



Northwest News for September 2024

Good News from the Pastor Search Team

It is with great JOY the Pastor Search team believes God has led us to our new pastor. To say it has been a long journey would be an understatement. We lived and breathed Jeremiah 29:11. At times we felt we were in exile just like the Israelites but always claiming the promise that God's plan and timing are best. God opened doors, closed doors, and taught us lessons in patience, humility, courage, persistence, and perseverance. We saw God's handiwork in introducing this man to our team. There were many "coincidences" that all fell into place, one after another with different people at exactly the perfect time. This not only caused us to have goosebumps but also to feel a confident peace that we were on the right track. God is Good!

After several zoom interviews, in-person conversations, reference calls, and lots of prayers, we believe God has led us to extend an invitation to participate in a "call weekend." He and his family also feel God's calling to NW and have accepted our invitation. We are planning this weekend on October 11-13 so mark and clear your calendars. It is crucial that you participate. At that time, you will be able to meet him and his family, ask questions, fellowship together, listen to him preach on Sunday morning, and vote whether to call him as our new pastor.

Continue to pray for our new pastor and our church as we enter this last phase of our transition.

*The
Mystery Dinner Tour-
Continues!
September 27, 5:30 p.m.
Sign up by the office*



WOMEN'S BROWN BAG

Join us September 10 in the fellowship hall for fun and inspiration. Bring a friend and your favorite brown bag lunch.

A Thank You Note

Dear Northwest Baptist Church
Northwest Baptist is one of our top contributors to the Offering for Global Missions. We want to express our deep gratitude for your church's generosity to the OGM. Because of your support, Jeff Lee can help people in North Macedonia learn to raise their own food. We look forward to your ongoing support of the OGM in the years to come.
With appreciation,
Laura
Laura Ayala
Coordinator for Global Mission

A Note from Phil: Hope Never Dies or Disappoints

I love the quote from the movie, Shawshank Redemption, “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.” Even as the Pastoral Search Team acknowledges “it has been a long journey,” it was a journey of hope that never died. As you come to this threshold moment of calling a new pastor may it be a time of great hope in the God who provides.

We continue to celebrate the good news that Bill Owen announced last Sunday about the potential pastor coming in view of a call. I can say that your Search Team hit a home run in bringing this recommendation to you. He will truly walk with you in providing hope and grace. As you prepare for his coming remember he comes as a minister to be your shepherd and not a messiah to dazzle you. As much as he comes to minister to you, he also comes to minister with you and not in place of you.

One of the major challenges was identifying possible pastoral candidates in a time when the pastoral pool is rather shallow. With that said, after wading through resumes, listening to the congregation, extensive discussions about the traits needed in a pastor, the profile of the church and conversations with numerous possible candidates, the church is extremely blessed to have a candidate of exceptional pastoral qualities and maturity. The church has much to offer the new pastor. But also realize with the present congregational demographics, there are big challenges for a pastor as he takes this leap of faith in moving his family and facing those challenges. But remember, hope never dies.

I’m like a dinosaur when it comes to the pastoral ministry. Mary and I tended to be open to change, in making a move and venturing out into the unknown. We believed that God is the God of promise who would provide even amid uncertainties or when things didn’t workout as we planned. God doesn’t normally give us a detailed map or plan when he calls us, as we will hear this Sunday in the message when God leads us on the “roundabout way.” In the journey, there is always hope. Yet, in our discussions with some young ministers, it seemed there was some personal checklist that needed to be met in considering a move.

One of the traits I already appreciate about your prospective Pastor and spouse is their spirit of adventure to God’s call. Moves are never easy, especially when you have lived in a place for an extended time and been successful in your ministry position. It can often be easy to dismiss an opportunity that knocks because it costs too much. I am grateful that he and his wife are willing to set out to a challenging opportunity like Father Abraham. As you get to know them, I pray you will see that their decision was one of hope in this church, the future, and the God who leads.

One of the gifts both Matt and I have tried to give you during the interim was HOPE. The search team invested so much in getting to know a candidate. But then when the candidate declined an invitation to take the next step or come, they naturally experienced the disappointment of being turned down. Yet, the Search Team kept trusting that God was at work even in a “no,” trusting this was in God’s hands, while wondering what or who was next. One thing always remained; the Search Team did not lose HOPE.

Matt Cook wrote about a somewhat morbid experiment that was conducted by a professor at [Johns Hopkins University](#) named [Curt Richter](#) in 1950. He put wild rats in a container of water and forced them to swim as long as they could before drowning. Most of the rats swam for only a few minutes before they gave up hope and sank.

In round two, however, Richter made a small adjustment to the experiment. After a short initial period where the rats would be left alone, he would come in and remove them from the water then put them back. These rats swam for hours. One even swam for almost an entire day before it sank. The difference, according to Richter, was simple—hope. “After elimination of hopelessness,” wrote Richter, “the rats do not die.”

As you come to this new chapter in your journey of calling the sixteenth pastor of Northwest Baptist Church, hold onto HOPE. It will keep you swimming when others are sinking. Let me encourage you to realize the hope that as a church you can make a difference in this city. I told perspective candidates that there is a place in Ardmore for a church of openness like Northwest. You do not have to try to imitate larger churches to be successful, whatever that “success” is. Remember your new pastor is a minister for Jesus Christ and not a magician who miraculously fills the sanctuary. Together, seek ways to minister to your community as you build on the past while looking for new and creative ways to make a difference. As you hold onto hope and encourage your pastor to use his unique gifts, you will be a church that looks to see possibilities and not problems. You will be called to mission and to not be afraid of the mountains.

There is a closing line in the movie, Shawshank Redemption as the character, Red, now a free man, says in excitement even though the journey is uncertain: “I hope I can make it across the border, I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams.” May you and your new pastor hope together and work together. May you hope those who left will come back home to a church that loves them. May hope continue to guide your journey, even though uncertain, for as Romans 5:5 says, “Hope does not disappoint.”

Brave Journey,

Phil

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 4

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, September 8

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

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

Friday, August 16

- 5:30 p.m. Mystery Dinner Tour

Sunday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 18

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, September 22

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

Monday, September 23

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 25

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Sunday, September 29

- 7:00 p.m. Ardmore Chorale Rehearsal

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@nwbcardmore.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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Northwest Baptist Church
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Northwest Baptist Church
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