



Northwest News for August 2024

News from the Pastor Search Team

If you read the newsletter last month, you saw we were at the Corner of Clarity & Confusion, wanting to “rush into pastor search success.” We realize 21 months doesn’t feel like “rushing,” and perhaps that’s where the confusion originated. We accept with faith that God’s plans and thoughts are higher than ours, his timing is different from ours, but we have no doubt that we will be led to the pastor he has chosen for NW. for our church.

This month we are at the Corner of Mulberry & Robison. Yes, that’s right, we are right where God has planted our church—right where God expects us to be working for the Kingdom. We have the confident expectation (HOPE) that what God has promised He will deliver because He alone is FAITHFUL.

Isaiah 40:31--This promise is important... our Hope is alive in the Lord. God will renew our strength so that we can continue to do the work he has planned for us and not be weary or faint. God has big things planned for NW. We will continue to do great things by worshipping together, loving and serving each other and our community.

Let’s not grow weary of doing the work God has called us to do. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10. The Center for Healthy Churches has provided us with another potential candidate so we have been participating in “zoom” interviews and will soon be listening to sermons. It’s a process, and we are “on mission together.”

Please continue to pray for the process, the team, and our new pastor.



*The
Mystery Dinner Tour—
Continues!
August 16, 5:30 p.m.
Sign up by the office*

WOMEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCHEON IS BACK!

Join us August 13 in the fellowship hall for fun and inspiration. Bring a friend and your favorite brown bag lunch.

This week in worship

August 4 we will welcome Dr. Bob Ellis. Bob Ellis grew up in Abilene, TX, and graduated from Hardin-Simmons University. He also earned two degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After pastoring a church in north Texas for a few years, Bob began a career in university and seminary education, serving 10 years as a professor at Southwestern Seminary and 28 years at Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons. He retired as the Logsdon Dean in 2021. Bob periodically serves churches as interim pastor and leads Bible conferences.

Bob is married to Teresa, and they have two grown daughters, Katherine and Laura, who both live in Waco. The Ellises love travel abroad, having spent two years in Cambridge, England. Bob has also enjoyed leading groups and touring in Africa, China, Europe, Indonesia, Israel, and South America. While at home in Abilene, Bob enjoys volunteering at his church, gardening, baseball, fly fishing, reading, and writing.

A Note from Phil

Thy Kingdom Come... Thy Will be Done

In the Lord’s Prayer we pray “Thy Kingdom come... thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...” A tall order when it seems we’re just trying to survive. Our prayers can be like the old country-western song, “Lord, help me make through the night.” We might wonder what does this Kingdom work of Jesus look-like? A pastor told a group of disappointed students who felt they had made no difference on a mission trip “any time we act with kindness, love, compassion, forgiveness, and sacrifice, we change the world.” What an opportunity for the Church today to change Ardmore.

Keshia Thomas, a black teenager, was 18 when the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in her hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan. The atmosphere was tense with police dressed in riot gear. Some anti-Klan protesters spotted a man with a Nazi tattoo and racial slurs printed on his shirt. Someone yelled “get the Nazi” and began to run after him. He was knocked to the ground and people began kicking him and hitting him with sticks from the protest placards. Mob mentality had taken over and it was ugly.

Amid the violence, Keisha Thomas, still in high school said, “This isn’t right.” She threw herself on top of the skin-headed man... While others tried to beat him, this young black woman, a member of the atonement community of Christ, shielded him with her own body from the vicious attack. She placed herself between the angry crowd and him – taking the blows.... Thy Kingdom Come! We see another picture of the Kingdom in the witness of Abraham Lincoln. In a humble way, Lincoln came to see his calling as an instrument of God’s reconciliation. Once a pastor from the North announced during the war that “the Lord was on our side.” Lincoln responded, “I’m not as concerned about whether God is on our side. I want to know how I can get on God’s side.” Thy Kingdom Come!

Today we find ourselves in an “uncivil war” with the weapon of words that bring division and discord. Words hurt, serving as sticks and stones denigrating other people instead of pointing to the Kingdom.

In Lincoln’s “Second Inaugural Address” we see the depth of his faith. The war had claimed 620,000 lives of brothers against brothers. The Address lasted seven minutes and consisted of 701 words. It has been called a Kingdom sermon. The crowd came hoping that Lincoln would give voice to their anger for their losses. Yet, instead of demonizing the South, Lincoln asked how the South could be brought back into the Union. He ended his speech with those words we need to hear today: “...with malice toward none, with charity for all.”

Lincoln refused to divide the country or human beings into good and bad. At a Cabinet Meeting on April 14, the day he was shot, Lincoln spoke of General Robert E. Lee and Confederate leaders with such kindness. Thy Kingdom Come!

Lincoln died at 7:22am on April 15, 1865. Of all things, he died on Good Friday. We know there is “Another” who died on Good Friday to heal our deep divisions and anger. As much as we need solutions to complex problems, we need to live out, “...with malice toward none, with charity for all.” Thy Kingdom Come!

Edwin Stanton said on that fateful day, “Now he belongs to the ages...” But in these days, his words and spirit of the Kingdom belong in our world and lives. Oh Jesus, we pray, Thy Kingdom Come!

You know what “party” I am belong to... I belong to the “Kingdom party of the prodigal son” who gives parties for outcasts, sinners, people who’ve made a mess of things, the broken, or unchurched. You’ll know this party by the joy and laughter you hear... and the sign over the door: “Welcome Home to the Kingdom.”

Thy Kingdom Come in my life,

Phil



Keshia Thomas intervening in shielding the man from those trying to beat him.

Welcome our Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Phil Christopher

Dr. Phil Christopher is a dynamic leader with 45 years of experience in various ministry settings. He retired from First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas in 2021 after twenty-six years as Senior Pastor. During his years in ministry, he served on staff in Second Baptist, Lubbock, and Broadway Baptist, Ft. Worth.

Many of us know Phil from his time as our pastor right here at NWBC. He went on to become pastor at Highland Baptist in Louisville, Kentucky, and First Baptist, in Abilene, Texas.

He served as an adjunct professor at the Logsdon Seminary, teaching courses on worship and pastoral ministry. He also taught “Ethical Decision-Making for Leaders” as an adjunct in the Doctorate in Leadership Program at Hardin Simmons University.

Phil is married to Dr. Mary Christopher who serves as a consultant to educational institutions and owns CGL Consulting, LLC. Previously Mary served as Assistant Dean of the School of Education at Hardin Simmons University and director of the Gifted Education Program and Doctorate of Leadership Program. He and Mary have two married children, Jeremy, a CPA in Nashville, Tennessee, and Natalie, a middle school principal in Victoria, Texas. Their chief joy in life is being grandparents to Mary Catherine and Emma Anne. His other loves are golf and the fellowship it provides and the Baylor Bears.



Church Calendar

Sunday, August 4

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Dr. Bob Ellis, preaching

Wednesday, August 7

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, August 11

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Kyle Tubbs, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting

Tuesday, Augst 13

- Noon Women’s Brown Bag Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, August 14

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Finance

Friday, August 16

- 5:30 p.m. Mystery Dinner Tour

Sunday, August 18

- 10:00a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Kyle Tubbs, preaching

Wednesday, August 21

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, August 25

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Dr. Phil Christopher, preaching

Wednesday, August 28

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Office Hours– Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.

Visit our website: <http://www.nwbcardmore.com>

Contact the church office

(580) 223-1691

linda@nwbcarmore.com

If you are (or think you may be) the last person leaving the building, please turn off all the lights and make certain the door closes and locks behind you. Thanks!

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