

westside
BAPTIST CHURCH



A look back at where God has brought us from in 40 years and how we have overcome. God has been so faithful, for He has brought us a mighty long way as we serve God by sharing Christ and loving people!

Matthew 22:35-40 & Matthew 28:16-20

1984 In 1983, Pastor Ben Smith of Lakeland Baptist Church had the vision to establish a predominately African American church on the west side of town in a 3-mile radius of Lakeland. At Southwestern Seminary, Pastor Smith found 25-year-old, Minister Roosevelt Brown and asked him to pastor a new church in Lewisville, Texas called Westside Baptist Church (WBC).

Pastor Brown accepted the call and began serving, going door-to-door, canvassing the community for people interested in helping start Westside. Bible studies were held at various homes in Lewisville and the surrounding areas. The first bible study conducted at Reginald (Reggie) and Ida Rembert's kitchen table with the paperback study guide, "After I've Been Born Again, What's Next?". On March 8, 1984, Pastor Brown led the first worship service with 50 people at the renovated Gulf Car Wash behind Lakeland Baptist Church; the reason we so lovingly called our church "Car Wash Baptist." At that time, Carissa Paul was Church Treasurer. In June of 1984, the church began Sunday school classes for adults, youth, and children with Paul Nealy as Sunday School Director. Our choir and congregation were the same.

1985 Reginald Rembert became Church Treasurer / Hershel Graham, Kenneth Jackson, and Edna Shambry became Trustees/Money Counters.

1986 A choir was organized led by Linda Buckner, and in August, we held our first Vacation Bible School.

1987 The church began community evangelism work. A commitment was made to win more souls for Christ by making Westside's presence known in the community through ministering to the needy and residents of Lewisville, giving to missions, and providing activities for youth and children. Lonnie Tipton became choir director / a nursery was organized led by Myrtle Tipton.

- 1988 A Church Council was created to help organized church activities. Charles Hoskins and Robert Paul became the first Deacons / Brotherhood, and Women On A Mission (WoM) were organized. In the latter part of 1988, Pastor Roosevelt Brown, with his wife Tonnette, relocated to California to become a Navy Chaplain. After Pastor Brown's departure, the church elected a Pastoral Search Committee, led by Deacon Charles Hoskins and Ida Rembert, to select a new pastor. Kenneth Blake, a member of Westside, was teaching bible study and preaching while we were in search of a new pastor. The Pastoral Search Committee selected Kenneth Blake and recommended him to the church as the Bi-vocational Interim Pastor.
- 1989 The Pastoral Search Committee presented Kenneth Blake to the church to fill the pastor's position, and on March 19, 1989, the congregation elected Kenneth Blake, as Westside's ordained bi-vocational pastor. He and his wife, Venita, ministered spirit-filled teaching, preaching, praying, and sing. Pastor Blake presented, "Making Gods Word Plain Is A Part of The Plan" as Westside's theme. He then organized the Nominating Committee to select additional trustees and deacons. That same year, WBC's Drama Ministry, now called Fine Arts, was established, led by Robert Paul, and Ida Rembert / Charles Hoskins was the Deacon Board Chairman. A building and fund- raising campaign, "Together We Build," chaired by Reginald Rembert, was organized to acquire land for the construction of a new church building. In the same year, we purchased property to build because Pastor Ben Smith approached Texas Commerce Bank (Doug Sweeney-President) for a loan that Lakeland Baptist Church would underwrite.
- 1990 With the assistance of Lakeland Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Carrollton, First Baptist Church Denton, Denton Baptist Association, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, we acquired land to build. In the fall of 1990, we broke ground at 802 West Bellaire Blvd.

- 1991 We realized our dream and moved into our brand new 200-seat sanctuary, and the “Annual Prayer Chain” was established. Membership increased significantly, and in October, Pastor Blake requested the church allow him to become its full-time pastor. The church received this request with open arms because he was already giving his full-time service / Rev. Larry Willis became the bi-vocational Minister of Education and started discipleship classes on Sunday nights.
- 1993 Discipleship classes moved from Sunday nights to Wednesday nights due to accommodate the church growth. The late Chris Crowder served as Youth Minister / Robert Paul served as Deacon Board Chairman.
- 1994 The “United We Build” campaign began. We opened our educational wing, and planning began for our “Family Life Center.” Minister Willis introduced the “Goss Sunday School” training, which grew the Sunday school to overflowing / Sharlene Brittian submitted the necessary paperwork for Westside’s summer track program to become an official track club with The Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF). TAAF is a nonprofit organization established in 1925 to promote, organize, and conduct amateur athletics in the state of Texas. The WBC Track Club was led by Reggie Johnson (Athletic Director), Sharlene Brittian (Head Coach), Terry Brittian (Asst. Head Coach), and a host of parent volunteer coaches. Seventy-five children, ages 4 to 18 years old, were enrolled in the track program.
- 1996 Ruby Derrough headed our Nursery & Children’s Church.
- 1997 Howard McCoo, Sr., appointed Chairman of the Deacon Board / John Perry, became the Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman / Chris Respass named the bi-vocational Youth Minister / Freddie Jackson named Church Administrator / Treasurer / Doris Scales headed the Westside Healthcare Organization (WHO) Ministry.

- 1998 The Family Life Center was completed. Our worship/service attendance doubled, and due to this growth, we began two Sunday morning worship services.
- 1999 Ministers Larry Willis and Chris Repass became full-time staff / Alma Terry was named Nursery Team Lead.
- 2001 In conjunction with Vacation Bible School (VBS), a special prayer walk was added through the surrounding neighborhood / Ray Bowens was appointed Deacon Board Chairman.
- 2002 Minister Chris Repass established Antioch Christian Fellowship / Minister Joe Fields became the bi-vocational Youth Minister / Rosalind Spencer was named the bi-vocational Children's Minister. A building committee was formed and started a capital campaign called, "Forward by Faith". We broke ground on the 900 W. Bellaire Blvd campus.
- 2003 The first Purity Dinner was established/ The Boy Scouts and AWANA charters were launched.

- 2004 Dr. Patrick Bradley was selected as Minister of Music / Dr. Steven Davidson became the bi-vocational Counselor / Under the leadership of Dwayne Pipkins; the Evangelism team started youth prison visits. In December 2004, we moved into the 900 West Bellaire campus, at present a 1500-seat Worship Center, and held our first worship service.
- 2005 Minister Rosalind Spencer developed the WBC Childcare Center / "The Net," an evangelism training method was incorporated / A full orchestra along with the Notes of Hope Chorale Debuted / Avet Anderson was named Event Coordinator / Vincent Vann took the helm of the Media Ministry.
- 2006 Deacon Lacey Lytle was appointed Deacon Board Chairman / Chester Anderson headed the Stewardship Ministry / Friends & Family Ministry was organized under Rhonda Brown / Debra Reliford, oversaw the WHO. Ministry.
- 2007 Minister Larry Willis was called to pastor, Morse Street Baptist Church / Minister Louis Rosenthal became the bi-vocational Minister of Education and created the Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) / Stan Walker became Deacon Council Chairman / The Greeters Ministry was organized by Demetria Thrash.
- 2008 Minister Louis Rosenthal became the full-time Minister of Education / Chester Anderson, was named Church Treasurer / Ashley Hyder was appointed Remnant Ministry lead, and the Remnant Choir was established / Barbara Jackson became servant leader of the WHO. Ministry.

2009 Westside planted Minister Joe Fields as pastor of New Beginnings Church / Minister Rosalind Spencer was placed over the Youth & Children ministries, and the name changed to Pebbles-to-Living Stones Ministry / Deborah Benard was named Pre-School Childcare Director.

In January 2009, the Senior Ministry officially launched for WBC members 55 and older after its inception in the Spring of 2008 with Gloria Massey and Vera Martin. Sis. Massey proposed the name change to OWL (Older Wiser Leaders) with members Al and Mamie Duncan, Bobbie Jones, Emelda McElhannon, Janet Collins, Helen Harper, David Beatty, Vera Martin, Howard and Claudester McCoo. Charter Member Servant Leaders are as follows: Minister Coby Mensah (First Servant Leader, January 2009 – March 2009), Gloria Massey (Servant Leader, May 2009 – 2013), Al Duncan (Assistant Servant Leader), Janet Collins (Group Leader, Newsletter, and Brochure Publisher), Helen Harper (Treasurer & Group Leader), Ethel Harris (Secretary & Group Leader), Barbara Jackson (Extended Hands), Elmelda McElhannon (Hospitality), Polly Wilkerson (Moment of Laughter), and Oscar Bickham (Prayer Leader).

Ruby Derrough faithfully served as leader of Koinonia Kids, Westside's first children's church ministry. Beginning 1993 through 200, she recruited and trained volunteers who ministered to nearly 100 children ages 4 years old through 7th grade. She successfully advocated for an outdoor play area, safety measures like background checks for volunteers, and evangelism training for all volunteers who served in children's ministry.

2010 WBC Childcare's name was changed to Westside Christian Academy under Deione Reeves.

2011 Minister Louis Rosenthal was called to Pastor at McKinney First Baptist Church / Minister Eddie Robinson led Evangelism & Outreach Ministry / Jai McIver selected as SHOP leader / Minister Henry Marshall was selected as the Minister of Education / Dr. Traci Petteway, led the Counseling Ministry / Stephanie Warfield led the Remnant (Young Adult) Ministry / Deacon Jody Grasty became Deacon Board Chairman.

- 2012 In November, WBC went through many transitions. After 25 years of service, Pastor Blake resigned as Senior Pastor.
- 2013 Pastor Taft Sales served as Interim Pastor of Westside from 2013 until 2015. After that, Rev. Thomas Bessix was elected Senior Pastor. Pastor Bessix made efforts to increase Westside's involvement in the community. Together with Minister Melanie Westbrook-Johnson, he partnered with the Texas Food Bank to provide food to the congregation and community members who were struggling with food insecurity. Additionally, Pastor Bessix restructured and established new ministries to address the changing needs of the congregation and community. Following these changes, Min. Westbrook took on the role of servant leader of the Evangelism Ministry, and Deacon Louis Mabin became the servant leader of Community Outreach, which included the food pantry.
- 2014 The WBC Mass Choir appeared on Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Bobby Jones Gospel Show / "One Witness" nominated for six (6) Rhythm of Gospel Awards / The Teller Committee formed and led by Branon Gilbert / Under Charles Holmes' leadership the Communications Committee became a standing committee / Deacon Guy Madison became Deacon Board Chairman.
- 2015 The Pastoral Search Committee presented Thomas Bessix to the church to fill the Senior Pastor position. Pastor Bessix led us as the "Greater Works Church," "Where People Do Greater Works for the Kingdom of God." Turkessa Shelley was named Director of Westside's Christian Academy / Ashley Johnson led the Media Ministry / Kelli Lorne led the Remnant Ministry / Robert & Kissena Sheets led the Singles & Single Again Ministry / Mark Wilcox led the Greeters Ministry / Kay Futrell led Friends of Family Ministry / Deacon John Thompson led the Stewardship Ministry / Deacon Michael Sidberry led Athletic Ministry / Leepora Thomas led the Senior Saints (O.W.L.) Ministry / Minister Melanie Johnson led Evangelism/Outreach Ministry; Ted McClennon became Chair of the Communications Committee / Sharlene Brittian became Chair of the Marketing Team / Tracy Madison led the Personnel Committee.

2016 Pastor Thomas Bessix partnered with the North Texas Food Bank to serve the community / The Care & Compassion Ministry was developed under Tina Rosado / The Social Justice Ministry was formed under Ken Washington / Several ministries were renamed: The Jobs Ministry was renamed Career Ministry directed by Amber Winston; The Friends-to-Family Ministry was renamed The Timothy Ministry and led by the late Minister Avis Nichols; The Communications Committee revamped and renamed The MarCom (Marketing & Communications) Ministry led by Sharlene Brittian / The WBC Website was revamped, and the social media platforms were launched (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube) / The Sunday Morning Bible Study was renamed Kingdom Connection Hour and transitioning the study guide from Lifeway to National Baptist Sunday School Publishing (Faith Pathway) / The Wednesday Night Bible Study was renamed Re-Fuel Wednesday and “Hot Topics” was incorporated in Wednesday Night Bible Studies.

2017 Senior Pastor Thomas Bessix resigned.

2018 A Pastoral Search Committee was formed, and voted in, to find a new pastor. The committee consisted of Gail Massey Prince (Chair), Dr. Donovan Brittian (Assistant Chair), Chanta Walton (Secretary/Parliamentarian), Schawanda Henderson (Assistant Secretary), Jennifer Hannah, George McKnight, Reginald Rembert, Jr., Michael Sidberry (Deacon Chair), Shirley Byrd and Vaughn Deary (Assistant Deacon Chair). In the interim, the Pulpit Supply Committee hired an Interim Pastor, Dr. Delvin Atchison. Voiceover announcements were introduced for worship service / Worldwide recording artists Kirk Franklin, announced the launched of “The Exodus” Music Arts Festival at WBC / Prairie View A&M University Marching Storm Band performed with 400+ students during our worship service / Yolanda Adams & Dy’Verse Music Group during their launch of “Save the World” Gospel Benefit Concert, along with the following supporting artists: Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Lillian Lloyd, Andrea Helms, The Blairs, The Andrews Brothers, Cardell Booker, Chadney Christle, Drea Randle, Ruth Goolsby, David Starks, St. John Baptist Choir and our own WBC Mass Choir performed.

- 2019 Dr. Delvin Atchison (Brenda) with an overwhelming majority vote of 97.1% was elected as Senior Pastor / New programs were launched, including Breakfast with Dr. Atchison (Westside Senior Saints), Annual New Members Connect Saturday, and Westside Worldwide.
- 2020 Dr. Atchison's Vision Conference revealed our vision and mission statements / revealed Imagine More – “Westside’s invitation to see our possibilities from God’s perspective!” / Appointed Imagine More Steering Committee and Sub-Committee members: Dr. Yetta Toliver, Chair, Deacon Stan Walker, Co-Chair, Deborah Benard, Dr. Fara Bostic, Bro. Terry Brittian, Sis. Carmen Carter, Sis. Alverta Dixon, Sis. Barbara Franklin, Deacon Reggie Johnson, Dr. Larry LaFlore, Sis. Njeri London, Deacon Leroy Petteway, and Sis. Ida Rembert / Sub-Committee members: Bro. Bruce Carter, Bro. Brian Grandison, Sis. Debbie O’Neal, Sis. Shillonda Perkins, Bro. Reggie Rembert, Sis. Debra Sidberry, Deacon Mark Wilcox, and Bro. Steve Young / COVID-19 limited in-person worship, but services and bible studies were hosted on Facebook Live, and YouTube / Hosted an Outdoor Resurrection Service in the Westside parking lot with online streaming and a designated radio station for members to listen from their cars.
- 2021 Westside Community Outreach partnered with Denton County Health Department to offer COVID-19 vaccines to our congregation and the community / Hosted limited in-person worship services and bible studies observing health guidelines / Resumed full operations, including worship services and ministry meetings in August.

2022 Launched Westside Magazine - a monthly magazine featuring encouraging articles and pictures of past events and notices of future events / Launched "The Brief": A weekly announcement of meetings, deadlines, and events happening for a seven-day time frame / Hosted Ricky Dillard and New G / Hosted first Funday Sunday celebrating unity and appreciation for WBC volunteers.

2023 Pastor's restructuring Westside's organization of ministries and the hiring of consultant to develop churchwide engagement and Westside Worldwide (Rev. Carlos Francis and Rev. Lee Williams, consultants).

2024 In 2024, Westside celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a year-long event that welcomed former employees, pastors, workers, and friends to participate in various activities. We were honored to have Pastor Larry Willis, Joe Fields, Chris Respass, and Louis Rosenthal and their congregations share the Word of God with us. Present and former choir members joined to form a reunion choir that ministered during the church anniversary service.

We gathered on Wednesdays to enjoy meals together throughout the month, reminiscing about the "good old days" and discussing how the Lord works in our lives. Deacon Mark Wilcox led the "Forty-for-Forty" recognition initiative, which allowed congregation members to honor both current and former members for their spiritual impact.

Rev. Carlos Francis resigned the consultant position of Engagement Pastor of Westside Baptist Church – Lewisville, Texas.

- 2025 Senior Pastor Dr. Delvin Atchison made the following appointments:
- Bro. Sylvest Williams was appointed Sunday School/Education Servant Leader
 - Deacon Reggie Johnson became Chairman of Imagine More after Dr. Yetta Toliver
 - Drs. Thomas and Amy Key were appointed as EPIC (Young Adult) Servant Leaders
 - Bro. Renardo Lewis was appointed Social Justice Servant Leader



1984 – 1990
 Westside (Car Wash) Baptist Church
 571 South Edmonds
 Lewisville, Texas 75067
 (972) 221-5668



1990 – 2005
 802 W. Bellaire Blvd.
 Lewisville, Texas 75067
 (972) 221-5668



2005 – Present
900 W. Bellaire Blvd.
Lewisville, Texas 75067
(972) 221-5668
www.wbcchurch.org



Interim Pastor Dr. Delvin Atchison & Dr. Brenda Atchison
2018 – 2019

Senior Pastor Dr. Delvin Atchison & First Lady Dr. Brenda Atchison
1/2019 – Present



Senior Pastor Thomas Bessix
2015 - 2017



Interim Pastor - Minister Taft Sales
2013 - 2015



Bi-vocational Interim
Pastor Kenneth W. Blake & Sis. Venita Blake
1988 - 1989
Senior Pastor Kenneth W. Blake
& First Lady Venita Blake
3/1989 - 2012



Senior Pastor Captain Roosevelt Brown
1984 - 1988



Pastor Dr. Ben Smith
(Lakeland Baptist Church-Retired)
1983 Founder/Vision