

The Pulpit Committee of  
West Church of Peabody  
is pleased to introduce  
**PASTOR BILL SHOEMAKER**  
Candidate for Senior Pastor



## ***Letter from the Pulpit Committee***

Dear West Church,

It is with great pleasure that the Pulpit Committee announces that we unanimously believe God desires Pastor Bill Shoemaker to be the next Senior Pastor of West Church. Bill and his wife, Donna, also agree that God is calling him to serve us and have agreed to candidate in December.

Throughout the entire search process our hearts' desire has been to listen to the LORD's leading and to patiently wait for His timing. God is faithful and He has been our ever present help and guide on this journey. We are grateful for your prayers, words of encouragement, and patience.

This decision and the search process were built upon the Biblical requirements for a pastor outlined in Scripture; the job description created by our Board of Deacons and Deaconesses; and needed leadership competencies provided by our Intentional Interim Pastor to prepare West Church for future ministry effectiveness.

Bill and Donna are from Manahawkin, New Jersey and attend the Manahawkin Baptist Church, where he serves as the Community Life Pastor. He has a Masters of Divinity and a Bachelors Degree in Biblical Literature. Following seminary he served for seven years as the lead pastor of a church in New York. Throughout the application process we have discovered and witnessed Bill's gifts of preaching, teaching, and leadership as well as his deep love of God, the Church, and people.

We look forward to you meeting Bill and Donna during their upcoming Candidating Visit! We fully expect that you will quickly feel connected and drawn to Bill's humility and honesty, his heart for discipleship and leadership development, and his winsome teaching and preaching.

To God be the glory, The Pulpit Committee

Diane Haywood

Harry Hesketh, Vice-Chairman

Kelly Sawyer

Matthew Brown

Rob Schoch

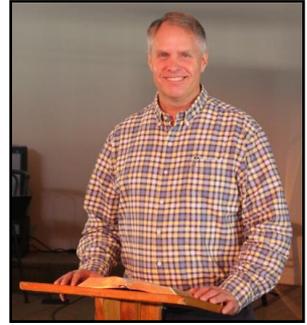
Stephen Brinton, Chairman

Violet Cook

## ***Letter from Pastor Bill Shoemaker***

Dear West Church,

I am so honored to be the candidate for the next Senior Pastor of West Church. As Donna and I have had the opportunity to learn about the ministry of West Church and to meet the beautiful people on the Pulpit Committee, we have been increasingly drawn to your church family and are very eager to meet you. I am so thankful for your heritage of faithful Bible teaching, deep family fellowship, and generous commitment to missions. I pray that I will uphold and enhance such important values.



God has been showing Donna and me over the past few months that He wants us to walk in faith and to use our gifts in a new way. We prayed throughout the whole search process, “We are Yours, Lord. Please make Your will clear and certain.” Though we will be farther from our families back in New Jersey, we come with new confidence and enthusiasm to serve together with you.

I am encouraged by the ministry of the Transition Team under Pastor Gene. I look forward to sharing in the process of shaping the future vision of the ministry of West Church. I share your desire to reach the North Shore region with the gospel and to help train faithful disciples of Jesus.

God has brought us together for a kind of new beginning. I will be beginning with you and you with me. This new beginning will be built upon the foundations of Biblical faithfulness, family fellowship, and missional commitment. But we do not know exactly how this new beginning might shape or change us. We do know that our Father gives us more grace and leads us as we stay yielded to Him. He will lead us and shape us *together*. Our love for Him and for one another will be our bond. What a joy it is for me to be joined with you in this journey.

In His love,

***Bill***

## ***Bill Shoemaker at a Glance***

### **EDUCATION**

1988-1992: Masters of Divinity – *Cum Laude*  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Glenside, PA

1983-1987: Bachelors in Biblical Literature – *Summa Cum Laude*  
Northeastern Bible College, Philadelphia, NJ

### **MINISTRY AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

#### 2017-present

Community Life Pastor at Manahawkin Baptist Church  
Manahawkin, NJ

*Bill oversees assimilation, Life Groups, and discipleship for Manahawkin Baptist Church, a church of 200+ worshipers. MBC has baptized and welcomed fifty new members in the past twelve months and served over one hundred fifty adults in small groups each semester.*

#### 1999-2017

Retail Automotive Industry

Lay Leader at Manahawkin Baptist Church

*Bill served as an elder, provided pulpit supply, led men's group, and participated as a vocalist on the worship team.*

#### 1992-1999

Pastor at Valley Stream Baptist Church  
Long Island, NY

*Bill came to this church at a low point and God brought renewal. Worship attendance grew from forty to one hundred fifty. A small group and discipleship ministry was started. The children's and family ministry grew. He also initiated leadership training and vision casting.*

### **ORDINATION**

May 1993 North American Baptist Conference

## ***How I Came to Faith in Jesus***

Faith was not important to my family growing up. Though my childhood did give rise to a hunger for God and for beauty in ways I did not understand at the time. When I was a freshman in high school, a classmate in the school orchestra started sharing Christ with me over a period of about six months. I did my best to stump her with difficult questions and discourage her from any hope that I would believe. She persisted. She invited me to a youth group event at her church, Manahawkin Baptist Church. I have to admit that I was more interested in meeting girls than I was in the Bible. I attended youth group and church faithfully four times a week for six weeks. My new friends encouraged me to start reading the book of John. On the Saturday night that I finished reading, I remember putting my New Testament on my night table and turning off the light thinking, "I would really like to have known the real Jesus."

The next morning, He met me. A visiting choir brought a beautiful concert during worship. A visiting pastor invited me to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I did. On March 23, 1980, He came into my life like a wave. I am so thankful for the faithful witness of a friend. I am thankful for her acceptance and persistence in demonstrating the love and truth of Christ. I am thankful for a church that accepted a lonely, wayward teenager. The church created a safe place for me to take my time, ask questions, and wrestle with the claims of Christianity. I also met my amazing wife through the youth group. God's grace to this wretch is truly dazzling.

***Favorite Verse:*** *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

*Galatians 6:14*

## ***How God Called me to be a Pastor***

The Bible became alive to me when I became a Christian. I couldn't get enough. Academic ability was in my family tree and I turned most of that energy towards learning the Bible. At Northeastern Bible College, I couldn't believe that I could go to school to learn about the Bible and Christianity. I loved theology, church history, Greek, and Hebrew. I wanted to pass on what I was learning. But I had to overcome the shyness that I had struggled with as a teen. I started teaching as part of my youth group. Then I took a volunteer position as a youth leader while I was in college and preached my first sermon.

Feeling affirmed in my ministry, I enrolled at Westminster Theological Seminary. While there, I served as an intern at Fleishmann Memorial Baptist Church in north Philadelphia. My Pastor, Jim Correnti, encouraged my growth in ministry and exposed me to serving in the inner city. He became my introduction to the North American Baptist Conference and my sponsor when I was ordained.

Upon graduation from seminary, I was called to pastor Valley Stream Baptist Church on Long Island, NY. I learned there all the things they never teach you in seminary. But God also graciously used me to help revitalize that declining ministry. I developed my own preaching style. I learned how to disciple people. I led worship, taught Sunday School, led discipleship groups, led the boards, printed the bulletin, shoveled the snow, fixed the lawn mower, directed the choir, led VBS, and so much more. Those seven years of ministry were deeply encouraging. The church grew from forty-five worshipers to over one hundred fifty. However, with the stresses of pastoring a fast growing church, not knowing how to ask for help, struggling hard to make ends meet financially, and raising a young family, I found myself discouraged, weakened, and vulnerable. Feeling overcome, I resigned from the church. We moved back to Manahawkin, NJ, to be near the support of our extended family.

I began a different career in retail auto sales. Donna and I raised our two children. I also served at Manahawkin Baptist Church as an active member. I preached when I was needed. I led worship when I was needed. I taught small groups for men. God brought healing, grace, and restoration to my life and family. I became an Elder at Manahawkin Baptist Church.

Then I lost my job at the dealership where I was working. It was so surprising. I had never lost a job before. Donna and I discovered that God was moving me back into pastoral ministry. When I told my pastor this, he immediately asked me to join the staff of Manahawkin Baptist Church as the Community Life Pastor. I follow up on all of our new worshipers, oversee an extensive small group ministry, and design discipleship pathways for people to come to know and grow in their relationship with Christ and become members of the church. In less than three years, we have baptized and welcomed into membership over fifty people. I preach monthly and continue to serve on the Board of Elders. I have a renewed sense of calling, a renewed longing to preach weekly, and a renewed desire to apply the wisdom, gifts, and experience that God has given me to lead a local church. I am thankful for the united and complete support of my Pastor and the Elders of MBC as I candidate to become the Senior Pastor of West Church.



*Bill and Donna with their children, Becca and Nate*

## ***Personal Biblical Purpose Statement***

Being confident that I am a cherished son of God in Jesus, I will live to know God intimately, be known by Him, and walk with Him by faith. I will prayerfully seek the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, through weakness and sin, to richly love my family, my church, my community, and my world that I might see Christ formed in them.

## ***Personal Vision Statement***

### **PERSONAL ROLES**

#### **Christian**

- To live in joyful intimacy with my Father, daily enjoying and using His gifts of repentance, faith, prayer, Scripture, fellowship, worship, and health. To live a life of humility and transparency loving others.

#### **Husband, Father, Son**

- To cherish my wife and be known by her. As her friend, lover, brother, and provider, I will help her become all that Jesus has called her to be so that I might present her as a spotless bride to Jesus.
- To love my children and be known by them. As their father and friend I will be involved in the lives of my children, to support, provide wisdom, share experiences, and guide them towards Christ.
- To love my parents and in-laws and to be known by them. To point them to Jesus by being involved in their lives and helping them in their old age.

## **CHURCH ROLES**

### **Pastor, Evangelist, Discipler, Leader**

- To use my teaching gift to share the gospel, encourage, inspire, and direct the ministry of the church.
- To model a life of disciple making by sharing my faith regularly, helping Christians mature in their faith, and training them to serve in the church and the world.
- As a leader among leaders (staff, elders, ministry leaders) to help them catch a vision for God's work, grow to maturity in it, and serve with diligence and faithfulness.
- To care for the needs of people with compassion, care, and involvement through ministries like counseling, weddings, funerals, baptisms, communion, and simply being present for others.

## **KINGDOM ROLES**

### **Citizen, Community Leader, Missionary**

- To model a life of humble, prayerful cooperation with other congregations in the community.
- To seek the prosperity of my community by being of service to those living within it.
- To have an eye towards training and releasing people to serve beyond the church through justice and mercy ministries, church planting endeavors, and missionary involvement.

## To Listen to Bill's Recent Sermons Visit:

[www.manahawkinbaptistchurch.org/sunday-talks](http://www.manahawkinbaptistchurch.org/sunday-talks)

## Save the Dates

### Focus Groups:

- November 14 at 7:00 pm – Teal's Home, Beverly
- November 15 at 7:00 pm – B&K Smith's Home, Danvers
- November 17 after the service – West Church
- November 20 at 4:00 pm – Brooksby Village, Peabody
- November 23 at 10:00 am – Belmonte's Home, Middleton
- \*December 1 after the Worship Service – West Church

*\*If needed this Focus Group will be offered.*

The purpose of Focus Groups is to introduce and educate the congregation about the Senior Pastor Candidate. The meetings will be an informal time to hear from our Pulpit Committee and our Intentional Interim Pastor. Included will be time for your questions and a time of prayer.

Focus Groups are entirely optional opportunities provided for those who want more information about the candidate before he arrives to officially candidate. You do not need to attend them all, only one of them if you are interested and available. The content and the information will be the same at all the Focus Groups.

To sign up to attend one of the Focus Group please see a member of the Pulpit Committee in the lower narthex. Childcare will be available for children (nursery – grade 4) at the West Church Focus Groups. Parents, please sign up for childcare as needed to help the Pulpit Committee plan accordingly. Thank you.

### **Candidating Visit: December 4-8, 2019**

This multi-day visit will include several opportunities time to meet and interact with Bill and Donna in various settings also to hear him preach and teach. The schedule of events is being finalized and will be available soon.



## A FEW OF BILL'S FAVORITE THINGS

- Walking his dogs, Prairie and Blue
- Hiking and biking
- Fixing cars
- Reading
- Singing harmony
- Visiting the coast of New England
- Listening to jazz

