mine is most obvious: if people can gain full audio and visual access to our worship services, they are more likely to stay home and watch. I was reminded of this reality recently. Earlier this month, we did livestream our worship service because of questionable weather, and, at the time, we were not on the radio. After worship, someone said to me, “I so wanted to stay home and watch on Facebook. However, my husband insisted we come. I am glad he did.” This woman then said what struck me the most, “I had a little bit of the devil in me this morning!” I could write and write about the superiority of gathered sanctuary worship to pajamas living room worship. However, I think the above exchange says it succinctly. Deep in our bones, most know that it is simply better to gather with other Christian believers on Sunday morning for the worship of God. And somehow, when we do not gather, we sense that the devil gets a win in our lives. No other avenue, television, computer, and/or Facebook, is the same as being there. Thus, I am *not* concerned about reaching less people. Besides, for those who desire, the options for internet worship appear almost endless.

My concerns about internet worship, however, go much deeper. The worship of God is a sacred activity. The worship of God is an intimate activity. The worship of God is contextual. Participation in worship via livestream and video recordings diminishes the worship experience. At least, this is what people tell me. I am told that it is hard not to answer the phone during livestream or viewing recorded worship. I understand that the temptation is great to fold towels while the congregation sings. As with most people, there are parts of worship that I find more engaging than other parts. Even as this is true, I would never say that the sermon is more important than the hymns. Or the children’s time is more important than the doxology. However, there is a tendency, if I watch a recorded worship service posted on Facebook or YouTube to fast forward through the worship segments that I find less inviting. I know, however, that God sometimes speaks to me, and I speak to God, through the lyrics of a slow and unfamiliar hymn that I would not consider except that the hymn is a part of the larger worship experience for the day.

Finally, my training as a historian of the early Christian church gives me pause when it comes to livestream and recorded worship services. In the early church, catechumens (people in training for baptism) were not allowed to even witness holy communion (the mysteries) before their baptism. After the sermon, in some parts of the early church, say for example the fourth-century church of Augustine’s day and place, the catechumens were escorted out of the worship gathering. And then the baptized Christians would partake of the bread and the wine. The early church was careful not to cast its pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6).

In other words, they wanted to make sure worship was treated with sacred reverence.

I fear that when we just cast the worship experience out there, there is the potential that it will be trampled underfoot. Perhaps this occurs when a non-Christian, scrolling her feed, slanders a worship video that is posted. Perhaps, this happens when we work to find a place on the recording so we can see how many people were there. Or maybe, worship is trampled underfoot as we match socks and change diapers while listening to the pastor's sermon. I confess I recently watched a worship service while working out on the treadmill. Perhaps, this is innocent enough. However, I suggest we do better when we handle the pearls of worship with holy gloves.

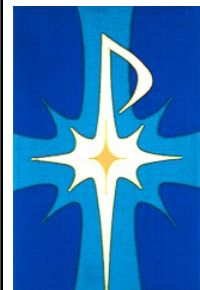
In Christ,
Paul R. Gilliam III

Happy Anniversary, Paul!

On February 12, 2022, Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III celebrates his fifth year anniversary as our Senior Pastor. You're encouraged to express your appreciation for his leadership in person, in writing, or through social media.

Having almost fully made the transition to calling him Paul, we say . . .

Thank you, Paul,
for five years of faithful and
dedicated leadership
of our church!



Worshiping Together
February 13, 2022
11:00 AM
The 6th Sunday after Epiphany
If Possible
Romans 12:9-21
Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Bracy Scholarship Applications

FBCA members who will be college students during the 2022-2023 academic year are encouraged to apply for the James Wilton "Wig" & Frances Freeman Bracy Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office or will be mailed to homes upon request. Please contact Jessica Pyle in the mail church office if you would like an application. Completed applications are due in the church office on April 15, 2022.

Worship Leadership Choirs

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Chairo

9:15 AM Rehearsal

Usual Dress: Black & White

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Children Choristers

(Grades 1-5)

9:15 AM Rehearsal

Dress is regular Sunday clothes.

Adult Bible Study & Soup Supper

The Other Gospels

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 | 6 PM
Fellowship Hall

February 16, 2022 begins our study, *The Other Gospels*. Come join us for grilled cheese, soup, coffee, and dessert—bring a friend or two!

Stewardship Statement

February 6, 2022

Weekly Need	\$ 9,143.50
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,845.06
Difference	\$ -298.44
YTD Needs	\$ 54,861.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 53,019.00
YTD Difference	\$ -1,842.00
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 3,325.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 280.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Women's History Month</p>		<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4 	 <p><i>Ash</i> WEDNESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM Garden Club • 4 PM JR Garden Club 		 <p>World DAY OF Prayer</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Betty Duke Memorial Service
<p>6</p>  <p>FIRST SUNDAY <i>in</i> LENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communion 		<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM CWJC Board Mtg 				
<p>13</p>  <p>SECOND SUNDAY <i>in</i> LENT</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Building & Grounds Mtg 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM Deacon's Mtg 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club 	 <p><i>St. Patrick's Day</i></p>		
<p>20</p>  <p>THIRD SUNDAY <i>in</i> LENT</p>						
<p>27</p>  <p>FOURTH SUNDAY <i>in</i> LENT</p>				<p>31</p>  <p>American Red Cross Blood Drive 1 PM - 6 PM</p>		
 <p>Cooperative Baptist Fellowship <i>North Carolina</i></p> <p>Annual Meeting March 17 & 18, 2022 Trinity Baptist Church Raleigh, NC</p>		<p><u>Sundays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chair Music Ensemble 	<p><u>Mondays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PM Staff Mtg • 5:45-6:45 PM Girl Scouts Mtg 	<p><u>Wednesdays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p><u>Fridays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) 	

March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Nancy Neal | 7 Noreen Hannon | 18 Frances Bracy | 30 Dawson Rose |
| 1 Charles Williford | 8 Sherri Burgess | 19 Taylor F. Rose | 31 Jean Overton |
| 2 Keith Rawls | 13 Lila Stuart Pierce | 23 Selton Vaughan | 31 Beverly Spicer |
| 3 Pate Pierce | 14 Lee Byrum | 24 Lyndsay Britt | |
| 3 Jessica Pyle | 14 Justice Zoch | 28 Brent Pierce | |
| 3 Jean Rector | 17 Dot Newsome | 29 Perry Newbern | |

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 Feb 13 - 19, 2022

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175
Eley Whitehead, 398-5256

Childcare During Worship - February 13

Babies: Nancy Cobbs & Joyce Leary
Ages 1 & 2: Lyndsay Britt, Isabella & Leah Woodard
Ages 3-5: Heather & William Alexander

Ushers - February 13

Lanie Byrum, Lee Byrum, J.C. Doughtie,
Gloria Freeman, Larry Freeman, Tim Frei

Sound System Operator - February 13

Chris Slachta

Security Monitor - February 13

Frank Britt

Floral Offering - February 13

Trey & Harriet Byrum

Home Delivered Meals - February 14

Austine Evans & Mary Ann Umphlett

Food Pantry - February 18

Arthur Brown & Vicky Overman

Week of Feb. 20 - 26, 2022

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Carolyn Arrington, 395-2175
Eley Whitehead, 398-5256

Childcare During Worship - February 20

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

Ushers - February 20

Josh Brinkley, Lily Ann Brinkley, Duck Harrell,
Jordan Harrell, Pike Harrington, Gail Holloman

Sound System Operator - February 20

Walt Pierce

Security Monitor - February 20

Heath Britt

Floral Offering - February 20

Duck & Jerri Harrell

Home Delivered Meals - February 21

Carol Jean Fretwell & Jerri Harrell

Food Pantry - February 25

Melanie Byrum