

Westfield Baptist Church

Our Mission & Values

Westfield Baptist Church exists is to glorify God by responding to the needs of all people through loving service and open doors.

We value being Christ-Centered, Family Focused & Bible Based.

Christ-Centered

Living a Christ-centered life is challenging amidst the competing distractions of everyday routine, but it begins with acknowledging Jesus Christ as the source of our existence, gifts, and blessings. In surrendering our ambitions to Him, our ultimate goal is to glorify Jesus in every aspect of life, guided by new desires from His love and grace, with the assurance of eternal hope and His promised presence. (1 Cor 15:19, 1 Cor 15:58, 2 Cor 5:8, Rev 21:4).

Family Focused

Family is the primary way early churches identified themselves. Westfield's family-focused church is a community of believers who attend together, sharing in faith and life. Family ministry is a partnership between home and church, involving children, parents, and active family members. The ultimate goal is to witness parents and grandparents becoming spiritual champions for their children and grandchildren. (Deut 6:4-9; 11:19, Psalm 111:10, Prov 3:5-6, 2 John 4, 3 John 4)

Bible-Based

The Bible is God's written revelation to man, written by human authors under Holy Spirit guidance. It is the sole source of truth, inerrant, and infallible, and serves as the authority for lives and ministries. (Deut 4:1-2, Psalm 19:7-10 Psalm 119:105, Rom 16:25-26, Col 3:16, 2 Tim 3:15-17, Titus 1:9, Heb 4:12)

WBC adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message, 2000

A Brief History of Westfield Baptist Church

The original congregation met in a brush arbor in 1878, just a few hundred yards below the present building. The Spirit of God worked in the hearts of the people and another of Christ's churches came into being. A group met at a stand near Westfield on the first Sunday of September in 1879. R.D. Haymore was elected as moderator and Bro. J.M. Jessup as clerk. They proceeded to organize 19 individuals into a Baptist church – to be known as the Westfield Baptist Church. A Confession of Faith and Church Covenant was adopted by the church.

Before the first church was built, the congregation met at Simmons School House and later in 1880 at Shelton's School House. The first house of worship for this small band of believers was a small frame structure that stood on the site of the present Sanctuary.

In June of 1925, Mrs. George Snow came to Westfield and organized the first W.M.S. (Women's Missionary Society, as it was called at the time). They made a clover-design bedspread, with each person giving 10 cents to have his or her name written on the leaves. They were able to secure 429 names.

In December 1926, the members of the church voted to build a new church to be started in the spring of 1927 at a cost of \$ 14,000. The first service was held on the 2nd Sunday of August in 1927. The next ten years were difficult times because of the economic depression. On July 18, 1937, the church was free of debt and that building, the sanctuary we now occupy, was dedicated to God in a special – all day service led by Dr. J.T. Smith.

In 1950, as a result of increased membership, new Sunday School rooms were added. In 1953, a parsonage was built in order to provide for a full-time pastor living in the community. The Rev. Reece Kyzar was called as pastor.

In 1957-58, an educational building was built. This provided additional classroom space, a kitchen and fellowship hall for the church. A baptistry was added to the back of the Sanctuary, along with a mural given by Mr. & Mrs. Thurmond Midkiff in memory of Joel Jessup. The first baptismal service was held, in the new baptistry, on July 15, 1959.

On Sunday, October 15, 1978, Westfield celebrated its 100th anniversary with Dr. Charles Howell being the guest speaker.

In December of 1985, Rev & Mrs. Billy Washburn led the church in its first 'Hanging of the Greens' service.

In 1987, a handicapped ramp and paved parking was built onto the west side of the sanctuary entrance in memory of Mickey Collins. In 1992, renovations were made to the sanctuary and educational building.

In June of 1999, the church broke ground on their newest addition – a new Fellowship Hall & Educational Building to be constructed by Omega Construction.

Beginning on Jan 2, 2005, WBC began offering an early worship service at 8:30 am – followed by a coffee break, 9:30 till 9:45 am – followed by Sunday School. The late worship service will be at 11 am.

On Feb 27, 2005, Westfield dedicated a new flagpole area in memory of Bruce Lowe. It was held immediately following the morning service. Rev. Joel Stephens, Thurmond Midkiff and Ken Lowe spoke along with VFW members. Afterwards, the church enjoyed a covered-dish luncheon.

In Oct 21, 2007, Westfield celebrated Homecoming. The highlight of the service was the 'burning of the note' for the new Fellowship Building. Members of the Finance Committee were: Jill Smith, Kathy White, Jonathan Inman, Dwayne Greeson, Cooke' Jessup, Tim Tilley and Barbara Lowe – Treasurer.

At the April 9, 2014 Business Meeting, Kathy White reported the Missions Committee and the Coed 2 Sunday School class were co-sponsoring a rummage sale with proceeds going to the backpack project. Darrin Haywood, teacher for the Coed 2 class explained there were many children whose families were struggling financially and may not otherwise have food to eat. Backpacks would be filled with food for these children to take home to their families over the weekend.

At the end of both services on Sunday, July 13, 2014, Westfield voted to expand their educational space through the purchase of the Westfield Medical Center building – known now as the Church Annex.

In July 2016, the new church fellowship hall was renovated by painting, new flooring and new window treatments; along with new tables & chairs.

Because of the dedication & perseverance of those dedicated believers in 1878, much has been accomplished and many have been added to the Kingdom of God - to Him be all Glory!

Charter Members of Westfield: J.E. Simmons, M.O. Hill, T.L. Sarles, W.A. Simmons, J.M. Jessup, J.W. Caudle, Malinda Sarles, M.J. Simmons, L.J. Moir, Ellen Lowe, Laura J. Teder, Delila A Welch, M.J. Jessup, Mary E. Jackson, Delia A. Jessup, Samira Christian, Jennie King, Francis Caudle and Mandy L. Welch

Pastors that served WBC:

1879-1904 – Elder Pinkney Oliver, Rev. Hence Bowman, Rev. J.L. Jenkins and Rev. J.T. Lewellyn

1904-1906 – Rev. R.D. Haymore

1907-1908 – Dr. J.T. Smith

1909-1911 – Rev. C.C. Haymore

1912-1914 – Dr. J.T. Smith

1914-1915 – Rev. O.E. Ward

1916 - Rev. Charles Utley

1920-1922 – Dr. J.T. Smith

1923 - Rev. O.E. Ward

1924-1928 – Rev. S.F. Morton

1928-1937 – Rev. O.H. Hauser

1938-1942 – Rev. R.W. Hovis

1942-1943 – Rev. Dennis Larkin

1944-1947 – Rev. Charlie Simmons

1948 - Rev. E.W. Powers

1949-1951 – Rev. Lonnie Fleming

1951-1953 – Rev. E.L. White

1954-1956 – Rev. Reece Kyzer

1957-1959 – Rev. Waldo Early

1959-1963 – Rev. Talmadge Hall

1963-1967 – Rev. Marion Ringer

1970 - Rev. Roy Franklin (interim)

1971-1973 – Rev. Milliard Bounds

1973-1977 – Rev. E.G. Jordan

1977-1981 – Rev. Timothy Lawson

1981-1984 – Dr. Bill Cain (interim)

1984-1990 – Rev. Billy Washburn

1990-1992 – Dr. Gerald Smith (interim)

1992-2000 – Rev. Robert Brown

2001-2017 – Dr. Joel Stephens

2017-2018 – Rev. Brad Quesinberry (interim)

2018-2020 – Rev. Brian Chilton

2021-2022 – Rev. Benn Fleming (Intentional Interim)

2023 - Rev. Jimmy Lancaster (Transitional Interim)

The following served as Associate Pastors (while Joel Stephens was Pastor)

2003-2008 - Matt Harris

2009-2012 - Jim Richland

2013-2016 - Kendall Yarboro

2017-2022 - Wes McGarry