



Northwest News for October 2024



Pastor Search News:

Our prayers have been answered. After two years of asking, seeking, and knocking, the Pastor Search team believes that the Holy Spirit has led us to our next pastor.

It is with great joy that we announce **Rev. Lex Robertson** has accepted our invitation to participate in a Call Weekend. He and his family will come spend the weekend of **October 11-13**, fellowship with us, get to know each of us, answer questions, and preach on Sunday in view of the call to be the next pastor of Northwest Baptist Church. Save the dates!

Friday, October 11 6:30 pm

Lex and family will meet with the deacons/spouses, staff members/spouses, and the pastor search team/spouses at the home of Sallie Walker.

Saturday, October 12 9:30 -11:30 am

Meet and Greet with everyone. Fellowship Hall. All are invited. We will have pastries/juice/coffee.

Saturday, October 12 6:30pm

Lex and family will meet with the Pastor Search team for dinner

Sunday, October 13

Bible Study/Sunday School and Worship. Lex will preach during morning worship. After the service, we will vote to call Rev. Lex Robertson as our pastor.

Lex came highly recommended. His references are exemplary. He has a deep-seated conviction of God calling him and his family to serve as our pastor. He is a good preacher, whose sermons are based on the Bible, a praying pastor, and a person who has many years of experience in pastoral care.

Lex has spent the past 17 years as a Chaplain in both Spokane Washington and Dallas Texas. He has provided pastoral care to patients, visitors, & staff. He has led in special services, weekly services, and classes to train others. He has a Master of Divinity degree with a pastoral track from Logsdon Seminary at Hardin-Simmons University. We believe God has led Lex to Ardmore.

You will not want to miss meeting and getting to know Lex, his wife Katy, and his children Caelyn, Isaac, and Wally. The Robertson family loves the Lord and wants to serve God in the way the Holy Spirit leads.

These are exciting times for NWBC. We look forward to these upcoming events and anticipate good participation from our congregation. On Sunday, October 6 we will hand out a packet of information about Lex and his family, our call weekend, and ways you can participate and help in this transition. We appreciate all your prayers, support, and encouragement during this process.

With thanksgiving and praise,

The Pastor Search team

Bill Owen, Chair; Allen Crawford, Cheryl Smiley, Cookie Smith, Sallie Walker.

A Note from Our Interim Minister

Alright! The time has finally arrived. Can you believe it after all these months of searching, waiting and reports? You are finding out who the Search Team is bringing home for dinner next weekend. Would it be a stretch to say that the anticipation of next weekend overshadows the kickoff time of the OU – Texas game – at least for OSU fans. We come to this moment with both anticipation like opening a package at Christmas and some natural anxiety that comes with the unknown of who is this person. I pray you will find assurance and promise that this search process has been a spiritual journey of seeking “nothing more, nothing else, nothing less” than what God wants. So, I ask you to check your expectations that can be based on your desires, limited perspective, or possibly unrealistic.

As much as this is a time of anticipation and anxiety for the church, think of Lex and Katy. Like Abraham and Sarai, they are picking up and moving their family, setting out in an adventure of faith. They didn’t have to say, “yes” to this call to come and cross the Red River, but they sensed promise here and want to be a part of what God has done and will do.

Matt and I emphasized that at this time when the pastoral pool is shallow, we were extremely blessed to be led to Lex and his gifts and pastoral experience that comes in the crisis ministry as a hospital chaplain. This will be his first pastorate. It was mine as well. What a great opportunity for us to grow together once again and learn from each other.

I am so grateful that after 45 years in the ministry and 26 years at First Baptist Abilene that I was able to retire and celebrate those years of ministry. Sure, there were difficult times, even like the Apostle Paul who experienced “great pressure and trouble beyond his ability to endure” (II Corinthians 1:8). Yet, through God’s grace in my weakness and the compassion and comfort of the community, I found the strength to endure. Yet so many ministers and pastors do not find those resources to continue. The Barna Survey reports the 42% of Pastors interviewed considered quitting. They cited the stress of job expectations as the number one reason, followed by isolation and loneliness. They also listed the hostile divisions that are rampant from divisive cultural issues in the church to political positions.

On Sunday, we will look at ways that our church might continue to be a community of grace, encouragement, and support. One of the most influential books I read as a college student was John Killinger’s, For God’s Sake Be Human. Our humanity is God’s crown to creation. Jesus became human in the act of incarnation. Beside letting the new pastor be human with hurts and needs, we can find such release in being who God created us to be, human. As I said one time in a sermon, “We can drop the fig leaves and shame.” We can accept each other’s brokenness.

You will have the opportunity to hear Lex’s call to the ministry and to the pastoral ministry. I have always been moved by a conversation Frederick Buechner had with a skeptic about the mystery of being called to the ministry. He writes: “I HEAR YOU ARE entering the ministry,” the woman said down the long table, meaning no real harm. “Was it your own idea or were you poorly advised?” And the answer that she could not have heard even if I had given it was that it was not an idea at all, neither my own nor anyone else’s. It was a lump in the throat. It was an itching in the feet. It was a stirring in the blood at the sound of rain. It was a sickening of the heart at the sight of misery. It was a clamoring of ghosts. It was a name which, when I wrote it out in a dream, I knew was a name worth dying for even if I was not brave enough to do the dying myself and could not even name the name for sure. Come unto me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you a high and driving peace. I will condemn you to death.

As we come to meeting Lex next weekend and hearing his story, more than interviewing a prospective employee for a job, comparing him to other pastors or preachers, or checking out his theological positions, let us listen to the stirring of his heart. Let us realize some will never understand what it means to say, “yes” to that pastoral call of God, but for those who do, it leads to life. I felt those stirrings in my call long ago. I don’t know Lex well, but from what I do, I think he did as well.

Brave Journey,
Phil

Women’s Brown Bag Luncheon
October 15, Noon
Fellowship Hall

Church Calendar

Sunday, October 6

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

Monday, October 7

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 9

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

Friday, October 11

- 6:30 p.m. Search Team, Deacons, Staff and Spouses meet with the Robertson Family

Saturday, October 12

- 9:30 a.m. All Church Meet and Greet with the Robertson Family

Sunday, October 13

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Lex Robertson preaching
- Noon Congregational Vote

Monday, October 14

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, October 15

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

Wednesday, October 16

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

Sunday, October 20

- 10:00a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, October 21

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 23

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, October 27

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, October 28

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 30

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Northwest Baptist Church
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