



# THE WINDOW

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

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No. 1

## An Invitation

In February, I will enter my seventh year as your pastor. After the completion of six years, I know our congregation well. And you know me well. We've come along way since 2017. I remember my early days among you. Claire Presley was chair of the deacons. She and Billy took me around to church members homes and introduced me to many of our members. I did a lot of visiting in 2017. Six years later I find myself in a different place. There is no longer a need for me to get to know the congregation, as in the beginning. Over the past six years it has been my privilege to walk with you through all the phases of this life – birth, marriage, family celebrations, sickness, and death. Thank you for allowing me to be an extended member of your family. Please know, I do not lose sight of the privilege of pastoral ministry.

Years ago, I heard a scholar/pastor observe that some people want a close relationship with the pastor. Other people are content with simply shaking the pastor's hand after worship on Sundays. Or, whatever interaction may naturally develop, when there is a pastoral need. Therefore, according to this gentleman, the pastor should allow the people to dictate the nature of the pastor/parishioner relationship. According to this proposal, the onus is on the laity to initiate a deeper relationship with the clergy. I do appreciate this perspective. However, as I approach the completion of six years with you, I want to take a slightly different approach.

If you are in that category of people who would like to know your pastor better, I invite you to schedule an appointment with me. We can gather at my office, your house, over lunch, or wherever works best for you. While we can talk about anything when together, perhaps we could center our conversation on Christian faith in some fashion.

I spend a lot of time talking with people about football games and grandchildren and illnesses. Very rarely, oddly enough, do I have conversations with people *explicitly* about Christian faith – about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, church, evangelization, baptism, communion, etc. This is one of the reasons my appreciation of preaching has grown through the years. The Sunday morning sermon is the one time I know the conversation will be about, in one fashion or another, God's revelation to us in Jesus the Christ. Perhaps our meeting could be an extension of the Sunday morning sermon experience. Indeed, are there any theological issues that you would you to talk about with your pastor?

So, as we enter our seventh year together, would you like to get together? We can talk about last night's game or the weather or the latest movie. However, I would rather talk about Christian faith, about God, about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit, about the Bible, about communion, about the church, about baptism, about God's activity in the world, about God's activity in your life, and you get the idea.

Any takers? If so, just get in touch with me and we will set something up.

In Christ,  
Paul



## Worshiping Together

January 15, 2023

11:00 AM

*2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

*This Little Light of Mine*

Psalm 40:1-13

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

## Epiphany—Star Words

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, we celebrated Epiphany Sunday by beginning a new Christian practice called Star Words. With the story of the magi's search for Jesus as our guide, each worshiper received a paper star on which a word was written. Just as a star led the magi to Jesus, it is hoped that our star words will lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus throughout 2023.

These star words are one lens that may provide a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight. They invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection that can be a powerful new way to connect with God through Christ. Also, by not choosing our star, we engage in the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in that moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to control.

I loved watching the children's faces as they received their paper stars during the Children's Time. And it was another beautiful sight to see *all* worshipers receive their stars from the children during the postlude. We'll be engaging with one another throughout the year about our star words. If you don't have one, I'll be glad to give you one.

—Anita

## Capital Campaign Update

Church Interiors tradesmen are planning to return this week to complete the final punch list for our renovations in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. Hopefully, in a week or so the construction segment of the work will be done. Then, we will need to clean, hang photos, move furniture, assemble work tables and shelving, receive training regarding the operation of the new, fast-cleaning dishwasher, receive training on the operation of our new TVs, and restock the kitchen. We will need lots of volunteer help!

Also, we plan to get an estimate for the repair and painting of the unsightly area under the front steps and perhaps get that completed while the workers are here. Your collective giving has enabled us to preserve and improve spaces in this impressive structure that was built and passed down to us and future generations as we worship God and carry out his mission in our lives and our community. Thanks be to God!

## Welcome New Members

On January 8, 2023, Dempsey and Lila Stuart Pierce shared their profession of faith in Jesus the Christ, and requested baptism and church membership. It was our great joy to receive them, and will be our great joy to celebrate their baptism. Dempsey and Stuart are the children of Walt and Mary Page Pierce.

## In Concert The West Point Academy Cadet Chapel Choir

**Saturday, January 21, 2023 | 5:00 PM**  
**FBCA Sanctuary**

*A churchwide dinner will follow.*

Will Leary, grandson of FBCA member, Bess Leary, is a senior at West Point Academy; he sings in the choir.

## In The Meeting House

**January 8, 2023**

Sunday School 70 People  
Worship 145 People

### 2022 Yearly Average

Sunday School 70 People  
Worship 148 People

### 2019 Yearly Average

Sunday School 94 People  
Worship 181 People



## Stewardship Statement

**January 8, 2023**








Weekly Need	\$ 9,550.14
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,625.00
Difference	\$ -925.14
YTD Needs	\$ 19,100.28
YTD Offerings	\$ 28,670.00*
YTD Difference	\$ 9,569.72
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 3,185.00
Global Missions Total To Date	\$ 7,518.18

*\*After the publication of last week's Window In Between, we had an email requesting part of a contribution be applied to Capital Campaign. This YTD number reflects that redistribution.*

**Thank you for your generous gifts!**

# February 2023

## First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5  Communion	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM WMU Groups 2 &amp; 4</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:30 AM Garden Club</li> <li>• 4 PM JR Garden Club</li> </ul>	9	10	11
12  Paul Gilliam's 6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Pastor	13	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day!</b>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM Building &amp; Grounds Mtg</li> </ul>	17	18
19  Transfiguration of the Lord	20  PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM Deacon's Mtg</li> </ul>	22  Ash WEDNESDAY	23	24	25
26  FIRST SUNDAY in LENT	27	28	WE LOVE BECAUSE <i>he first loved us</i> 1 JOHN 4:19			
<u><b>Sundays</b></u> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chairo	<u><b>Mondays</b></u> • 3 PM Staff Mtg	<u><b>Wednesdays</b></u> • 5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6:15 PM Youth Group   Grades 6-12 • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble			<u><b>Fridays</b></u> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)   The Gathering Place	

## February Birthdays

2 Kathryn Outlaw  
 2 Cheryl Slachta  
 5 Jordan Harrell  
 5 Nancy Perry  
 5 Sharon Roope  
 7 Butch Hassell

8 Heath Britt  
 9 Alex Smith  
 11 Larry Matthews  
 12 Mac Chamblee  
 13 Penny Rose  
 15 Madison Alexander

15 L. Taylor Rose  
 17 Avery Byrum  
 17 Pat Dixon  
 18 Shirley Pierce  
 19 Victoria Outlaw  
 21 Mary Page Pierce

21 Lee Wilson  
 23 Beth Hassell  
 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 January 15 - 21, 2023

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104  
Kari Pierce, 217-8017

### Childcare During Worship - January 15

Ages 1 & 2: Kari Pierce & Cheryl Slachta  
Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell  
Kindergarten: Avery & Harriet Byrum

### Ushers - January 15

Madison Alexander, Heath Britt, J. C. Doughtie,  
Bill Magette, Pate Pierce, Tim Frei;  
*Balcony:* Andy Woodard

### Sound System Operator - January 15

Rick Burns

### Security Monitor - January 15

Walt Pierce

### Floral Offering - January 15

Vicky Overman

### Home Delivered Meals - January 16

Closed in Observance of Dr. MLK Jr. Day

### Food Pantry - January 20

Melanie Byrum & Vicky Overman

## Week of January 22 - 28, 2022

### Minister on Call

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

### Deacons on Call

Betty Joyner, 398-6104  
Kari Pierce, 217-8017

### Childcare During Worship - January 22

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene  
Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins  
Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce

### Ushers - January 22

Gloria Freeman, Larry Matthews, Bruce Pasek,  
Nat Riddick, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch;  
*Balcony:* Larry Freeman

### Sound System Operator - January 22

Frank Britt

### Security Monitor - January 22

Heath Britt

### Floral Offering - January 22

Gene & JoAnn Herring

### Home Delivered Meals - January 23

Noreen Hannon & Joyce Leary

### Food Pantry - January 27

Carolyn Arrington & Vicky Overman