



Northwest Baptist Church Ardmore, Oklahoma



Mission and Vision

On Mission Together to share the Love of Christ with all people through
Spiritual Growth . . . Genuine Fellowship . . . Meaningful Worship . . . Compassionate Ministry.

Serving

Each member is a minister for Christ, and each Christian is called to serve out of his/her own gifts and talents. Whatever your calling—to teach, to encourage, to build, or to comfort—we encourage you to discover your ministry and passion for Christ at Northwest Baptist Church

Partners

Northwest Baptist Church is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Church. As such, we partner with many organizations for ministry. Our primary partners are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperating Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma.

Who We Are

We are a church, rich in heritage of Baptist Freedom and an attitude of openness to the Holy Spirit; blended traditional and contemporary music; passionate ministry; and the feel of a large family. We are committed to being the presence of Christ in our corner of God's Kingdom. When we aren't in worship on Sunday mornings or prayer on Wednesday nights, you might find us in the neighborhood hosting a block party or throwing a harvest festival...In the local elementary school serving as mentors for Kids Hope...With our friends at the Veterans Center or Nursing Home teaching Sunday School...Serving our neighbors at the local soup kitchen or Regional Food Bank...delivering Thanksgiving baskets...or interacting with the girls at the Girls Home in Madill. The world is changing and so is the Church.

We are appropriately reverent in our worship for God, but we aren't formal. You will feel comfortable in dress clothes or jeans. In worship, you may hear one of our young students or seasoned members leading in song or Scripture. You will experience a blend of tried and true hymns as well as contemporary Christian music. You may encounter drums and guitars alongside the piano and organ. The key to our worship is that we come in sincerity to give beauty and love back to God, our creator and Savior, with all we have—voices, instruments, hearts, and minds.

We are all seeking a place to belong, where we fit, a people that will love our children and teach them about Jesus, who will walk with us in the big moments of life, and who will let us think for ourselves. We celebrate a heritage of freedom—the freedom that each person has before God alone, the freedom worship God without hindrance, the freedom to serve God regardless of your age or gender, the freedom to interpret Scripture the same or differently from others, and the freedom to worship God by serving others.

Our Beliefs

Our understanding of Baptist faith and practice is expressed by our emphasis on freedom in biblical interpretation and congregational governance, the participation of women and men in all aspects of church leadership and Christian ministry, and religious liberty for all people.

- **Soul Freedom** – We believe in the priesthood of all believers and affirm the freedom and responsibility of every person to relate directly to God without the imposition of creed or the control of clergy or government.
- **Bible Freedom** – We believe in the authority of Scripture. We believe the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, is central to the life of the individual and the church. We affirm the freedom and right of every Christian to interpret and apply Scripture under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- **Church Freedom** – We believe in the autonomy of every local church. We believe Baptist churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whomever they perceive as gifted for ministry, and to participate as they deem appropriate in the larger body of Christ.
- **Religious Freedom** – We believe in the freedom of religion, freedom for religion, and the freedom from religion. We support the separation of church and state.

Our Governance

The Deacon Ministry Council is charged with leading the congregation toward achieving the goal of “Every Member a Minister.” Deacons are nominated by our Deacon Nominating Committee based on recommendations by the congregation. Deacons are elected by the congregation. Women are eligible to serve as Deacons.

Day-to-day administration is carried out through church ministry teams and staff members. Coordination of these activities is the responsibility of the Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council is comprised of the Chair of all Ministry Teams, the Deacon Chair, the Sunday School Director, and members of the staff.

Christian Education

Our Christian education is designed to introduce Jesus, to grow in our knowledge of Jesus, to nurture our faith to empower us to deal with the issues of day-to-day living, and to lead believers into service to others. Sunday School is the foundation of our Christian Education programs, but we supplement Sunday School with Bible studies for children, youth and adults on Wednesday evenings. We provide Sunday School for the Veterans at the Ardmore Veterans Center and the residents of Whispering Oaks Nursing Home. Vacation Bible School is a popular summer time event for children as well as youth and children’s summer camps.

Ministers and Staff

Senior Pastor – Vacant

Interim Pastor – Dr. Steve Graham (since January 2017)

- Coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma
- Former Director of Ministerial Excellence for CBF, Atlanta
- Former Senior Pastor in Fairview, OK; Oklahoma City, OK; and Liberty, MO
- Married with 2 adult children

Music Minister – Jeff DiMiceli, part-time position (since April 2015)

- General Manager, Ardmore Main Street Authority, 2013 to present
- Former Minister of Music at Oklahoma City, OK; Springdale, AR; Spring, TX; Yukon, OK; Saginaw, TX; and Atoka, OK
- Licensed and Ordained to Gospel Ministry, 1978
- Married with 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren

Youth Minister – A. T. Benson, part-time position (since July 2016)

- Teacher and Coach (football, wrestling, and track) at Ardmore Public Schools

Children and Office Minister – Carrie Nault (since August 2014)

- BS degree in Communications
- Married with 2 adult children

Ministry Assistant – Angela Deck, part-time position (since 2008)

- NWBC Child Care Coordinator since May 2013; Child Care Worker since November 2008
- NWBC Kids Hope Director since August 2011; Kids Hope Mentor since September 2008
- 2 adult children

Organist – Diane Boland (since 2006)

- Started playing organ for church at age 14
- English degree from OSU and Paralegal degree from OU
- 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren
- Enjoys all music with special love of spirituals and gospel

Pianist – JoLynn Doty (since March 2009)

- Retired elementary teacher
- Started playing the piano at age 4
- Married with 2 adult children and one grandson

Sound Technician – Nate Durbin (since November 2015)

- Technical Director for the Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, Ardmore
- Producing Artistic Director for Confetti's Productions
- Professional Photographer
- Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, studying musical theater, dance, and communications
- Active participant in Ardmore Little Theater for 11 years

Mission Opportunities

Our mission statement reads, “On Mission Together” because we believe each of God’s children is commissioned to ministry and service through their unique spiritual gifts. We believe we are called to continue the mission Christ began, sharing the Good News of God’s love for the world. There are many opportunities to serve others. Some of the mission opportunities are:

- Ardmore Veterans Center
- Whispering Oaks Nursing Home
- Baptist Home for Girls, Madill, OK
- Soup Kitchen
- Southern Oklahoma Regional Food Bank
- Kids Hope at the elementary school in our neighborhood
- Ministering to the needs of children by donating coats, umbrellas, underwear, etc.
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global missions
- Disaster relief
- Earthquake Recovery in Haiti
- Habitat for Humanity
- His Nets—Ghana, Africa
- Rural Poverty Initiative—Helena AR
- Happy Hearts for Senior Adults
- Cancer Support ministry
- Mission Arlington
- Block Party
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Music Ministry

Northwest Baptist Church is blessed with many types of musicians in addition to our outstanding pianist and organist. Lovely voices (solo or choir), drums, guitars, bells, and other instruments are shared throughout the year not only during worship but also weekly with the residents at the Veterans Center, Whispering Oaks Nursing Home as well as church fellowship.

Our Music Minister is not only a gifted pianist and singer, but a spirit-filled individual who leads our worship service on a spiritually-led journey using a blend of tried and true hymns and contemporary music. When one leaves Northwest Baptist Church, they truly know they experienced God’s presence through worship.

Church Finances

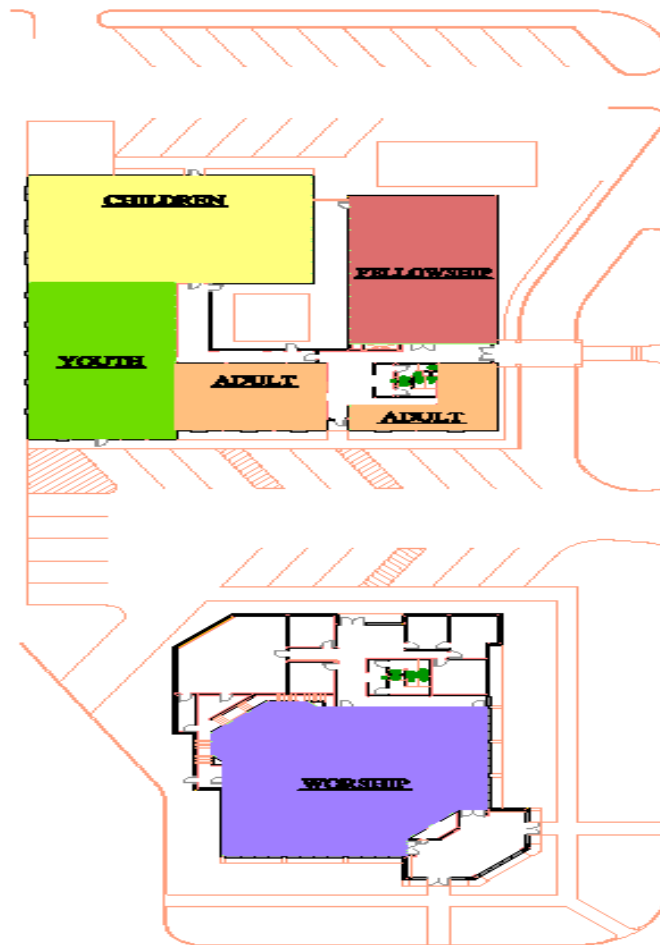
While our membership and attendance have declined over the past few years, our financial situation remains good. Current assets remain strong, and membership continues to support the church and its ministries with the financial resources to meet our needs. We have been blessed to have remained debt free over the past 20 or more years.

Our Congregation

Our congregation, like many churches today, is experiencing a decline in regular attendance. Our membership totals approximately 424 members, but approximately 130 attend on a regular basis with an average of 70-90 each Sunday. An interesting anomaly is that some people today may attend and participate as church members but never join the church. Demographics of our church include a smaller population of young people and young families and a larger group of retired members.

Church Facilities

Our church is located in the Northwest section of Ardmore at 1609 Robison Street. It is comprised of two separate buildings. One building contains our Sanctuary, choir room, and church offices. The other building contains our Fellowship Hall, kitchen, children's center, youth center, and adult classrooms. Our church has adequate parking in several different parking lots surrounding the church. Northwest Baptist Church owns several rent houses which are used for additional income.



An Abridged History of Northwest Baptist Church

On August 3, 1952, 41 people met in an unpainted house at 1725 NW Robison Street in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Those 41 people were to be the genesis of a new work of God in the Ardmore community—a new place to worship and minister together in what was then the far northwest side of town. Northwest Baptist Chapel, a mission of the K Street Baptist Church, was established. The chapel called Rev. Pat Kerr to be its first pastor.

Growth came quickly. By September, 1952, a structure, known as “Robison Hall”, was built. Soon it became too small. April, 1953, funds were collected to begin new construction of a church building. In May, 1953, Rev Galen Irby was called as the pastor of the Chapel. In January 1954, Northwest Baptist church became an autonomous organized church. Thirty-seven members would be considered as “charter members.” Rev. Vee Hoyle and Rev. B. J. Morris would be subsequent pastors. The church dedicated another building on November 1, 1959. This structure, featuring a 200-seat auditorium, a pastor’s study and classrooms, is part of the present-day education building. Rev. John Gurley became the church’s pastor in 1961. During his tenure, the church increased by 163 members and doubled its operating budget. This prompted the building of a spacious fellowship hall in 1962. This facility serves the church today as the youth center. Rev. Bob Worley became Pastor in 1964. Because of the large number of children involved in the church, the church constructed a nursery and children’s area in 1968. Rev. Larry Taylor was called as pastor in May, 1968. Dr. Taylor encouraged the church to think for themselves as they studied the Bible. Dr. Robert (Bob) Campbell was called as Pastor in August 1975. The church began to experience explosive growth during Dr. Campbell’s tenure, prompting the church to begin to have two worship services on Sunday. A new building which featured a 440-seat sanctuary, staff offices and choir room was dedicated May 18, 1980. Rev. Philip Christopher became Pastor in 1981. In late 1983, the church began a building project to renovate the education area and convert the original sanctuary into a modern fellowship hall and kitchen, which is still used today.

In 1986 the church would become involved in the greatest controversy it had faced in its first 50 years, a controversy that would put the church not only on a national stage but also squarely in the center of the conservative/moderate controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. The controversy centered on ordaining a man and wife to the Christian ministry. This was not a decision the church took lightly. It was eventually decided and affirmed by the church that both husband and wife would be ordained in November of 1986. This decision was not a popular one. Some families moved their membership, and the local Enon Baptist Association voted to disassociate Northwest Baptist Church from the Association. During this time Dr. William Johnson had become Pastor of Northwest. Under his leadership, the church began to strengthen affiliation with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a newly formed national network of moderate Baptists. In 1997, Dr. Vaughn CroweTipton became Pastor. Dr. Russell (Rusty) Brock became Pastor in 2001. Dr. Leonard Ezell became Pastor in 2008. The church completed the renovation of the Children’s Building in 2014 and new flooring in the Sanctuary building in 2016. Dr. Ezell’s last Sunday as Pastor of Northwest Baptist Church was October 23, 2016.

Ardmore and our Surrounding Community

The 2016 population estimate for Ardmore zip code 73401 was 36,591 with 14,308 households. The median 2016 household income estimate was \$49,486. The mean value of owner-occupied housing units was \$98,2000. 20.4% of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher. The cost of living percentage (based on 100% equal to the US average living expense) in Ardmore is 87.6%

Ardmore's top employers are Michelin North America, Mercy Hospital Ardmore, Dollar General Distribution Center, Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree, Ardmore City Schools, EJ Ardmore Foundry, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, City of Ardmore, Valero Energy Corporation, DOT Foods, Flanders Filters, and Best Buy Distribution Center. Aviation and industry add to Ardmore's economy via the Ardmore Industrial Airpark.

Ardmore is at the cutting edge of agricultural research thanks in large part to the Samuel Roberts Nobel Foundation. The Noble Foundation is also a world leader in agricultural genetic engineering. The Charles B. Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts has a strong commitment to providing quality cultural opportunities for area residents. Live entertainment is available at nearby concert venues. Recreational opportunities are numerous and varied. Lake Murray State Park, Oklahoma's oldest and largest State Park, is seven miles south of town. It offers a myriad of recreational activities. A short drive of 30 miles away, visitors can view the scenery of Turner Falls, the Chickasaw National Recreational Area, and the Chickasaw Cultural Center. Train travel is available via the Heartland Flyer, traveling north to Oklahoma City and south to Fort Worth, Texas. The Hardy Murphy Coliseum and the Ardmore Convention Center both host an array of activities such as livestock shows, concerts, and business expos. Golf, swimming, soccer, softball, and the YMCA provide additional sporting events. Twenty-one parks are located throughout Ardmore including the Water Park, splash pads, and a Community Skate Park. The annual Christmas Festival of Lights draws many people from Oklahoma and Texas.

Mercy Hospital Ardmore is the leading health provider in Southern Oklahoma. In 2010, Mercy Hospital Ardmore opened a new patient tower complete with 158 private rooms, a women's center and a state-of-the-art intensive care unit. Mercy Ardmore is known for its Joint Replacement Center, Heart and Vascular Services, Women's Services and Birthplace, and Cancer Care Center. Mercy Health Foundations' annual "Arbuckles to Ardmore Race for Mercy (A2A)" has raised money to build the Cancer Center and provide technology and equipment needed to treat our local cancer patients. The last A2A event average included 1000 runners from all over North America and three foreign countries, 450 volunteers, and over \$100,000 in proceeds to the Cancer Center.

Dining experiences in Ardmore allow you to choose from a variety of cuisines and atmospheres to match your moods. Ardmore is proud of its diverse and unique stores providing shopping fun for all people.

Educational offerings from pre-school to college allow people at any age a chance to learn and succeed. Area schools, Ardmore, Plainview, Lone Grove, Dickson, and Springer work diligently to meet the needs of a diverse student population. Southern Oklahoma Technology Center (SOTC) offers courses designed for high school and adult students wanting to achieve career certification and/or gain technical skills. SOTC offers a dental hygienist program through the University of Oklahoma, and a nursing program through East Central University. The University Center of Southern Oklahoma offers undergraduate and graduate courses in a wide-range of areas that enables students to earn an associates, bachelors, or master's degree.

Northwest Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee

Becky Crawford

- Senior VP and COO at First National Bank, Ardmore
- Married, 4 children and 4 grandchildren and one to arrive in April
- Member of NWBC for 35 years
- Chair of the Finance Committee and served on various mission opportunities

Jolene Hoffman

- Retired Teacher
- Member of NWBC as teenager, moved away and rejoined fellowship 11 years ago
- Married, 2 children and 5 grandchildren
- Choir member and served on various mission opportunities and committees

Jim Huggins

- Retired, Cross Timbers Hospice Executive Director and
- Part-time Chaplain, Market Place Chaplains, Plano Texas
- Bi-Vocational pastor, interim pastor and supply pastor
- Ordained for Ministry in 1986 by World of Life Church, Midland, Texas
- Widowed
- Member of NWBC for 10 years

Geoff Jones

- Self-employed building designer
- Member of NWBC for 36 years
- Married, 4 children and 7 grandchildren
- Served on various committees and mission opportunities

William (Bill) Owen

- Chair, Pastor Search Committee
- Engineer involved in Commercial Construction business
- Member of NWBC for over 40 years
- Married, 2 children and 4 grandchildren
- SS teacher and served on various committees and mission opportunities

Cheryl Smiley

- Retired Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher
- Member of NWBC for 35 years
- Married, 3 children and 7 grandchildren
- SS outreach leader and served on various committees and mission opportunities

Sallie Walker

- Nurse Practitioner, Mercy Clinic
- Member of NWBC 35 years
- Choir Member and served on various committees and mission opportunities