

Join us on Wednesday, November 29th, as we decorate the church for Christmas! There will be treats, music, and lots of fun for the whole family!



**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 72272  
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**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**



On a cold December weekend in 2007, Missy, the boys, and I arrived in Norman to meet our new church family. Little did we know on that weekend we would spend the next eleven years ministering to the most amazing people we had ever met. Because of those eleven years and all of you, the decision to leave NorthHaven to become the Executive Director of Baptist Center for Ethics was the most difficult choice I have ever made in my professional career.

This decision was made after much prayer, many conversations with my family, and more tears than I can count. NorthHaven is a special church filled with faithful friends, being a genuine presence of Jesus to our community. Missy and I would not ever image ourselves leading another congregation simply for the fact we "belong" at NorthHaven. So, when the opportunity to lead a national organization and remain in Norman was

offered, we felt like God was revealing and providing a new calling for us.

For those who are wondering about our new endeavor, the Baptist Center for Ethics is one of NorthHaven's longstanding ministry partners. BCE publishes editorials and essays over numerous ethical and social justice topics on their website EthicsDaily.com. In addition, they produce curriculum and documentaries. My job will be to lead and administrate the organization, traveling around the country promoting BCE and challenging Christians to engage in social justice. Our world finds itself in a volatile time, so goodwill Christians need to stand up, lending their voices and rolling up their sleeves for the common good.

We are so thankful for the encouragement we heard from you last month, but we know your minds and hearts are quickly turning to what's next for NorthHaven. Let me be absolutely clear; NorthHaven Church is about to experience an important and remarkable moment in the life of our church. While it is always difficult to say goodbye to any staff member, the process of selecting a new pastor will be filled with excitement and anticipation.

(contiuned on page 6)



*NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.*

## Children's Corner



I'm always proud to say I am part of the staff of NorthHaven Church. After listening to Dr. Pam Durso preach on October 22nd, I am even more comfortable in

my position. In a world full of stories where women are treated as less than, I am compelled to give a shout out to NorthHaven for setting an example of inclusion for all people. Can we do better? I am certain that we can improve, there is always room for improvement, but we are striving for change and that speaks loudly.

Recently I was selected to participate in the 2018 Baptist Women in Ministry Mentoring Cohort. Forty-five qualified applicants sought one of the twenty spots. I'll be honest, I was dragging my feet a bit to apply. Through a little poking and prodding from Mitch (we often refer to each other as Big Brother and Little Sister because he is annoying like that!) I did submit my application...two days

before the deadline. That poking and prodding, along with the encouragement and support of the amazing congregation and staff at NorthHaven, is not always the norm for women in my position. I recognize that and am grateful.

At the moment, the group of Pre-School and Kindergarten kiddos at NorthHaven is intense! Those children are going to be leaders... serious leaders. They are driven and head strong and oh so smart. Typically there is a balance of personality in groups of kids, not this one. They all are marching forward at all times, letting nothing get in their way! And their gender does not matter. The girls are every bit as strong as the boys and neither sex cuts the other any slack. I pray that this is a sign of a societal shift. I pray that my girls in KidsHaven will grow up confident that they are competent for anything God calls them to do. And I thank you for being a church that supports the gifts and skills of women.

With gratitude,  
Kim

**BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY**  
*advocating • connecting • networking*

By Gala Van Eaton

### Who do you know?



*Structure, Community, Thought, & Passion*

*"I wanna be in a band when I get to heaven anyone can play guitar..."*

from Anyone Can Play Guitar track, Pablo Honey Album, Radiohead 1993

Pierce Pratt is new to NorthHaven and it doesn't take long to perceive that he is a thoughtful and intelligent man who cares deeply about a church home where structure, community, thought, and passion for Christ are at the forefront of daily life. When we met to talk, he was coming from his guitar lesson, a pursuit he's followed for the past four years. He enjoys classic rock and uses his time off on Fridays to improve his guitar skills and indulge in a passion outside his workday routine.

But let's go back from today's routine to the beginning—Pierce was born in Gastonia, North Carolina. His dad worked in the petroleum industry and they soon moved to New Orleans, LA. After that his father's vocation eventually led the family, Pierce, his Mom, and younger brother Gregg, to move to his dad's new job with Phillips Oil in Bartlesville, OK (with a short stint in Denver in the middle of the move west).

Pierce was quite active as a swimmer at Bartlesville High School and had some scholarship offers for college. He ended up at the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in history. While attending OU he had worked with the swim team and developed his interest in the physical sciences. This interest led him to complete his Masters degree in physiology.

As Pierce was writing his masters' thesis, he connected with a gastro-intestinal doctor in Oklahoma City studying heartburn in athletes and worked for that doctor after he graduated. One thing led to another—which eventually brought him

to his current position working for AbbVie in drug development, specifically the drug Humira.

In addition to his life's work, there's an important part of this story that informs most every part of it. In 1998 he met a gal—Debbie—who was working as a waitress while she finished her masters in social work at OU. It is significant that Pierce said, at least three times during this interview, "I wouldn't be who I am today without Debbie." They married in January 2000. Debbie had been a member at First Baptist and Pierce attended there with her. He remembers occasionally attending a Presbyterian church growing up and was open to what was important to her.

Not long after they married Pierce got a position with a large drug company and they moved to Ann Arbor, MI. They found the winters to be severe enough that they soon moved right back to Oklahoma with a bit of time in Kansas City on the way. He has now been with AbbVie for eight years.

They eventually went to church at Wildwood and it was there that Pierce was baptized and began to find what it meant to be a part of an authentic community of Christ's followers. Daughter Abigail and son Frankie were now a part of their family and they visited NorthHaven. Pierce said they were immediately attracted to the youth activities (including Keith Abbott's enthusiasm for the youth), the structure of availabilities for spiritual growth (including Ridenour's Sunday School), the inclusive community, and the attention to an intellectual approach to scripture through Pastor Mitch.

Most of all, Pierce has a desire to be a contributor—to assist in providing structure, community, thought, and passion for his family, for other seekers, and for his own growth. And maybe . . .to contribute a bit with the sounds of an additional guitar in jam sessions or other opportunities that develop as time goes on.

(Pastor's Perspective continued from page 1)

The Executive Committee will embrace their new responsibility with enthusiasm and wisdom. Over the next month, they will begin to meet and will be reporting directly to the church. They are already looking at our founding and how I was called as the first pastor. They will study that process and make recommendations on how we should proceed as a church. I know times such as these can be unnerving, but I am confident in the leadership and spirit of NorthHaven. If NorthHaven was not such a special place filled with thoughtful people, my decision would not have been so

difficult. Just so you know, it was the most difficult decision of my career.

Therefore, let's begin praying for the leadership of the church and the person God is already preparing to be the next pastor of NorthHaven. With God's guidance and our faith, I know God will call the perfect person to be our pastor. When they arrive, they will find exactly what the Randall's found, a loving community seeking to make a difference in this world through the empowerment of the Gospel. Thank you, again, for your support and love. It has been a complete joy and honor.

Blessings,  
Mitch

## A New NH Academy Class for ADVENT

**When:** 4 Monday nights. November 27, December 4, 11, 18.

**What:** Daily Advent readings from Walter Brueggemann's "Celebrating Abundance."

Each daily reading is about two pages, including scripture, a short devotion, and a prayer.

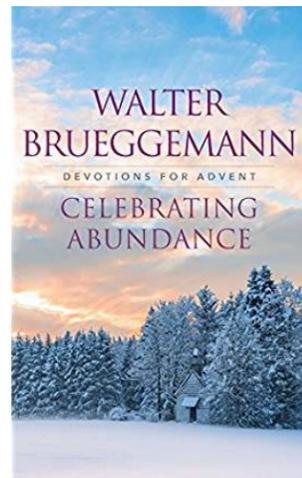
Class time is for discussion of the previous week's reading.

**Who:** All adults.

Facilitator: Gala Van Eaton

Cost: Approximately \$13. We need to order books by Wednesday, November 15.

**Registration:** Call the church office or sign up in the atrium BY NOVEMBER 15.



November 1: Janet Dulin  
November 1: Randal McLain  
November 1: Cindy Rieger  
November 2: Josh Lockett  
November 2: Angela Paganoni

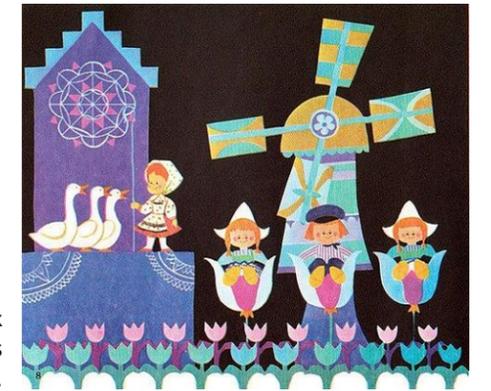
November 5: Donna McCutcheon  
November 8: Norma Franke  
November 8: Joyce Krause  
November 9: Mike Bumgarner  
November 15: Autumn Lockett  
November 15: Van Tran  
November 15: Maryann Willson  
November 16: Caleb Joyce  
November 17: Kimberli Hester  
November 17: Teri Jordan  
November 17: Carol Lockhart

November 18: Vickie Hill  
November 18: Jacie Joyce  
November 20: Sam Garner  
November 20: Deb McLain  
November 20: Don Schooler  
November 20: Clay Tarter  
November 21: Caroline Carpenter  
November 23: Straily Reghan  
November 30: Keri Fullbright

ARTICLE by Don Schooler

## IT REALLY IS A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

**It's a world of laughter, a world of tears.  
It's a world of hopes, and a world of fears.  
There's so much that we share, that it's time we're aware,  
It's a small world after all.  
It's a small world after all, it's a small world after all,  
It's a small world after all, it's a small, small world.**  
- by the Sherman Brothers (Robert B. & Richard M.), 1964



If you aren't familiar with these lyrics they're from a water-based, dark ride at Disneyland called *It's a Small World*. It's one of my family's favorites rides (well, Kim and I enjoy it anyway). It's a pretty simple ride. First, you set up a water track with several boats that are about two boat lengths from one another and each one carries, oh, I'd guess, anywhere from 12-16 people per boat. Then you keep the boats constantly moving so that at any one time there may be as many as 200 or 300 people on the ride. What do you do with the people once they're on the boats? You have 300+ animatronic *Children of the World* (more about this later) sing the above lyrics over and over and over again, both in English and in their native tongues, until you want to pull your ears off the sides of your head and jump in the water and swim for freedom. (Don't really do that, the water isn't very deep, Disney frowns on it and will escort you from the park, and your sunglasses will slip off your face without ears.) That's it, a nice 5 minute respite from the California sun as hundreds of cookie cutter children sing this song *ad nauseam*.

*It's a Small World* was one of five attractions Walt Disney introduced to the world at the 1964 New York World's Fair, at that time it was called *Children of the World* (see, I told you I'd come back to that later). There was also the State of Illinois' *Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln*, G.E.'s *Carousel of Progress*, Ford's *Magic Skyway*, and Kodak's *CircleVision 360*. While the first three are still being enjoyed at Disneyland, none have remained as consistently popular as *It's a Small World*.

I believe that popularity is not only because of the ride's catchy, ear-worm song, or the chance to take a few minutes off your feet and out of the sun, but because of the charming, little animatronic children designed by Disney artist Mary Blair.

Mary Robinson (Blair) began her animation career at MGM when she was 23. She and her husband, Lee Everett Blair, moved from MGM to Ub Iwerks Studio, before eventually moving on to Disney. [ASIDE: Ub Iwerks is the animator best known for single-handedly animating Mickey Mouse in the several cartoons in the 1920s, including the first ever sound cartoon, the 1928 *Steamboat Willie*. He and Walt had a falling out and he left Disney to start his own studio, before returning at a later date, but that's an ARTicle for another day. (Ever noticed there aren't a lot "Ubs" in the world anymore? Maybe someone could make it fashionable again. Locketts?)]

Mary animated on Disney classics *Dumbo*, *Lady and the Tramp*, *Fantasia*, and *Song of the South* (good luck finding that one on CD, also an ARTicle for another day), as well as the not-so-classic-but-still-a-lot-of-fun *Saludos Amigos* and *Three Caballeros*. She also did color design on Disney's *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Peter Pan*. After completing *Peter Pan*, Mary left Disney in 1953 to open a graphic design company, where she worked on accounts for Nabisco, Pepsodent, and Maxwell House, and illustrated several Golden Books for Simon and Schuster that are still in publication to this day.

So, jump forward a decade and Walt Disney is looking for artists to help him with 1964 NY World's Fair and he recalls Mary Blair's charming designs and wonderful color sense so asks her to help design the *Children of the World* attraction. The rest, as they say, is history.

Oh, and where did Mary get her wonderful sense of design and color for *It's a Small World*? Probably from her years studying at the former Chouinard Art Institute in Las Angeles (now the California Institute of the Arts), but I prefer to think it's from watching children play during the beautiful sunsets and sunrises she saw as a child from her birthplace in McAlester, OK.

MUSIC MATTERS



“Stretchhhhhh & LIVE!”



Sometimes, writing this article is a challenge for me. I am not one who has great original ideas and thoughts, but I enjoy sharing ideas/ thoughts of gifted people who do! I often get inspiration from things I read, songs I hear, and spoken words. Most recently, I have heard so many thought provoking spoken words. Our guest preacher, Dr. Pam Durso, pushed us to think beyond what has been status quo, to speak up about inequality. Dr. Walter Shurden spoke at the CBFO Celebrating Excellence Banquet and urged us to not ‘under-live’ our lives.

It is so easy to settle for getting by. I have someone in my life who exemplifies living to the max. She will be 88 years young in a few days and has more energy than the energizer bunny. She is my mother, my broker-boss, and my mentor. “Under-living” is not in her vocabulary. She has always nudged me to stretch and take on new challenges, as that has been her motto as well. She was born in the year of the Great Depression, a middle

child of seven children, to share cropper parents. She has said when she was growing up, no one knew they were poor because all the people around them were in the same boat. My mom is from the ‘make-do,’ never throw anything away era. Sometimes a good thing, sometimes, not so much!!! She and my dad divorced after 29 years of marriage. She was left with a house payment and a car payment. You know what she did? She added 3 part time jobs to her full time job and dug in deeply to who she really was, working very hard. She managed to stay strong, even when it meant changing who she could socialize with due to her divorce, and instead reached out to others who were hurting and struggling just as she was. At age 62, when many contemplate retirement and slowing down, she started her own real estate business! Has she worked too hard over the years? Possibly. But she definitely has NOT “under-lived!”

Life does get harder as we age because our bodies don’t always cooperate. To model my mother, Sylvia, press on. Don’t give in.

*“I’m pressing on the upward way, new heights I’m gaining every day; still praying as I onward bound, ‘Lord plant my feet on higher ground.’ My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay; though some may dwell where these abound, my prayer, my aim, is higher ground.”* (Higher Ground, by Johnson Oatman, Jr.)

Pam Durso challenged us to speak up. Walter Shurden challenged us to live to the max. Doing so is not always easy, but if we are indeed, Jesus followers, we are to choose the challenging path.

Nudge, us God.

Cheryl

NOVEMBER



In November, our students will be getting together on November 18th to explore the needs for social justice in our society. Our goal will be to land on a social justice cause that our students can stand together for not only in word, but also in action. At the end of the day, we will be gathering to watch the movie The Justice League.