



# Ardmore Announcer

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

## Ardmore BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 5

12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ABC Fellowship Hall

Enhanced safety/sanitizing protocols will be followed.

#### **Appointments are required.**

Click [here](#) to schedule an appointment to donate blood and save a life.

If you have questions, contact

[Amy Gallaher](#).

### **Our Mission:**

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

### **From Our Pastor ...**

The last Sunday I saw most of you was Sunday, March 8. It was the Second Sunday of Lent. I had been looking forward to preaching on John 8:12-20 where Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." It was also going to be special because we would be holding a baby dedication for Carol Hester. Our entire congregation had fervently prayed for Carol for months and to see her in the Sanctuary that day was a joy to all of us. I was taken aback when one of our members, a nurse, stopped me before the 10:45 service. She said, "I know you are going to think this is crazy, but please tell people not to shake hands at the end of the service." She then explained that her hospital was working on a community response to the "coronavirus" and would be encouraging everyone to practice "social distancing." At that point the "coronavirus" was nothing more than a word I had heard on NPR a few times, and I knew it was affecting Europe and Asia. But I trust this person and made an announcement at the end of service encouraging people to refrain from shaking hands. Rather than firmly grasping the hands of everyone who exits out the back doors to the Narthex, I instead offered my elbow to people. Some scoffed and said, "You don't really believe in all that nonsense, do you?" but most people politely obliged and offered me their own elbow.

At Staff Meeting the next day, one of the pastors said, "We need to be prepared to educate people about this virus." We talked about the best way to do that. We decided to ask two of our members, Drs. John Sanders and Franklin Watkins, to hold a Q&A the following Sunday. On Tuesday, March 10, I called John and he kindly carved out time in his increasingly busy schedule to speak with me. I told him my idea for Sunday, March 15. There was a long pause. Then John said, "Tyler, I don't think we're going to be able to do that." I said, "Oh. Okay. What about the following Sunday?" "You don't understand," said John, "We will probably not be meeting for church this Sunday." That was the moment the weight of this pandemic truly began to settle on me.

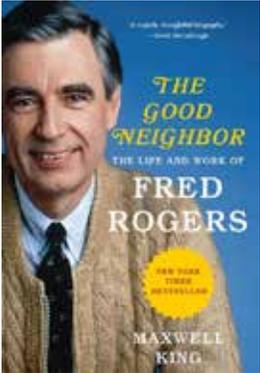
I could feel panic and fear rising in my chest. I hung up, walked down to Gina's office, and relayed the conversation to her. We both just stared at the ground for a little while. Then Gina said, "Okay. What now?" We each began consulting other local congregations about their plans. We then made the difficult decision to suspend worship for March 15. Gina and I had each prepared to preach a short sermon on John 10:1-18. We decided to preach to my laptop and post it on Facebook Live. On the way to the church that day, I stopped to buy a microphone to plug into my laptop (the following week those would be unavailable for two months!). Gina and I each preached to the laptop and tried our best to quell our own fears and to speak words of comfort and grace to the church we both love so dearly.

The next day was Staff Meeting. We decided to meet in the Youth Place, where we could spread out and still meet together. Our hearts were heavy

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## Reflections from Ardmore Baptist's Book Club Members

### June: *The Good Neighbor: the Life and Work of Fred Rogers*



I was intrigued the first time I saw the announcement about Ardmore starting a book club. Normally I don't do books clubs since it feels like one more commitment for my hectic life. This time, however, I knew that I wanted to be a part of discussing the book, *The Good Neighbor: the Life and Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King. As a young child growing up in the '70s, watching Mr. Rogers was something my brother and I looked forward to every afternoon. I have sweet memories of listening to his albums each night as I drifted off to sleep after my parents finished reading my bedtime stories. His records were the first I played on my very own record player which I had been given for my birthday.

The book itself is a little daunting in the beginning. Mr. King has done an exhaustive amount of research and gives a wealth of details even down to comments from his elementary classmates. He also includes descriptions of the social and economic environment in which Mr. Rogers grew up. As I moved through the book, my interest picked up. I remember many of the storylines described in the later sections. I was particularly interested in the photographs included from Mr. Rogers' personal and professional life.

The book club discussion was a wonderful experience. There was no pressure to contribute and it was ok if you had not finished the book. It was a bonding moment to hear from other members how Mr. Rogers had impacted their lives. Several mothers described how much they trusted Mr. Rogers to only present a positive message.

- Laura Waddell

### July: *Just Mercy*

I recently read *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson's story of defending Walter - a Black man sentenced to die for a murder he didn't commit. It reminded me of unsettling stories I heard as a young girl from my father who grew up in Alabama. It was sobering to learn of persisting racism in a criminal justice system in which I put faith.

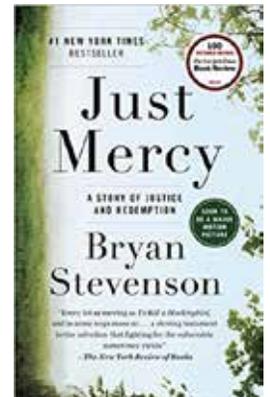
Following the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests, I was rattled. I immersed myself in articles, podcasts, and documentaries to educate myself about racial injustice. I felt embarrassed to hear history that I never knew. I was astounded to learn things of which I was utterly unaware-the big business of mass incarceration, the school-to-prison pipeline, and "the talk."

I grappled with the reality that I've lived in a bubble. I truly thought we were doing a better job. I was sad to hear the fear that grips a mother each time she sends her Black son out the front door. I felt guilt that busyness had kept me unaware of daily injustices Blacks face and hardships they endure as a result of generational oppression. As a teacher, I wish I had known.

Rather than wallow, I must use these emotions to move toward being more anti-racist rather than merely non-racist. I must get past my own discomfort to have tough conversations, to speak up about racist comments, and to become aware of my own white privilege and biases. I must build relationships with POC (People of Color) and join them to work for change – serve under their leadership in their organizations and support their businesses. I must vote in leaders who will represent all people fairly.

Most of all, I must neither lose steam nor hope. There is an overwhelming amount of work to be done. There are other Walters out there. For me, the Biblical directive, "whatever I do for one of the least of these, I do for Him" is ever more urgent.

- Janice Puckett




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Join us via Zoom on the first Monday of each month to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books through the lens of faith. Our next meeting is Monday, August 3 at 6:00 PM. The book we are reading is *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery* by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile. Contact Gina Brock at [gbrock@ardmorebaptist.org](mailto:gbrock@ardmorebaptist.org) to receive the Zoom invitation and/or receive assistance ordering the book.

## Ardmore Snapshot



**Betty Masten** has been a member of Ardmore for 13 years. A native of Yadkinville and a life-long musician, Betty worked for the NC School of the Arts for 30 years, retiring in 2000. She also served as the organist for First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, for several years.

*How did you come to be at Ardmore Baptist Church?*

My husband and I were members of a sister church in town. There was a change in leadership there. We visited when Dr. Bill Ireland was new because we heard he was so good. I had family at the church who were long-time members and I knew many people there. Being a church organist all my life, music was very important to me and Ardmore had a wonderful music program.

On the Sunday we visited, Dr. Ireland was not in town. We chose to return the next Sunday and the choir did a beautiful arrangement of an old hymn. After the service, I started crying. My husband said, "What's wrong with you?" I told him, "I feel like I was back in church today." We went home and talked about it. About six months later, we became members at Ardmore.

*What made you feel like you belonged?*

I loved Bill Ireland's sermon on that first Sunday we heard him. He talked about chaos theory and I told my husband, "We have a scholar here!" I was so impressed with the sermons and the music.

We were at Ardmore for about a year when my husband's health began to fail. I was doing the driving but had macular degeneration. There were lots of things happening in our lives. We knew Ardmore was where we needed to be because we knew people and had friends there who cared for us.

*What gives you hope?*

I woke up yesterday morning and a friend here asked, "How are you?" I said, "I feel great! It's a beautiful day. I'm so glad I'm alive at 93. I know who I am and where I am. What more could you ask for?"

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

My relationship with Jesus kept me in church all my life. Both my husband and I were involved in church. We had three children. They were all involved. Our social life revolved around church. Everything we did revolved around church. Church has always been a part of my life and I wouldn't change it.

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

I am so blessed to have lived this long. I never dreamed I would! I'm still in good health. I have three marvelous children. I'm so thankful God has provided me with such a wonderful life.

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## Ardmore ABCs...

**Congratulations to the following on their wedding anniversaries:**

**Todd & Elizabeth Morgan** - 25 years on July 1; **Steve & Sharrone Davidson** - 45 years on July 5; **Jack & Ruby Gentry** - 61 years on July 11; **Allen & Donna McGee, Jr.** - 45 years on July 26; **Jim & Wilma Brown** - 68 years on July 27; **Jim & Neva Collins** - 61 years on July 27; **Jerry & Barbara Gray** - 35 years on August 3; **David & Donna Pardue** - 35 years on August 10; **Arnold & Margaret Powers** - 67 years on August 11; **Brad & Jerri Smith** - 40 years on August 16; **Ray & Vicki Freeman** - 63 years on August 17; **Bill & Barbara Beattie, Jr.** - 60 years on August 20; **Tim & Sharon Tucker** - 40 years on August 23; **David & Jean Jordan** - 65 years on August 27

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## Gifts Have Been Given

June 19 - July 26

### In Memory of:

Howard Byars  
Carolyn Carter  
Jim Cogdill  
Tim Cogdill  
Brent Hall

M.L. "Tink" Hall  
Jean Matthews  
Barbara Merritt  
Michael Rose  
Bill Springer  
Rosa Sprinkle  
Benny Wheeling  
Bonnie Whitaker  
Eddie West

### In Honor of:

Gale Decker  
Glendora Epperson  
Debra Norris  
Kathy Stewart  
Barry & Carolyn Tilley  
Billy Whitaker  
Handicrafter's Ministry

*(continued from page 1)*

with the knowledge that our lives had just been turned on their heads. I pulled out a giant whiteboard and got out a black marker. I turned to the Staff and said, "Alright: How do we be Church?" As intimidating and scary as the unknown was, there was something thrilling about being able to start with a blank white board. We began brainstorming ideas on how to build community, how to teach our children/youth, and how to virtually worship God together. Strangely, I began to be comforted. Then a thought popped into my head: "This must be what the early church felt like."

All of our lives have been dramatically shifted because of this pandemic. There is much to mourn about how many lives have been lost, the financial toll this has taken on many families, and the continual emotional and mental effects this will have on us all. However, there have also been some things that have been completely unexpected: creativity, ingenuity, and a "back-to-the-drawing-board" sense of missional responsibility.

I pray this pandemic ends soon and we are able to return to some semblance of "normal" in the coming months. However, when we do, I hope we will always be able to have that willingness to adapt to an ever-shifting landscape with flexibility and nimbleness. Because even when the pandemic is over, the world will still be constantly changing at a breakneck speed. The people of God are continually called to listen and watch for the movements of the Holy Spirit and then to follow that Spirit.

I want you to know that your Pastoral Staff has been working very hard on how best we can live out our collective calling as God's people, called Ardmore Baptist Church. You will soon be hearing more information about some emphasis for the Fall on loving God and loving our neighbors. I will preach through the Sermon on the Mount as we explore what life in God's kingdom looks like. Our hope and prayer is that this time can be an opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves to being people of love, of grace, and of neighborliness.

Sisters and brothers of Ardmore Baptist Church, I miss you. But I fervently believe that even a time such as this is being used by God to teach all of us how to rely more fully on God's grace, how to more closely follow Jesus Christ, and how to listen more deeply to what new things the Holy Spirit may be teaching us. As we do that, whether in-person or virtually, we do so together.

- Tyler Tankersley

## Notes Of Gratitude

Marvorene Edwards