



Ardmore Announcer

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

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Ardmore BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ

Loving Your Neighbor

Jesus instructed us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." As we examine Jesus' instruction, we continue to focus on what it looks like to love our neighbors. This month, we want to be intentional about what it means to love our Ardmore Neighbors.

First, who are the people in our neighborhood?

- 9920 people live in Ardmore. This number includes over 1000 toddlers, 630 elementary students, 277 middle school students, and 194 high schoolers.
- 50% of the residents are between the ages of 20-39.
- In 2019, 261 homes were purchased in Ardmore.

Our Mission:

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



Action Steps for Loving Our Ardmore Neighbors

- **Walk, Talk, and Pray:** The Ardmore neighborhood is a great place to walk or run. Regardless of your preferred pace, consider choosing Ardmore as your location the next time you plan to move and get some fresh air. While you pass by the houses, think of the people who live there, look for opportunities to have conversation, and also pray for our neighbors.
- **Drive and Dine:** When was the last time you drove through the Ardmore Neighborhood? For many of us who attend Ardmore Baptist, the church is our destination, and we may not often take in all that is happening in the neighborhood itself. Set out for a drive along Peters Creek Parkway, Hawthorne Road, Silas Creek Parkway, and all the little roads in between. Stop to pick up dinner at one of the restaurants along the way. What do you notice? What is new to you? Who did you meet?
- **Care about and support what matters to our Ardmore neighbors.** What schools are in the neighborhood? What type of support might the teachers, parents, and students need? Have you ever attended the Ardmore Neighborhood Association's Craft Show? It's their largest and most successful event. Do you enjoy gardening? There is a Plant Swap and community garden. For a fun way to learn more about the neighborhood and meet our neighbors, mark your calendar for October 10th and participate in the Ardmore Neighborhood Association ArtWalk. Follow and Like the Ardmore Neighborhood Association Facebook page online at: https://www.facebook.com/ArdmoreNeighborhoodAssociation/?ref=page_internal to learn more.
- **Choose to spend time in Ardmore.** Enjoy the playground, tennis courts, green space, picnic shelters, and walking trails at Miller Park. Order breakfast, lunch, or dinner from restaurants in the community. Discover and support local retail shops, salons, and coffee shops. Pray for those who serve and work in these spaces.

We encourage you to share your experiences and pictures on social media using #ardmorebaptistlovesneighbors!

In-person missions did not die with COVID-19. Although it might have felt like it, especially for the Youth Ministry which was engaging in missional activities twice a month, and more in other months. The second Wednesday of the month, the Youth Ministry is back out engaging with our neighbors, loving our earth, and assisting in doing things that few people do; all in an effort to love others. Students recently came out to re-engage in in-person missions, and while it didn't look the same, with everyone having a mask on, we soon found out that it was enough. Great conversations still happened in the midst of serving. Laughter surrounded the evening as students and adults caught up on a variety of topics. Meaningful conversations happened for both students and adults as the work was being completed. In the end, the students and adult leaders picked up a 45-gallon trash bag worth of trash along Miller Street. Another neat thing about being back outside serving was the engagement with total strangers. Twice during the evening of picking up trash people either stopped their cars or slowed down to thank the students for their help in keeping the neighborhood clean. We find that when we are following the steps of Jesus, people take notice. We were thankful for the chance to be back together but, more than that, to have the chance to love others, the chance to be community again, and the chance to see with our own eyes what a difference we can all make for the sake of God's kingdom.

- Dane Martin



Ardmore Snapshot



As we focus this month on loving the Ardmore neighborhood, we wanted to tell you the story of Kelly Plott and her father, Chase Whitley. He was a sculpture artist who came to live with his daughter after a cancer diagnosis. Chase spent his final days at Kelly's house on Miller Street, less than a block from Ardmore Baptist Church. Kelly has been visiting with us for about a year and before his death in July he had been worshipping with us during our online services.

How did you find out about Ardmore Baptist Church?

Kelly: I learned of Ardmore Baptist Church after moving into the neighborhood and initially it's pure presence here caught my eye and the Christ-centered love, my heart. I've been a visitor of the Church for just over a year.

When your father came to live with you, how did he become connected to Ardmore?

Kelly: I'd accompany my Father on short walks within the Ardmore neighborhood, daily, or as far and often as his declining health would allow. His favorite part of our walks centered around Ardmore Baptist Church and specifically, walking to the wooden bench just outside the Bell Tower which became a regular point of praise. We quickly learned that although the doors were closed for worship due to COVID-19, we could enjoy a daily time of prayer and song just outside the majestic bell tower near or right about 6:00 p.m., providing us a taste of spiritual growth and moments of prayer together. On occasion, the fun side of sitting and listening to the church bells, we would play an engaging game of "name that hymn". My Father would often ask me to share some of the historical sermons I'd enjoyed on previous visits. In the days following, we'd join Sunday worship on YouTube and he'd quickly share his hopes and excitement of how much he wanted to enter the Church and worship our Lord there, as a member of Ardmore Baptist Church one day very soon. Although my Dad spoke often of the church's visual beauty, he very much recognized and felt its congregational love through Christ Jesus extending beyond its great walls and into the neighborhood.

What do you think it means for a church to be a good neighbor?

Kelly: A church is a good neighbor when it represents the unconditional love of God through teaching, community outreach, strengthening families, and embracing differences in a way that reminds us that we are followers of the Lamb, all children of God.



Chase Whitley's family has donated three sculptures of Jesus the Good Shepherd to Ardmore Baptist Church. They will be on display in the Church Lobby beginning on Sunday, October 4.

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CHURCH PHONE: 336-725-8767; FAX: 336-725-2487; E-MAIL: Postmaster@ardmorebaptist.org; WEB SITE: www.ardmorebaptist.org

Gifts Have Been Given

August 30 - September 20

In Memory of:

C.C. & Mary Brown
Ofelia Lovitt
Jean Matthews
Pat Whisnant
Bonnie Whitaker

In Honor of:

Linda Cline
Jim & Rosemary Davidson
David & Martha Fitzgerald
Paul Mullen
Billy Whitaker
Jean Phillips Group

POPS Is Back!



The Parents of Preschoolers (POPS) group gathered together for an outdoor play date for the first time since March. We enjoyed catching up, celebrating new milestones, and finding ways to take care of each other while parenting during a pandemic. We can't wait to gather again and welcome newcomers!

Ardmore ABCs...

Congratulations to the following on their wedding anniversaries:

Jim & Rosemary Davidson - 56 years on September 4;

Les & Diane Davis - 56 years on September 5;

Jim & Jaulita Sullivan - 34 years on October 10

