

Northwest Bancshares, Inc.  
Form 11-K  
June 15, 2012

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 11-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number 001-34582

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**Northwest Savings Bank 401(k) Plan**

**100 Liberty Street**

Warren, Pennsylvania 16365

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Northwest Bancshares, Inc.**

100 Liberty Street

Warren, Pennsylvania 16365

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

The following financial statements and exhibits are filed as part of this annual report:

Exhibit 23                      Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

Exhibit 99                      Financial Statements as of and for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 and Supplemental Schedule as of December 31, 2011 for the Northwest Savings Bank 401(k) Plan.

**SIGNATURES**

*The Plan.* Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**NORTHWEST SAVINGS BANK 401(k) PLAN**

Date:    June 15, 2012

By:    /s/ Julia W. McTavish  
      Julia W. McTavish  
      Executive Vice President, Plan Administrator