



Ardmore Announcer

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

April 16, 2021
Volume 64
Number 2

Ardmore BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ

Coming Soon!



*Lies My Preacher Told Me:
An Honest Look at the
Old Testament*
by Brent Strawn
Monday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.



Summer 2021 Sermon Series
(begins June 13)

Our Mission:

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



A New Day Dawns

Our front door faces the sunrise. There are mornings when Jess and I will wake up and open the door to be greeted by an artistic array of colors. Whenever I see that amazing display, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratefulness for this new day. A dawn is the appearance of something new in our lives and it has the power to fill us with hope. It is with good reason that the resurrection of Jesus takes place at dawn (Matthew 28:1).

For the past few months, Ardmore Baptist Church has had a dedicated team of leaders who have been journeying through a visioning process called *Dawnings*. Our *Dawnings* team has consisted of the Vision & Navigation Team, the Pastoral Staff, and we have been led by Ardmore member Rick Jordan. *Dawnings* is not a normal visioning process in which the team puts together a ten-point-plan for new initiatives or successes. *Dawnings* is not a one-and-done kind of process; we are not putting together a binder of ideas simply so that it may sit on a shelf next to the previous visioning process binders. *Dawnings* is much more focused on a church's identity and mission. The two questions we wrestle with in *Dawnings* are:

1. What is God calling us to do?
2. Who is God calling us to be?

We've explored a wide variety of things during our time in *Dawnings*. We've engaged in contemplative prayer practices such as *lectio divina*. We've spent concentrated time meditating and studying God's loving-kindness and steadfast love (Hebrew: *hesed*). But the phrase that continues to rise to the surface for us has been: Welcoming Community. What does it mean for Ardmore Baptist Church to be a truly welcoming community in which all people are introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are imbued with a sense of belonging, and are invited to a path of spiritual formation as we seek to live out the kingdom of God alongside one another.

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Invitation & Hospitality: DeNeal Fowler

Ardmore Baptist Worship Media and Technology Team: Behind The Scenes



Kevin Anderson is our Director of Worship Media.

Tell us how you came to be Director of Worship Media at Ardmore Baptist Church?

I started as Director of Worship Media at the end of 2019. I learned the sound system, lights and projection computer, with the goal of adding video equipment for recording and live streaming of services. Little did anyone know that a few months later the pandemic would propel this goal into fifth gear.

What interests/skills best prepared you for this role?

I have been interested in music and technology since I was eight years old. I played violin, saxophone, trumpet, and guitar while I was growing up. I played with several bands in school and with friends outside of school. I went on to college and studied guitar performance, pedagogy, music theory, and studio recording. I studied with some of the best musicians in Minneapolis, and I played with several bands and started teaching guitar lessons. I eventually started my own business teaching music.

I also got my first computer when I was eight years old, before the mouse was commonplace and we used floppy disks. I've held several IT jobs throughout my career. I currently work in the IT department for Novant Health, supporting the staff at Forsyth Medical Center Hospital. What I enjoy most are the connections I make with people every day and the opportunity to use my skills and talents to help and teach others. I have always enjoyed figuring out how things work and thinking of creative solutions to challenges. I watched every episode of MacGyver as a kid.

What does a typical week look like as Director of Worship Media? What are the things you do to make it possible for us to worship online?

During a typical week, I schedule volunteers to run the sound board, recording, lights/projection, and the video/live stream equipment for each Sunday service. The team and I prepare the equipment, settings, slides, titles, etc., for the upcoming service. I arrive early on Sunday morning to set up microphones and equipment, and get everything turned on and ready for the service. I help facilitate sound checks with musicians and speakers before the service, oversee the Tech Team operations during the service, and the recording and live stream of the service. Afterwards, I put away equipment, keep the digital files organized, and shut everything down. I am often the last one to leave. Then I burn a DVD and CD of the service, to be duplicated and mailed out by our Music Assistant, and edit the audio to create a weekly podcast with the scripture and sermon. I also purchase, configure, maintain, and troubleshoot equipment.

Tell us about the Tech Team. Who is presently serving? What skills are most helpful when serving? Are you presently looking for volunteers?

We have an awesome Tech Team made up of some great people! Clark Hopper, Doug Browning, Kit Browning, Spencer Browning, Avery Browning, Sierra Browning, Jason Snipes, Randy Steen, Kerry Lanier, Lamar Davis, Jeff Rawls, Ed Warren, and Jason Cockerham.

The most important skills/qualities are a willingness to learn and a servant's heart. Of course, an aptitude for computers and sound equipment can also be very helpful. We are almost always looking for more volunteers to learn and help with the Tech Team.

Is there anything else you want to share with the congregation about your role or this ministry?

I really enjoy working with the Tech Team, and I have learned quite a lot this past year while serving as Director of Worship Media, especially while implementing video recording and live streaming of services, and adapting to changes during the pandemic. I appreciate all of the positive feedback and support that I have received. Thank you so much!

Worship, Music, & Arts: David Fitzgerald

Music Ministers During The Pandemic

A choir member recently thanked me for the many ways Ardmore has found meaningful and creative avenues for music to be present in our worship and in the life of our singers, instrumentalists, and congregation. We lamented the loss we felt due to no congregational singing and very limited numbers in the choir. But as he left he said something like this, "We may not be able to sing as a congregation or as a full choir, but we can always continue to worship and praise our God." I am so proud of our singers, choirs, ringers, and instrumentalists for all the ways we have been able to use music to minister to others during the pandemic. Below is a poem written by one of our JOY Singers, Jo West. It pretty much says what our musicians have been feeling during this time. Thank you, Jo, for your beautiful words and message.

This is My Story, This is My Song!

Written by Jo West, February 24, 2021



*When singing, playing or just hearing our favorite hymns or anthems,
We encounter many emotions, emotional ups and downs as life flees by,
And yet, sometimes more often for me, tears to cry - and
Then I remember that back row bass bellowing out a solo,
When most of the choir was silent, observing a long awaited rest,
And oh, those impromptu jokes that also brought laughter up from our toes!
Then, after a good rehearsal with most members prepared and the others, oh well,
The Director closed with prayer requests, a devotional thought, and prayer.
As the Ardmore Choir Members dispersed, God sent with blessings,
They surely chatted some more as they scattered for home, here and there!*

*Again, along life's byways, "when I see the work of His fingers,"
It brings to mind the "Majesty and Glory of Your Name,"
And on a "lighter note," when that orchestral score was perhaps a bit too loud,
We graciously waited for those high-pitched shrills to rise
From all those wearing hearing-aids in disguise.
But, gratefully Lord, I lift my voice in praises of thanksgiving,
For the Ardmore musicians and technicians, giving their all,
While sharing in our virtual recorded hours of worship,
YouTube, the church website and "Zoom."*

*Certainly, it is comforting when we find ourselves humming,
"Bless be the Tie that Binds our hearts in Christian love," and
Surely, how those "Precious Memories" have lingered,
"How they have ever flooded our souls!"
And, now literally "in the stillness of the midnight air,"
We, I feel have shared frustrations, loneliness and despair.
But, "nothing or no one can separate us,"
As the hymn so beautifully shares
For we are "Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood,"
And upheld by His loving care!*

*Yes, our family and church friends bless us with love and laughter,
But, none greater than what a harmonious musical favorite can also do!
So "sisters and brothers" in Christ, steadfast and sure,
We now once again look to the Cross - for His reassurance, guidance and grace.
Though now many voices are silent and unrehearsed rhythms abound,
We continue our life's journeys, remembering the past and the hymns of old.
In closing, will you join me in singing or playing one of my favorites
"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine", "this is my story, this is my song!
Praising my Savior all the day long!"*



Faith Formation: Children & Families - Lee Ritchie

There are three pivotal times in the life of the church: Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, and Pentecost. These stories of God and God's people shape who we are and how we live in this world. As we approached Easter we invited families to journey through Holy Week using all of their senses in an event we call *The Family Easter Celebration*. You will see pictures of families tying cloth to a web of praises for God, sharing Communion, stringing beads to learn the Daily Examine, smelling myrrh as they remembered Jesus' death and burial and created an empty tomb to celebrate Jesus' defeat over death. We pray that these sensory activities around Holy Week will continue to equip families in sharing the stories of their faith and living out Christ-like love.



Family VBS - July 13 - 15

Vacation Bible School will look different this summer. It will be a three day, family-oriented, evening VBS. Families will sign up for a start time to participate each night in the activities and stories of our theme, "Come to the Table." Families should plan for an hour of VSB each night. Sign up [here](#) by June 15.

Upcoming Activities

April 25

Kingdom Quest

May 2

Children's Sunday

June 29 - July 2

Passport Kids Camp

July 13 - 15

Family VBS

Faith Formation: Youth & College Students: Dane Martin

On a Saturday morning in March, twenty youth and adults huddled at 355 N. Crawford Place in Winston-Salem. They weren't huddled together for warmth from the cold weather but for the warmth of community ... the warmth of caring for others within their spirit. The opportunity to serve H.O.P.E. (help our people eat) is a chance to support an organization which strives to meet food insecurity in our community, and a chance to be together and see each other in person as we worked. The sound was a subtle hum of voices and laughter that none of us had heard in such a long time. These sounds were music to our souls and a reminder from God of the importance of community and collaboration, both for ourselves and more importantly for other people. We packed food bags that were going out that day, full of fresh produce to help those in our community have fresh foods. We made lunches that were going out to dozens of locations around the city to feed those who might be skipping lunch today because of a lack of means. It was a great reminder that despite a pandemic the work continues. The work of us thinking about more than us, looking beyond our neighborhood to help, and seeing where God is working and where the gaps in support and advocacy lie so we may step into the place God would have us be. With so many hands, the work didn't take long, but it was just what we needed and it made a way for people to receive just what they might need too.



Upcoming Activities

April 18

Youth Sunday

April 25

Sunday Evening Bible Study Kick-off

June 6

Graduate Sunday

June 22 - 24

Junior/Senior Mission Experience

July 5 - 9

Local Mission Camp

As a church, what is our role in college ministry? What does college ministry look like for students who have called Ardmore Baptist home and are away, and students who have come to this city for school? These are important questions we should all ask ourselves as a weird college school year comes to an end. Students of all ages will need more support, more time for conversation, more community, and more love after experiencing a pandemic that will shape them for the rest of their lives. So, what should we do individually and collectively? It's a question to continue asking ourselves and not ignore. If we ignore the obvious question, then we ignore people who are asking big questions, coming into adulthood, and determining if faith is real in this world or not. I don't have the answers but in struggling with the question, hopefully we hear the Holy Spirit nudging us into a direction. Throughout the summer it is my hope that you will ponder this question. We as a college ministry will be preparing to have a summer book study focusing on *The Road Back To You*, which helps people discover themselves and grow in their faith in the process. We hope to start this study in late May/early June.

Faith Formation: Adults & Congregational Care: Gina Brock

After the article about Stephen Ministry was published in the January edition of the *Announcer*, we received this email from Linda Cline.



Steve just read me the article in the *Announcer* about the interest in the Stephen Ministry. To say I am "elated" is putting it "mildly"!

I was ordained as a Deacon at Ardmores Baptist Church. I took my deacon responsibilities as a priority and anxiously accepted the task of researching and presenting a Congregational Care plan for our church. During this research, I learned about a seminar on the Stephen Ministry being sponsored by several local non-profit organizations. Steve and I immediately registered for this two-day seminar held at the Jewish Temple. We learned everything about this ministry. We were placed at round tables with a lay person already involved with the ministry. It was intense and we learned so much. With the binder in hand and filled with excitement, I presented all the facts about this ministry, including training locations, fees, and outline of commitment required. Unfortunately, we needed a commitment from a ministerial staff member and this was not available at the time.

I am so excited to see interest renewed for the Stephen Ministry! It has changed through the years, but still has the same goals. I am looking forward to hearing how ABC sees this in our future!

- Linda Cline

Three of our members will train as Stephen Ministry Leaders in April and May. These three will then train persons from our Ardmores church family to be Stephen Ministers. Watch *QuickBits* for the invitation to attend this training.

Click [here](#) for more info on Stephen Ministry.

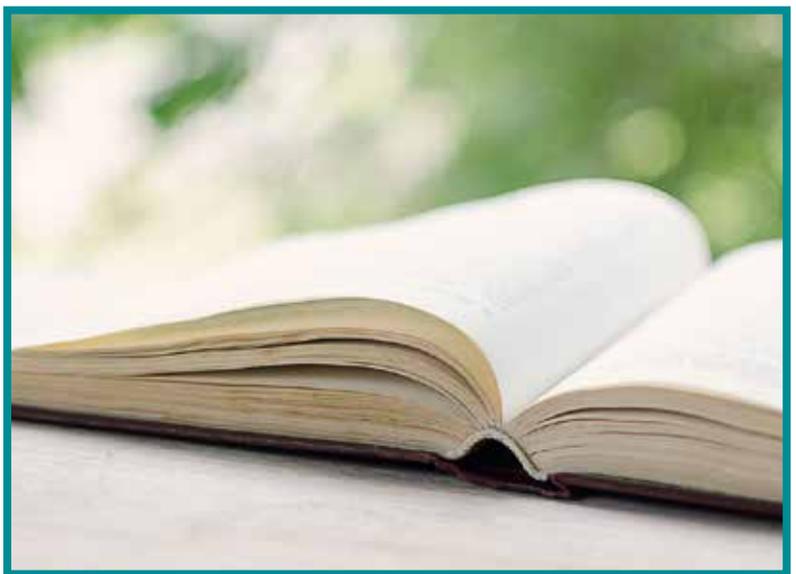
We asked the Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team "What books have been spiritually life-changing for you?" Here's what they said:

Leslie Baldwin: *The Hiding Place* - Corrie Ten Boom

Susan David: *The Cross and the Switchblade* – David Wilkerson; *Ethics* – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Rick Jordan: *The Universal Christ and The Divine Dance* – Richard Rohr; *The Spirituality of the Psalms* – Walter Brueggemann

Amanda McIntyre: *Own Your Everyday* – Jordan Lee Dooley; *The Struggle is Real* – Nichol Unice; *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* – Lysa TerKeurst



John Griffenhagen: *Practicing His Presence* – Brother Lawrence & Frank Laubach; *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups* – Edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith

Missional Engagement: Amy Gallaher

Partnership with Moore Elementary School

Sometimes the heart of Jesus is best reflected in the smile of a volunteer, even if it is from across the city via a screen. Our Virtual Reading Buddies are the heart and soul of our loving presence at Moore Elementary School in a time when we can't physically be in the building. We would love to have you as a Reading Buddy or as a partner in prayer for this unique ministry of our church. Some of our volunteers answered the question, "Why do you volunteer to read to kids at Moore?"

"My parents read to me at an early age. It sparked a life-long habit of reading and love of learning. I want to pass that love of reading along." – Steve Jolley

"I read for Moore because I love reading and I want children to love it, also." – Grace Jones

"Because learning to read gives a child a key that will unlock any door they can dream up!" – Linda Agnant

"Just as Jesus teaches me through Scripture stories, I hope Moore students will learn life lessons through stories read to them." – Joyce Jolley

"I read for Moore kids because I love being able to connect with children even in a virtual setting. I enjoy getting to read all the children's books and make a child's day with a smile and a book." – Avery Browning



Future Missional Engagement with Ardmore:

- Save-the-date: Friday, May 14; 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Ardmore Blood Drive - sign up [here](#).
- Save-the-date: Sunday, May 16 - Encourager Church Covenant signing in both services. More info to come.
- Volunteer at the Remote Learning Center by clicking [here](#).
- Become a Moore Elementary School Virtual Reading Buddy - email Amy Gallaher (agallaher@ardmorebaptist.org).
- Samaritan Ministries: Volunteer in the soup kitchen with an Ardmore group or sign up to deliver meals to a local hotel for medically fragile guests - email Amy Gallaher (agallaher@ardmorebaptist.org).

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Remembering Elizabeth Gordon



When our sister handbell ringer, Elizabeth Gordon, passed away, the Ardmore Bell Choir felt a sense of deep loss. She not only left a hole in the choir, but she left an empty place in each of our ringer's hearts.

So, the ringers decided to remember Elizabeth by commissioning a handbell piece in her memory. The piece has been beautifully and creatively arranged by the Minister of Instrumental Music at The Shepherd Church in Cary, NC, Jon Milton. It is based on one of the hymns sung at Elizabeth's funeral, "How Deep the Father's Love for Us." The Ardmore Bells plan to present the inaugural ringing of the piece in May 2021. It will be a permanent part of our handbell library.

- Jim Davidson

ARTS
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www.ardmorebaptist.org

A New Day Dawns

(continued from page 1)

In the next season of Ardmore Baptist Church's life, it is my hope and prayer that you will be able to see a focus on:

- Developing a sense of Gospel-centric hospitality
- Being formed by Christ below the surface of our being
- A renewed commitment to following Jesus as individuals and as a community of faith

A new day is dawning, sisters and brothers. And I am filled with hope.

- Tyler Tankersley, Senior Pastor