

## Ardmore BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ



### What Does The Joy Singers Choir Mean To You?

Responses from the singers:

*"[It] offers me an opportunity to share God's Word to a world that needs to hear their Creator is near and cares about them."*

*"I enjoy sharing our gifts with others who will receive the message that God loves them."*

*"[It] offers a sense of community and caring."*

*"[It] means joy and fulfillment in my life. It provides an opportunity to sing to the Lord no matter the degree of musical ability."*

*"I so enjoy the fellowship and humor we share at each practice."*

I thank God for the JOY Singers who share God's love in our area retirement/nursing homes/assisted living. We invite anyone to join us on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning January 7. No music training is needed. You will be blessed!

- David Fitzgerald

### New Consecration

**Both of us are fathers** with three kids. We also try to be good dads. A starting place for being a good father is what we feel internally about our children. But being a loving parent isn't just about what we feel inside. Our care and love of our kids has to be acted upon and lived out.



Our faith in, and relationship with, God works the same way. Obviously, we demonstrate our love for God by reading scripture, singing songs of praise, and allowing our internal lives to be shaped by the Gospel. But our faith cannot stay internal; our faith has to be acted upon and lived out in the world.

That is where spiritual practices come in. Practices such as daily prayer, communion, baptism, caring for the poor, and spiritual pilgrimages help us to give flesh and blood to our faith. These help to recalibrate our hearts onto what really matters.

Tithing is one such spiritual practice. When we tithe, we are externally living out our worship and love of God. When we are willing to lay down a portion of our money at the feet of God, it sends the message to our own souls that our money does not control or rule us. Instead, we are willing to give to the spreading of God's kingdom in the world.

The Apostle Paul says that our spiritual act of worship is to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). When we live sacrificially, we are consecrating ourselves before God and acknowledging His sovereignty over our lives, our time, our resources, and all that we are.

As we begin 2020, our church will be spending some time contemplating what it means for us to consecrate ourselves before God with our money and resources. On January 5 we will explore the story of the Magi and how they brought gifts to worship the newborn King Jesus. Each of us will be asked to consider what gifts we may have to offer to Jesus in an act of spiritual worship. Then, on January 12, we will gather for a New Consecration Lunch in which we will look at how God will bless Ardmore Baptist Church in the coming year.

As we get closer to New Consecration Sunday, let each of us pray about how we can commit to worshipping God with our resources in the coming year. It is one of the ways that we can practice our faith.

Peace,

- Will Hege & Tyler Tankersley

## KidNecton



**Once a month** our children and youth gather during the 10:45 worship service for KidNecton, a kid-friendly worship service led by our youth. This may not sound like anything extraordinary, but let me assure you it is! KidNecton helps fill some of the needs of our children and youth in one fell swoop. Each month the youth plan and prepare to lead the children in worshipping God. They step into the roles of mentors and worship leaders for the children. It is amazing to see the youth take on the responsibilities

of leading music, worship, Bible story, small group discussions, and technology to make KidNecton happen.

KidNecton is a time for your children to worship God and see the Holy Spirit moving in their lives. Worship consists of singing songs of praise to God with a variety of music. We explore a Bible story through *Godly Play* which helps the children see themselves in God's story. We conclude with small groups which help children connect their worship and Bible story to their daily lives. The children get to participate in a worship service designed specifically for them as well as build mentoring relationships with the youth and the youth step into the role of spiritual leader. I am so grateful for the blessing that happens in and through KidNecton.

- Lee Ritchie

## Youth Fall Retreat 2019

**It was a brisk evening** as students arrived at the church to hop on the charter bus and head up to the mountains at Ridgecrest Retreat Center for our fall retreat. Older students were excited; younger students were anxiously eager to see what would take place over the weekend. The theme, *What Is Church?* called us to examine what was important to the early church, hear stories, and reflect on how we see church. Students grew through large and small group sessions which focused on the church being a welcoming community, acceptance of people no matter what, knowing we are all different and yet similar, and worship of God. We found that church is the people and heard stories from our leaders sharing how church is a place that brings true community, relevance to the world, speaks into one's life, and so much more. Students said, "I didn't feel connected to the church until now" or "I have found that I can be myself at church, even if that means being different" or "I have found a place at church." We were thankful to hear stories like these but know there are also stories that don't have that happy ending. Students were challenged to share 'church' with others through how they accept them, what they say and do, and the ways we treat each other in the youth group. The weekend also consisted of laser tag in the woods, gaga ball, a 90s-themed dance party that had a conga line, glow in the dark jump rope, and limbo! I know I am different after this trip, mainly from hearing student and adult stories which gave me greater perspective. Upon returning I found an e-mail from a parent which read, "I don't know what you all did but my child is different. He wants to be at church and I will work to be sure he can be here for other activities."



Church is about speaking into each other's lives in the moments that we are given. It's about taking time to know each other and hear what God is doing!

- Dane Martin

## Ardmore Snapshot



*Kathryn Packett (along with husband, Ryan) has been a member of Ardmore Baptist Church for three years. She is a native of Lexington, NC*

*How did you come to be at Ardmore Baptist Church? What made you feel like you belonged?*

Growing up, I attended First Baptist Church of Lexington, NC. In high school, I went twice on a mission trip to Belize, CA. In college, I went as a chaperone. We met some dear friends at the Baptist Training Center and have kept in touch with them through the years. In 2015, my family and I went back to Belize to visit and meet up with the friends we made years ago. While we were there, we met a church group from Winston-Salem! While waiting for our flight back to Charlotte, I got to know some of the staff and youth leaders from Ardmore. They invited us to worship the following Sunday. When I got home, I told Ryan all about the group I met. Ryan and I were engaged at the time and looking for

a church to plant our roots. We visited together and felt so welcome. We could also feel a deep love for local and global missions and knew God was calling us to be a part of it.

*What is God teaching you/showing you in this current season of life?*

I've always been a planner and enjoy knowing exactly how and when things will happen. God is constantly reminding me that His love and His plan surpass my understanding. At times in my life He has closed some doors, which was heartbreaking at the time. However, the opportunities that followed turned out to be some of the greatest blessings of my life. I am reminded that faith is trusting in Him and His perfect plan and not relying on my own understanding.

*How is your life different because you follow Jesus?*

I have always known and loved Jesus; I was very fortunate to grow up in a welcoming church that nurtured my faith. I would say my faith deepened after attending Passport Camps as a youth. I was so mesmerized by how many people were coming together to do mission work and worship. It led me to be a leader for PassportKids! Camp during college, which led me to teach elementary school. Passport camps showed me how many people are in need in communities across America, including my own. This fostered my love for Title 1 schools and made me choose to focus on poverty in schools. I have felt comfort from Him during each season of life.

*What is something that you do that fills you with joy?*

One of my greatest joys is spending time with my family. Each member of my family is different and it has always been so much fun to spend time with each of them in a different way. However, we all have two things in common: our love for eating and our love for dogs.

*What gives you hope?*

The night before my grandfather went to Iwo Jima in WWII he opened his Bible to what seemed like a "random" page. He wasn't looking for a particular passage but was in need of comfort from the Lord. He opened to Psalm 91 which describes aspects of war, all the while being protected by God. He just celebrated his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday! This is one of my favorite stories because I believe he witnessed God speaking directly to him. This story is so comforting to me because it reminds me how real God is and how he is with us every second of every day. I look forward to continuing to hear his voice and seeing his hand in my life.

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## We Welcome You!



Vickie Russell



Dan & Elsie Kinney

## Ardmore ABCs...

### Congratulations to:

**Jim Pollard** and **Sharon Bomar Nix** - married December 10;

**Richard & Evalyn Bell** married 70 years on January 1;

**Mike & Janet Smith** married 67 years on January 1;

**David & Laura Foster** married 5 years on January 8

**David Fitzgerald**, Minister of Worship, Music, and Arts, 6 years on January 6;

**Lee Ritchie**, Minister with Children & Families, 5 years on January 11

### Give your prayerful support to these who were baptized:

**Tommy Lather** - November 24;

**Vickie Russell** - December 1

## New Consecration Sunday Celebratory Meal

January 12

**A churchwide luncheon** (no cost) will follow the 10:45 a.m. worship service (there will be no 8:15 a.m. service). Make lunch reservations via Realm (Event tab or <https://tinyurl.com/Consecration-Lunch>) or contact Janet in the office - deadline is January 2. *Janet also needs to know if you will not attend.*

## Christmas Offering

**Global Missions** \$ 5,137.50  
**Lottie Moon** \$ 5,142.50  
**Total:** **\$10,280.00**

## For the Record – December 1 - 22

ATTENDANCE				STEWARDSHIP		
DATE	SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY	MORNING WORSHIP		BUDGET RECEIPTS	YEAR-TO-DATE	
		8:15	10:45			
12/1	372	111	361	\$36,304	Needs	\$1,912,078
12/8	477	120	487	\$37,548	Receipts	\$1,839,533
12/15	495	112	504	\$34,613	Over/(Under)	(\$72,545)
12/22	NA	123	476	\$61,150		