



THE WINDOW

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

Volume 55

August 10, 2022

No. 8

ECU Health Roanoke-Chowan Hospital and FBC Ahoskie Vacation Bible School

By now, you may have heard of the severe allergic reaction I suffered on Thursday, August 4. The reaction brought about intense burning and pain in my eyes. The pain began around midnight, became worse throughout the early morning hours, and simply would not go away. I was unable to open my eyes for more than three seconds at a time. I could not hold my head up. So, finally, around 4:30 AM I asked Lou Ann to take me to the hospital. I felt helpless riding to the hospital as I realized if we were to be in an accident of some sort, I could do nothing to assist.

As I said last Sunday (8-7-2022), during worship, I am filled with gratitude towards God, Lou Ann, and the ECU Health Roanoke-Chowan Hospital emergency department staff. Of course, I overflow with thankfulness towards Dr. Benjamin Kessler as he ordered the IV with pain medication and steroids and other goodies that enabled me to walk back out of the hospital later that morning around 11:00 AM. However, it took everyone I encountered in our local emergency department to alleviate my suffering and put me on the mend. The nurse who first tended to me when I arrived took my blood pressure and temperature. She got the ball rolling. Then there were the medical personnel in the hospital room who put the IV in my arm. Someone else took care of the necessary paperwork. Due to the condition of my eyes, I was not able to get a good look at anyone, including the doctor. However, I felt their presence and their touch. And whoever it was exactly that administered the pain medication – thanks be to God for you!

This was a frightening experience, perhaps the most frightening of my life. I did not think I was

going to die. However, I clearly did not rule death out completely as I gave Lou Ann a few “in case I die do this please” requests. During this ordeal, I tried out all sorts of theologies – the good, the bad, and the ugly. My preferred understanding of God then and now is simply to use our pain to identify with the sufferings of Jesus. God, in Christ, knows great suffering. No one escapes suffering in this life. So, whatever our pain – physical, mental, relational, financial, heartache – as Christians we should use our pain to enhance our intimacy with our God who made himself known to us through the human flesh and blood of Jesus the Christ.

As I continue to seek God in this experience, an unexpected picture comes to mind – this year’s Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School was exceptional. Of course, the kids were a delight. However, the adults too. My jobs, during Bible School, are to take pictures and to interact with people. It’s a good gig. I had a front row seat to all that our adult volunteers did to carry out their responsibilities – everything from decorating, to welcoming families as they arrive, to preparing meals, to teaching lessons, to taking kids from room to room, to leading activities at our newly opened green space, and everything else Vacation Bible School asks from us.

The apostle Paul tells us that we all have a part to play in the body of Christ – the church. He says it this way, “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly ...” (Romans 12:4-6a, see also 1 Corinthians 12). I thank God for the different gifts we all have and the different roles we all play both within the walls of the church building and outside those same walls.

It is a clear demonstration of God's mercy upon us that we are unable to see the future. If I had known, in advance, my circumstances for the early-to-late morning hours of August 4, I would have chosen my steps differently. And while I hope never to experience anything like this again, not only did my pain grant me greater intimacy with my Savior, my pain also gave me a greater appreciation, through the superb work of the ECU Health Roanoke-Chowan Hospital emergency department staff, for the congregation I serve as pastor.

Thank you, First Baptist, for using your gifts to the glory of God and for helping our children to grow up to be like Jesus – strong and brave, full of grace and truth. You looked like a well-oiled medical team!

In Christ,
Paul R. Gilliam III

Thank You, Bridget Deveney!

On Sunday, August 14, 2022, we say goodbye to our organist, Bridget Deveney, as she departs for Irwin, PA where she will begin full time ministry as Music Minister/Organist at Immaculate Conception Church. Bridget began her ministry with us on August 16, 2020, in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. And though it was a stressful time to begin a new job, Bridget quickly endeared herself to us with her steady faith, compassionate personality, and musical giftedness. Though it pains us to see her go, we send her with our love, our thanks, and our prayers for her future.

Bible Presentation

August 28, 2022



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.



Worshiping Together

August 14, 2022

11:00 AM

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

And Then

Revelation 21:1-8

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

Sunday School Promotion

On August 28, 2022, children will promote to their new classrooms based on their ages/grades. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Thompson.

Ages 1 & 2	Room 106
Ages 3 & 4	Room 105
Kindergarten & Grades 1-2	Room 104
Grades 3-6	Room 309

WMU Churchwide Mission Project for August



Roanoke Chowan Christian Women's Job Corps is in need of the following items for hygiene bags:

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shampoo (No Conditioner)

A container will be in the West Street hallway for collection from now through August 31, 2022. Please contact Claire Presley if you have any questions.

Stewardship Statement



August 7, 2022

Weekly Need	\$ 9,143.50
Weekly Offering	\$ 9,703.63
Difference	\$ 560.13
YTD Needs	\$ 292,592.00
YTD Offerings	\$ 268,443.36
YTD Difference	\$ -24,148.64
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 635.00
Benevolence Offering	\$ 125.00

Thank you for your generous gifts!

September 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15				1	2	3
4  <i>Communion</i>	5 LABOR DAY <i>Church Offices Closed</i>	6 • 10 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 • 7 PM Building & Grounds Mtg	20 • 7 PM Deacons' Mtg	21	22	23	24
25	26	28	28	29	30	
<div> <div> <u>Sundays</u> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chairo </div> <div> <u>Mondays</u> • 3 PM Staff Mtg </div> <div> <u>Wednesdays</u> • 5 PM Children's Music & Missions • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble </div> <div> <u>Fridays</u> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) at Presbyterian Church </div> </div>						

September Birthdays

1 Betty Cooper	10 Larry Freeman	15 Reid Burgess	23 Henry Joyner
4 Tony Marra	11 Rick Burns	18 Alice Brown	25 Sandra Pierce
6 John Alexander	11 Libby Pierce	18 Hudson Rose	27 Clair Saunders
6 Helen Chamblee	12 Jean F. Parker	20 Jean Parker	30 Katherine Jernigan
7 David Barnes	13 Earl Futrell	22 Millie Britt	
9 Jayne Frei	14 Patricia Hughes	22 Joanna Dunn	

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 August 14 - 20, 2022

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Kari Pierce, 217-8017
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

Childcare During Worship - August 14

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

Ushers - August 14

Heath Britt, Alex Britton, Kay Byrd,
Sophia Byrd, Doug Cobbs, J. C. Doughtie;
Balcony: Larry Freeman & Brad Hauser

Sound System Operator - August 14

Josh Brinkley

Security Monitor - August 14

Miles Harrell

Floral Offering - August 14

Earl, Linda & April Futrell, Austin Yeager

Home Delivered Meals - August 15

Peggy Springfield & Margaret Winn

Food Pantry - August 19

Arthur Brown & Vicky Overman

Week of August 21 - 27, 2022

Minister on Call

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

Deacons on Call

Kari Pierce, 217-8017
Chuck Revelle, 862-6322

Childcare During Worship - August 21

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

Ushers - August 21

Josh Brinkley, Lily Ann Brinkley, Gloria Freeman,
Bill Magette, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch;
Balcony: Larry Freeman & Henry Joyner

Sound System Operator - August 21

Brandon Zoch

Security Monitor - August 21

Brad Hauser

Floral Offering - August 21

Glenn, Russell, Mark Overman & their Families

Home Delivered Meals - August 22

Austine Evans & Mary Ann Umphlett

Food Pantry - August 26

Arthur Brown & Vicky Overman