

Northwest Bancshares, Inc.  
Form 11-K  
June 29, 2010

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 11-K**

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

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009  
OR**

o **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 Retirement Savings 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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SIGNATURES

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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, 2009 and 2008 and Supplemental Schedule as of December 31, 2009 for the Northwest Retirement Savings 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 RETIREMENT SAVINGS  
PLAN**

Date: June 29, 2010

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