



# THE WINDOW

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

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No. 2

## Don't Come for the Meal

The meal looks superb – barbeque chicken breast, seasoned green beans, creamed potatoes, cornbread squares, peach and blueberry cobbler, and tea and water! And all of this for a suggested donation of \$8 (if that's too much just give what you can; if you can donate more than \$8 please do). Even though you will not be able to find a better meal in Ahoskie than what will be on offer Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, in our church fellowship hall, don't come for the meal. Rather, come for the opportunity to engage with one another. Come to participate in God's church in action. We will gather around the tables together for a meal and then we will move upstairs to our sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship.

The above exhortation is inspired by a recent happening. On Saturday, January 21, the West Point Cadet Chapel Choir led us in worship. I sense that the experience was meaningful for all that participated. It certainly was for me. I was caught off guard to discover that our time together in the fellowship hall, after the worship time in the sanctuary, was just as meaningful. I was not aware, until that Saturday evening, how much I missed our gatherings in the fellowship hall – eating and talking and studying the Bible and praying. In fact, I was overcome with emotion when I reached out to shake a gentleman's hand. I do not know why exactly. I am still not sure what to make of it. Perhaps it was a combination of lingering covid trauma and a renewed awareness of how central the fellowship hall is to our Christian fellowship. The fellowship hall has been out of order for a long time first due to covid and second due to the now completed renovations. Yes, there was a period of renewed activity in between covid and the renovations. However, now it appears that the fellowship hall is open for uninterrupted human interaction over the long

haul. My pastoral gratitude extends to all the people who made our fellowship hall renovations such a huge success. The facility is just breathtaking.

Do you resonate with my January experience? It caught me by surprise indeed.

There was a meal, in our fellowship hall, on that Saturday night in January. I do not remember much about it. As I recall, sandwiches of some sort, chips, cookies, and drinks. I do not mean to minimize the meal – the effort to prepare it and the resources to pay for it. And we humans require nutrition. Furthermore, no one wants to encounter a “hangry” person in the church fellowship hall! Nonetheless, when I reflect on that first gathering in a longtime, in our newly renovated church fellowship hall, it is not the meal that stands out. Rather, it is the handshakes and the conversations and the embraces.

Please do come to our Ash Wednesday meal on February 22 at 6pm in our church fellowship hall. However, don't come for the meal as good as it will be. Come to participate in and witness the beautiful body of Christ in action.

In Christ,  
Paul



## Worshipping Together

February 12, 2023

11:00 AM

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*The Church Beautiful*

Romans 6:1-12

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

*Baptism of Dempsey & Lila Stuart Pierce*



Happy Anniversary!

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III celebrates his 6th Anniversary as Pastor of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie on February 12, 2023.

College Scholarship Applications

Please call the church office if you would like an application. All completed applications are due in the church office by April 15, 2023.

James Wilton "Wig" & Frances Freeman Bracy Scholarship

Frances Bracy established a scholarship in honor of her family and her late husband Wig, desiring to make a college education affordable for church members who may have financial need or for whom college would otherwise be unattainable. FBCA members who will be college students during the 2023-2024 academic year are encouraged to apply.

Oscar Creech Scholarship

This scholarship is named after FBCA's longest tenured pastor who prayed that God would call persons, from among the FBCA membership, into full-time church-related vocation. Students who have sensed a call to ministry and are FBCA members, are encouraged to apply.

Ash Wednesday Meal & Worship
February 22, 2023

Meal | 6 PM | Fellowship Hall
Worship | 7 PM | Sanctuary



Please join us on Ash Wednesday for a meal and worship. The menu includes barbeque chicken, potatoes, seasoned green beans, cornbread, cobbler, tea, and water. To make a reservation for your family, call the church office by noon on February 20. Meal donations of \$8.00 are appreciated but not required.



Baptism
February 12, 2023



On Sunday, February 12, 2023, during the 11 AM worship service, we will celebrate Dempsey Pierce and Lila Stuart Pierce's professions of faith with baptism. Dempsey (5th grade) and Stuart (2nd grade) are the children of Walt & Mary Page Pierce.

Heck-Jones Offering

FBC Ahoskie will collect the Heck-Jones Offering during the month of February. This annual offering provides primary funding for the mission and ministries of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of NC. The offering is named for Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones, two dedicated women in WMU history. Both held prominent leadership roles in the North Carolina organization, and Miss Heck also served at the national level.

Envelopes for this offering are in the pew racks. Your generosity helps to provide for the future and ministry of WMU NC.



Pastor's Lenten Bible Study

March 1, 2023 | 6 PM
Fellowship Hall

Stewardship Statement



February 5, 2023

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include Weekly Need, Weekly Offering, Difference, YTD Needs, YTD Offerings, YTD Difference, Benevolence, and Global Missions Total.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

# March 2023

## First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Women's History Month</b> 			1	2	3 	4
5  SECOND SUNDAY <b>LENT</b> Communion	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM WMU Groups 2 &amp; 4</li> </ul>	8	9	10	11
12  THIRD SUNDAY <b>LENT</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins	13	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club   The Gathering Place</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM Building &amp; Grounds Mtg</li> </ul>	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18
19  FOURTH SUNDAY <b>LENT</b>	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM Deacon's Mtg</li> </ul>	22	23  Cooperative Baptist Fellowship North Carolina Annual Gathering 2023 March 23-24 Ardmore Baptist Church Winston-Salem		25
26  FIFTH SUNDAY <b>LENT</b>	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>Sundays</b> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chairo	<b>Mondays</b> • 3 PM Staff Mtg	<b>Wednesdays</b> • 5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall • 6:15 PM Youth Group   Grades 6-12 • 7 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8 PM Vocal Ensemble			<b>Fridays</b> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)   The Gathering Place	

## March Birthdays

1 Nancy Neal  
 1 Charles Williford  
 2 Keith Rawls  
 3 Pate Pierce  
 3 Jessica Pyle  
 3 Jean Rector  
 6 Woody Baker

7 Noreen Hannon  
 8 Sherri Burgess  
 13 Lila Stuart Pierce  
 14 Lee Byrum  
 14 Justice Zoch  
 17 Dot Newsome  
 18 Frances Bracy

19 Taylor F. Rose  
 23 Selton Vaughan  
 24 Lyndsay Britt  
 28 Brent Pierce  
 29 Perry Newbern  
 31 Jean Overton  
 31 Beverly Spicer

*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 February 12 - 18, 2023**

### **Minister on Call**

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

### **Deacons on Call**

Eley Whitehead, 398-5256  
Jim Wiggins, 287-9790

### **Childcare During Worship - February 12**

Ages 1 & 2: Joyce Leary & Taylor F. Rose  
Ages 3 & 4: Elizabeth Davis, Ben & Leah Woodard  
Kindergarten: Melanie Byrum & Winnie Matthews

### **Ushers - February 12**

Josh Brinkley, Lily Ann Brinkley, Larry Matthews,  
Tim Frei, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch;  
*Balcony:* Andy Woodard

### **Sound System Operator - February 12**

Chris Slachta

### **Security Monitor - February 12**

Josh Brinkley

### **Floral Offering - February 12**

Trey & Harriet Byrum

### **Home Delivered Meals - February 13**

Barbara Roberson & Margaret Winn

### **Food Pantry - February 17**

Melanie Byrum & Vicky Overman

## **Week of February 19 - 25, 2022**

### **Minister on Call**

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

### **Deacons on Call**

Eley Whitehead, 398-5256  
Jim Wiggins, 287-9790

### **Childcare During Worship - February 19**

Ages 1 & 2: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce  
Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell  
Kindergarten: Lily Ann Brinkley & Anna Dawson

### **Ushers - February 19**

Madison Alexander, Heath Britt, J. C. Doughtie,  
Bruce Pasek, Nat Riddick, L. Taylor Rose;  
*Balcony:* Larry Freeman

### **Sound System Operator - February 19**

Walt Pierce

### **Security Monitor - February 19**

Rick Burns

### **Floral Offering - February 19**

Duck & Jerri Harrell

### **Home Delivered Meals - February 20**

Jack & Millie Britt

### **Food Pantry - February 24**

Carolyn Arrington & Vicky Overman