



ARDMORE ANNOUNCER

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH JESUS CHRIST.

Announcing the Mission and Ministries of Ardmore Baptist Church, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC

Vacation Bible School ... It Is Closer Than You Think!

June 26 - 30; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Volunteers Needed: Contact Lee Ritchie (lritchie@ardmorebaptist.org) or Cathy Irwin (cathy.irwin@gmail.com) to volunteer. We need leaders for the rotation stations (Bible story, crafts, missions, recreation, or music), people to work the registration table and help orient families as they arrive, and assistants for classes.

VBS Work Days: Wednesdays, May 24, June 7, 14, and 21; 9:00 a.m. - noon. Join us in the Conference Room for VBS prep.

Register Your Children: VBS is open to all children rising 1st - 7th grade, and Ardmore Baptist children 3 - 5 years old. You may submit your registration online at ardmorebaptist.org/vbs.



ARDMORE
Baptist Church

Worship Connection

May 28

Morning (8:15 & 10:45):

**"When the Burden
Becomes Too Great"**

Exodus 18

Dr. Don Gordon

Bring a Friend!

We Welcome You

Twenty-two years ago James and I visited Ardmore Baptist Church for the first time. We were new to the area and attempting the sometimes painful process of trying to find a church and establish roots. I cannot remember the Bible study lesson or the sermon that day, but I can still see the faces and recall the names of those who welcomed us.

This may all sound very simplistic or obvious, but it's actually not. Every time our church doors are open, someone is waiting to be truly welcomed. It can be a sincere exchange between longtime friends or an introduction to someone you have yet to meet, but everyone is waiting to be noticed. Jesus modeled this for us as He went about recognizing and responding to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others.

Your commitment to noticing others will initially change someone's day, but it could ultimately result in changing their life. What seems like a simple act of hospitality is actually sharing a glimpse of Christ's love in us and through us.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:7, ESV

- DeNeal Fowler



Happy Memorial Day

The church office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. The *Announcer* will be published Tuesday, May 30.

Pray For Ukraine Team

Please be in prayer for our team as they serve at the Village of Hope in Kiev, May 20 - 29. Members are: Steve Cline, Sandy Simmons, and Kathy Stewart.

2017 College Graduates

Are you or one of your children graduating from college this year? We want to know! Please e-mail Janet (jhellard@ardmorebaptist.org) with the graduate's name, degree, and school.

OUR MISSION:

"To connect people of all ages with Jesus Christ and each other in life-changing relationships."

Our Pastor Writes ...

Our First Full Staff Meeting

This past Monday we had our first full ministerial staff meeting since I arrived at this church four and a half years ago. DeNeal Fowler, our most recent addition and Minister of Invitation and Hospitality, was seated at the table with us in the Conference Room. Dane Martin, who had been on a brief family leave after the birth of Brooks, had returned. All the other ministers were there as well. It felt nice to finally have everyone in place. There was a sense of completeness, but not complacency. This group of ministers, all younger than me, are ready to go, ready to serve, and ready to push the boundaries of traditional ministry practices.

When I was first approached by someone assessing my interest in coming to Ardmore, I was informed one of the first priorities would be to build a staff. Key retirements were imminent. The shared ministry model brought to the church by Dr. Winford Hendrix created some leadership gaps that had to be filled. The six ministry areas of the church were new, utilizing new language and calling for new skills. So, over the course of the next four and a half years we called eight ministers. Roughly, that is calling about two ministers every year. Considering that ministerial search committees typically take six to nine months to do their work, one can see the relentless pace we maintained.

It is extraordinary that Ardmore Baptist Church has endured a total staff make-over in such a short time. The normal exodus of people from a church that experiences that kind of radical change never happened. We have gained hundreds of new members, but lost relatively few. This can be attributed to the grace of God and the strong lay leadership within the church. The strong traditions of Ardmore, the solid sense of identity for such a large congregation, and the commitment to excellent worship, engaging missions, and authentic Christian love for one another has nurtured stability.

Now we have to “find our legs.” By that, I mean that our staff has to get to know one another, understand our strengths and weaknesses, and find ways to accentuate the former and succeed despite the latter. This we will do. We are committed to the mission of the church, *connecting people of all ages to Jesus Christ and one another in life-changing relationships*. We are committed to one another, rooting for each other, helping the one who needs a hand, and recognizing we are a team, not merely a collection of individuals.

The first phase has been completed – building a staff. The next phase is launched – unleashing the staff in shared ministry with the entire congregation for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It should be an exciting run.

Volunteer Social Media Coordinator

We need someone with the interest and skills for building an ongoing, dynamic presence on social media for the church. This person would build an audience on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.; create posts of interest; post photos and comments that spark curiosity and conversation; engage followers in church-related discussions; monitor posts to church pages; and identify and reach out to those outside the church who may have an interest in our ministries. If you are somewhat tech savvy, a regular user of social media, and have the ability to identify and create engaging conversation pieces, contact Mike (336-725-8767; mnuckolls@ardmorebaptist.org).

Dane's DownLow

I want to say a special “thank you” to the congregation for your prayers and support throughout the past month or so, as we welcomed Brooks Warren Martin into the world. His birth did not go as anticipated, but we are thankful that he and Gretchen are healthy. From the moment of his quick birth we have been covered by notes, gifts, prayers, hugs, and love. We could not have asked for anything more than what we have been given.

I have not only been amazed and surprised by the care and concern, but also the celebration. The youth surprised me earlier with a baby shower everyone else knew about, including Gretchen. That was such a great evening and I appreciated the gifts but, more importantly, I appreciated the thoughts and caring words that were shared. Our family is so thankful and blessed to be part of a community of faith who genuinely cares for each other and does so not only in word but through actions.

Thank you for loving us and I hope through the years everyone from young to older adults will know we love you all and are excited to do God's work together.



Notes For High School Seniors

We are assembling memory books for each High School graduate. We would like for church members to contribute their thoughts and encouraging words. Blank cards and a list of the senior class are located at the main Welcome Desk, second floor lobby, and the preschool desk. Thank you for your support and encouragement of our youth.

Ardmore ABCs ...

Gracious notes of appreciation have been received from the following and are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall:

Martha and Marvin Taylor

Congratulations to:

Jonathan Williams, Ardmore organist, and Catherine King who were married May 20th. They will live in Winston-Salem;

Kip and Madison Byrum on the birth of their son, **Graham Vance Byrum, IV**, born on May 18th;

John and Mary Stevens – 60th wedding anniversary on May 25th;

Henry and Helen Mize – 62nd wedding anniversary on May 28th

Grace Notes

I rushed into the sound booth, caught my breath, and began to complain as I cued up the songs for the preschoolers to rehearse. It had been a really stressful week. All of a sudden I found myself completely frozen, caught by surprise in a moment of total, unexpected joy and thanksgiving. The tears welled up as the children began to sing these words: *“Everything I am, everything I’ll be, I’ll give it to you Lord, and do it thankfully. Every song I sing, every praise I bring, everything I do is a gift to you. Everything I have, all you’ve given me, I give it to you Lord, and do it thankfully.”* They sang these words with such pure, innocent joy! God has a way of stopping us dead in our tracks sometimes and calling us to examine ourselves, our thoughts, and our actions. As the children continued to sing I found myself praying for God’s forgiveness. I am so thankful for the gift of children and music and how God can use them to remind us of all that God has given us and how we are to give our all to God with a *thankful heart* as we seek to serve him each day! We are blessed with children and music at Ardmore. May they set an example for us as they share their talents and gifts with others in a spirit of pure joy and gratitude! Pray for our children’s choirs and their leaders this week as they go to share the gift of song with the residents at the Oaks.



Ardmore Baptist’s Music & Arts Camp is open to all children who will have completed 1st - 6th grades by July 15. Experiences will include art projects from many cultures, global fun and games, multicultural music, handbells, guitar, recorder, Orff instruments, African drumming, creative movement, and special features with guest performing artists. Registration Fee is \$50. You may register online at <http://tinyurl.com/mc7aywb>.

Deacon of the Week



May 22 - 28

Randall Kale

Phone: 336-724-0329

Weekend Call

May 27 - 28

Dane Martin

Phone: 336-403-3221

Children's Choirs And Missions

The children will conclude their school year activities for Choirs and Missions with a trip to The Oaks this Wednesday evening, May 24, to visit the residents. We will meet in Fellowship Hall B at 5:30 p.m. and return by 7:00 p.m. The 1st - 6th graders will ride the church buses. We ask the parents of preschoolers to meet us at church and drive their child to The Oaks. The children will sing and give residents some items they have made. This is a perfect way to end the year as the children share God’s love with others.

Next week, May 31, we will have the RA/GA Car Race for the children who have prepared a car to race. This will be held in Fellowship Hall B at 5:30 p.m.

Samaritan Inn Volunteers Needed

Friday, June 2

6:15 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

A team of 4 - 6 is needed to serve dinner and stay overnight. Call Mike (336-725-8767) to sign up.



ARDMORE ANNOUNCER is published weekly by Ardmore Baptist Church, Inc., 501 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Publication Number USPS 545780.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Ardmore Announcer, 501 Miller Street, W-S, NC 27103-3610.
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Memorials and Honoraria

Handicrafters

- In Memory of Jim and Joyce Keith**
Henry & Helen Mize
- In Honor of Steve & Linda Cline**
Anonymous

NC Baptist Hospital Mother's Day Offering

- In Memory of Jim Keith**
Hazel Flack
- In Memory of Mary Mullen and Helen Brown**
Paul, Bonnie, and John Mullen

Special Ministries

- In Memory of Steve Carter and Mary Ellen Candillo**
Joe & Dean Eller
- In Memory of Mary Ellen Candillo**
Jan Ragsdale
Carl & Sandra Bovender
- In Honor of Reg Banner and Barry & Carolyn Tilley**
Jan Ragsdale

Vision Fund

- In Memory of Jim Keith**
Jean Beam

Organ Fund

- In Memory of Ola & Roy Nichols and Claude & Jessie Denny**
Anonymous

Sound & Lights Fund

- In Honor of Lamar & Diana Davis**
Edith Teague

Facilities Fund

- In Honor of Reg Banner and Barry & Carolyn Tilley**
Muriel Rivers

Unified Budget

- In Memory of Mary Ellen Candillo**
Tommy Wheeling



Our special offering emphasis for May has been a partnership between NC Baptists and Wake Forest Baptist Health since 1924. Every dollar of every gift helps patients pay hospital bills at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, a part of Wake Forest Baptist Health.

What began as a simple overnight hospital stay for newborn Stella turned into 22 days of complications and fear. Josh and Gina Grant's little girl was having trouble keeping food down: she wasn't thriving. After weeks of tests and procedures, exploratory stomach surgery was the last resort. "That night, I said goodbye to my daughter," Josh admits. "I prayed with her and told God he was in control. I didn't think she was going to make it."

The four-hour surgery worked: doctors discovered Stella's duodenum, part of the small intestine, was nearly closed. "Prayer works," Josh enthuses. "She was brand-new!" But, so were the medical bills. As the bills skyrocketed, they talked about bankruptcy and were looking into refinancing the house for a second mortgage when, one day, the phone rang. Josh picked up and got the news that changed everything. "Our bills were paid in full by the Mother's Day Offering," he says. "It was totally up to God to save Stella," Josh remarks. "And, apparently, it was totally up to God to take care of us financially."

Today, Stella is a busy two-year-old, a symbol of God's love in action through NC Baptists. "We couldn't have done it without the Mother's Day Offering," says Gina. "The people who participated helped save Stella's life; they healed her. I don't think thank you does it justice. It's amazing how much you can love someone you don't even know."

For the Record May 21, 2017

Sunday Bible Study	439
Morning Worship	
8:15 a.m.	106
10:45 a.m.	434

Stewardship

Weekly Budget Needs	\$	35,220
Budget Receipts 05/21/17	\$	27,735
Needs-To-Date	\$	739,621
Receipts-To-Date	\$	735,242
Over/(Under)-To-Date	\$	(4,380)