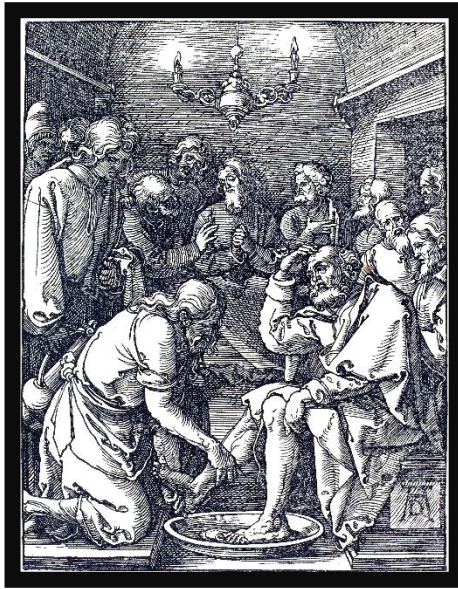


THE SERVANT'S ALMANAC

The servant's guide to knowing Christ and
making Him known at First Baptist Church.



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INTRODUCTION

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT:

“To know Christ and to make Him known.”

The purpose statement of First Baptist, Sunrise Beach is “To know Christ and make Him known.” As servants of Christ, we must first know the Master in order to emulate Him. Then, can serve Him by making Him known as ambassadors for Christ. This booklet is a guide to living as a servant of Christ at First Baptist, Sunrise Beach. The content is divided into three parts:

MEMBERSHIP:

Joining the Master’s Team

KNOWING CHRIST:

Learning from the Master

MAKING HIM KNOWN:

Serving the Master

MEMBERSHIP

A BIBLICAL EXPLANATION

What does it mean to be a member of the church?

Just as a body part is a member of the body, a person can be a member of Christ's body, which is the church. A church member is someone who has been 1) Redeemed by the body of Christ in Salvation, 2) Joined to the body of Christ in baptism, and is 3) Living in unity with Christ's body, the Church. Let's look at each individually:

Saved by His Body: Jesus died in our place for the wrongs we have done. "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

Baptized into the body: We become a part of Jesus's body, the Church, by being baptized. "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

The Church as a body: Saved believers individually make up the body of Christ. The group of people is collectively called the Church. A church member is someone who actively participates in church life. The church is led by Christ Himself. “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” (Colossians 1:18)

In the next section, you will find:

- 3 Steps to Membership
- Privileges and Responsibilities of Membership
- Our Church Covenant

3 STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who has been saved and baptized is a member of the body of Christ. To specifically be joined to the local church at First Baptist, there are three steps we ask you to go through.

1. **Meet with the Pastor or a Deacon:** We would like to meet with you as the first step to begin a relationship with you and to discuss any questions or concerns about membership.
2. **Attend a Membership Class:** The class will give opportunity for us to get to know one another, cover our church doctrine, and get plugged in to church ministry. Every local church is different and so it is our desire use this class to help us be on the same page. As Paul said: “Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:2).
3. **Submit to the Church’s Decision:** On a chosen day (usually a Sunday morning) the church will vote on your membership. You will be presented to the church for membership at the end of the service. There may be an opportunity here to share what God has done that led to this decision on your part. The church covenant will be read. This will give an opportunity for you and the church to enter that covenant. After reading the covenant, the church will vote. After the vote,

you will write your name in the official church membership directory.

Why do we vote?

We are legally a non-profit organization. In order to maintain that legal status, we must vote on who is officially a member of the organization.

Members are then granted the right to vote and the right to hold position within the organization.

We do not vote ...

To determine if a person is saved or not (This is God's business, not ours)

To determine if a person is "good enough" to be a member (No one is good enough, it is only by grace)

When might the church vote no?

Although each person votes according to their own conscience, there is at least one scriptural reason to vote against someone's membership. If the individual has sin that has already been addressed by the church without any sign of repentance (Matt. 18:15-17), then such an individual is not to be accepted into the membership of the church but rather rejected (1 Cor. 5:1-13).

PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Why become a member?

Becoming a member is not something you do just for yourself.

- It is something you do for others.
- It is something you do for God's Kingdom.
- It is a higher level of commitment in the body of Christ.

1) VOTING: A HIGHER COMMITMENT TO KNOWING GOD'S HEART

All Christians have the privilege and responsibility of knowing God's heart. Members of First Baptist commit to the additional responsibility of **voting** on church issues at business meetings. When we vote on church issues, we are committing to expressing God's heart accurately through the way our church spends money, plans its programs, and chooses leadership.

2) CHURCH DISCIPLINE: A HIGHER COMMITMENT TO BECOMING CHRIST MINDED

All Christians should strive to be Christ minded. Members of First Baptist also commit to being accountable to one another as we become Christ minded. When we see sin in one another's lives, we compassionately try win the other back to Christ's way. This occurs through the process of **Church**

Discipline outlined in the Church By-Laws, Article VIII and the teaching of Christ in Matthew chapter 18:12-20.

3) SERVING: A HIGHER COMMITMENT TO SERVING SPIRIT FILLED

All Christians should work to serve Spirit filled. Members of First Baptist can further commit to this task by serving **on and leading committees**. This includes the committees outlined in Article III of the By-Laws and other official positions.

Why enter a higher level of commitment?

Consider the promise found in 2 Cor. 9:6:

“Remember this--a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.”

A higher level of commitment results in reaping:

The joy of seeing others come to know God’s heart, the joy of becoming more Christ minded, and the joy of serving Spirit filled in God’s kingdom.

CHURCH COVENANT

We enter the church covenant, not as an oath, but as agreement of the ideal we all strive towards as church members. The church covenant reads as follows:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from drunkenness and its promotion, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of God's Word.

KNOWING CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

There is nothing more valuable than knowing Christ our Savior. As Paul said: "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ." (Philippians 3:8). Although we strive to know Christ perfectly, we are all still on a journey to knowing Him fully. In the next section you will find 5 ways to participate with the church on that journey.

- **Personal Study:** Know Christ by having a personal, daily walk with Him rooted in prayer and Bible study.
- **Sunday Worship:** Join with other believers in the worship of God as we experience Him together.
- **Bible Studies:** Join a small group that studies God's words and seeks to live out.
- **Special Events:** Participate in special events throughout the year focused on knowing Christ.
- **Doctrine:** Know the teachings of scripture we agree to as a church.

PERSONAL STUDY

Prayer

We can come to know Christ by coming to God in prayer. Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. Here is a simple way to pray called:

WOW, SORRY, THANK YOU, PLEASE

- Wow:** Begin by worshipping God. Say what you love about Him.
- Sorry:** Tell God what you have done wrong and ask for forgiveness. Also, use this time to forgive others who have hurt you.
- Thank You:** Tell God thank you for what he has done for you and others.
- Please:** Ask God to help you with your physical and spiritual needs. He can help fight temptation and deliver you from evil. Pray for the needs of others too.

Bible Study

God wants to communicate with us. His word is Jesus (John 1) and His word has also been written down. Here is a simple way to study God's written word, the Bible:

GET READY ...

- PRAY A PRAYER LIKE THIS:** "Open my eyes so that I can see all the wonderful things in your teachings." (Psalm 119:18)
- READ THE BIBLE:** Pick a scripture & read it!

GET SET ...

- HEAD:** What people & things were in the story? When & where does the story take place? What was the problem and how was it fixed? Can I tell the story in order?
- HEART:** Did I see anything new? Did I understand everything? What does the story tell me about God? What does the story tell me about people?
- HANDS:** Does the story tell me something I should do? What should I do differently because of the story? How can I love God and others more?

GO!

- OBEY IT:** Last of all, do what you have learned. The point of all Bible reading is to be changed so that you love God more and love others more (Matthew 22:37-40).
- TELL IT:** Tell someone else what you have learned!

SUNDAY SERVICES

It has been a custom from the beginning of the church to meet on Sundays, the day Christ rose from the dead. We meet to worship, learn, encourage one another, enjoy friendship, give to God's work, and participate in the Lord's ordinances.

What to Expect

- **WHAT SHOULD I BRING?** If you have a Bible, we encourage you to bring it. You may want to bring money to contribute to the offering although there is no expectation from first time visitors.
- **WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?** Members attend wearing casual to dressy clothing. We believe while man looks at outward appearances, God looks at the heart.
- **WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE LIKE?** First Baptist is a church family. Although we don't want to embarrass anyone, you can expect to be warmly greeted. Feel free to ask questions of the members and leaders.

9:30 BIBLE STUDY:

Small groups for all ages meet. These Bible Study Groups have open group discussions about scripture led by a gifted teacher. Current groups are:

- Nursery
- Children (Graded classes)
- Teens
- Young Adults
- Friendship Class (All ages)

11AM WORSHIP SERVICE:

Although the schedule can vary from service to service, some basic elements to expect are:

- **Opening:** The service begins with music and a welcome from the pastor. First time visitors are asked to fill out an information card, although this is optional.
- **Worship:** The congregation will sing songs of worship to God. Words are provided in hymn books and on a projection screen. We sing old songs and new.
- **Offering:** Plates are passed around to collect money. Our offerings are freewill, an act of worship to God. Monies are used to support ministries of the church and to support the spread of the Good News throughout the world.
- **Sermon:** The pastor will present message rooted in the Bible. At this time, children are

given the option to attend Children's Church with message tailored to their needs.

- **Invitation:** At the end of the sermon there is a time to respond. Those who wish to commit their lives to Christ, become members of the church, or follow God's calling are welcome to come to the front and share their experience with the church family.
- **Closing:** Announcements of upcoming events are presented to the church. Many of our attenders stay afterward to talk and fellowship. Once a month, there will be a fellowship dinner which all are welcome to attend.

DOCTRINE

The following section sums up our beliefs that we have derived from scripture. Each section has a list of doctrines and is followed by a list of scripture references to support the claims. There are three sections:

DOCTRINE #1:

God, Man, and Salvation

DOCTRINE #2:

Church Life

DOCTRINE #3:

Christ & the World Around Us

Doctrine #1: God, Man & Salvation

The Bible Is:

- Inspired by God, Written by men. [Psalm 19:7-10, Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 34:16, 40:8, 2]
- Totally true and trustworthy. [*Psalm 119:160*]
- God's revelation to man of Himself, His instruction, and the principles by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions are judged. [*Acts 17:11*]
- A testimony to Christ who is the focus of divine revelation. [*John 5:39*]

God Is:

- One God and He 3 in 1 (Father/Son/Spirit). [God is one. [Deut. 6:4] "Us" passages: Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Is. 6:8 Triad: 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2 Jesus is God: John 1:1, 5:18, 8:58, 10:33 Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:16; Heb. 10:15-17]
- All knowing and all powerful, perfect. 1 [*John 3:20; Matt. 19:26; Deut. 32:4.*]
- The Creator, yet personal. [*Col. 1:16, 1 John 4:8.*]
- Ruler of the universe. [Psalm 115:3, Pro. 16:9.]
- Eternal. [Rev. 1:8]
- Owed our love, reverence, and obedience. [*Rev. 4:11*]

God the Father:

- Reigns over His universe, creatures, and history with care. [*Eph. 4:6*]
- Is father to all who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ. [*John 1:12-13*]
- Is fatherly in attitude toward all men. [*Mal. 2:10*]

God the Son (Jesus Christ):

- Was, is, and is to come. [*Rev. 1:7-8*]
- Took on human nature being conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. [*John 1:14; Phil. 2:7; Matt. 1:18*]
- Obediently did what God wanted without ever sinning. [*Heb. 5:8; Luke 22:42; Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22.*]
- Died on the cross in our place. [*Is. 53:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:24*]
- Was literally raised from the dead. [*1 Cor. 15:1-8*]
- Ascended into heaven. [*Mark 16:19*]
- Is with God now, mediating between us and God. [*Mark 16:19; 1 Tim. 2:5*]
- Will return one day to judge the world and call out the saved. [*Heb. 9:28; Rev. 22:12*]

God the Holy Spirit:

- Helps people understand truth. [*John 16:13*]
- Exalts Christ, calling men to be saved. [*John 16:14*]
- Baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation. [*1 Cor. 12:13*]
- Improves Christian character. [*1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2*]
- Gives spiritual gifts by which believers serve God in His church. [*1 Cor. 12:4-11*]
- Seals the believers unto the day of final redemption. [*Eph. 1:13-14, 4:31*]
- Guarantees that God will bring believers into the full stature of Christ. [*Eph. 1:17*]
- Enlightens and empowers the church in worship, evangelism, and service. [*John 4:24; Luke 4:18, 19; Rom. 7:6.*]

Man:

- Is the special creation of God, made in His own image, created male & female. [*Gen 1:27-31*]
- Was created innocent of sin with free will. [*Ecc. 7:29, Josh. 24:15; Psalm 119:30*]
- By free will the 1st man sinned and brought sin into the human race. [*Rom. 5:12*]
- As soon as he is capable of moral action, man becomes a transgressor and is under condemnation. [*Rom. 3:23; Matt. 19:13-15.*]
- Man can only be brought into holy fellowship with God by His grace through Jesus Christ. [*1 John 4:10; John 14:6.*]
- Every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. [*Gal. 3:28*]

Salvation:

- **Salvation:** The redemption of the whole man, and is free to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. There is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. [*Rom. 6:23, 1 Pet. 1:18-19; John 14:6.*]
- **Regeneration:** Here believers become new creatures with changed hearts. The Holy Spirit convicts a sinner of sin and then the person repents away from sin toward God and faith in Jesus. **Faith** is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior. [*2 Cor. 5:17; Ez. 36:26. John 16:8, Acts 3:19-20. Gal. 2:20*]
- **Justification** God's gracious, full acquittal of sinners who repent & believe in Christ. This brings the believer to a relationship of peace and favor with God. [*Gal. 2:16-17; Rom. 5:1-2.*]
- **Sanctification:** here a believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. This growth continues throughout the person's life. [*2 Tim. 2:21; Heb. 10:14.*]
- **Glorification:** The culmination of salvation is the final perfected state. Believers may still fall into sin, which has many consequences. Yet, by God's power, they will persevere to the end, never falling away grace. [*1 John 3:2-4; 1 John 2:1, Heb. 12:6. Phil. 1:6; 1 pet. 1:5; Heb. 7:25; Jud. 1:24.*]

Doctrine #2: Church Life

The Church:

- Is an independent local group of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. [*1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Cor 12:13; Matt 18:19; Phil 1:1-5.*]
- Is the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. [*1 Cor 12:12-13; Rev. 7:9-14.*]
- Operates under the Lordship of Christ, governed by His laws, through democratic processes. Each member is accountable to Christ as Lord. [*Eph 1:22-23; Phil 2:2; Rom. 12:16.*]
- Exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by God's Word, Seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. [*1 Cor. 12:4-11; 1 Tim 3:15; Matt. 28:16-20.*]
- Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men according to Scripture. [*1 Tim. 3:1-13 (Note: What we term Pastor is scripturally called an overseer here.) 1 Tim. 2:11-13.*]

Baptism:

- Is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. [*Mark 1:10; Acts 8:39; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12; Matt 28:16-20.*]
- Is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. [*Acts 10:48; Rom 6:1-7.*]
- It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. [*Rom. 6:1-5.*]
- It is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. [*1 Cor 12:13. 1 Cor. 11:27.*]

The Lord's Supper:

- Is a symbolic act of obedience when members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Jesus and anticipate His second coming. [(Symbolic: Note other instances Jesus spoke symbolically: "I am the Vine" (John 15:1), the Door (John 10:9), the Bread (John 6:41).)]

Church Activity:

- **THE LORD'S DAY:** The first day of the week is the Lord's Day to be regularly observed. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. [*Rev. 1:10; John 20:19; John 20:26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2.*]
- **EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS:** It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. [*Acts 8:1-4; Matt. 28:16-20; Rom. 5:5; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Cor. 10:31; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 4:5; Mark 16:15.*]
- **DISCIPLESHIP:** The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for discipleship. An adequate system of Christian discipleship is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. [*Matt 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 2:2; Acts 2:42.*]
- **STEWARDSHIP:** God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. We are to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth. [*James 1:17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 2*

Cor. 9:6-15; Cheerfully: 2 Cor. 9:7; regularly: systematically: 1 Cor. 16:2; proportionately: Mark 12:41-44; 2 Cor. 8:11; liberally: 2 Cor. 9:10-11.]

- **COOPERATION:** Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. Denominations: [*1 Cor. 1:10-13; 1 Cor. 5:1-2.*]

Doctrine #3: Christ and the World Around Us

The Kingdom of God:

- God's kingdom is His rule over the universe and His kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. [*Psalm 103:19; John 3:5-7.*]
- It is the realm of salvation into which men enter by submission to Christ. [*2 Peter 1:10-11*]
- It will come fully upon the return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age. [*1 Cor. 15:24.*]
- Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. [*Matt. 6:10; 1 Cor. 3:9*]

Last Things:

- God, in His own time and way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. [*2 Peter 3:3-13.*]
- Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth at that time. [*2 Thess. 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13.*]
- The dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. [*2 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:11-15.*]
- The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. [*Revelation 21:8; Matthew 25:46.*]
- The righteous in resurrected & glorified bodies will receive their reward and dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. [*1 Cor. 15:42-53; Matt. 25:46; 1 Tim 6:17-19; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:9*]

Christians and the Social Order:

- All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. [*2 Cor. 10:5*]
- Methods for the improving society can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual in salvation. [*John 15:5; Matthew 13:21.*]
- Christians should oppose racism, greed, selfishness, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. [*Racism: Rom. 10:12; Greed: 1 Tim. 6:10; Selfishness: 1 Cor. 10:24; Sexual Immorality: 1 Cor. 6:18; Adultery: Ex. 20:14; Homosexuality: Lev. 18:22, 20:13; 11 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 1:26-28; 1 Tim. 1:10; Pornography: Matt. 5:28; Job 31:1.*]
- We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. [Orphans: James 1:27; Ex. 22:22-24; The Needy: Pro. 19:17; Luke 12:33-34; Pro. 28:7; The Abused: Eph. 6:4; Pro. 31:8; The Aged; Lev. 19:32, The Helpless: Pro. 31:8, The Sick: James 5:14-16.]
- We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. [*Abortion: Ex. 21:22-25; Lev. 24:19-20; Psalm 51:5, 22:10. Until natural death: Lev. 19:32.*]

Peace and War:

- It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on God's principles. [*Rom. 12:18; 2 Cor. 2:16.*]
- The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel and the practical application of His law of love. [*Eph. 2:13-14; Is. 9:6; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:20.*]
- Christians are to pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. [*Rev. 22:20; 2 Tim. 4:8.*]

Government:

- God alone is Lord of the conscience. He has left it free from the teachings and laws of men that go against His Word. [*Rom. 14:1-23; Acts 4:19, 5:29.*]
- Government is ordained by God, so it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. [*Rom. 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13.*]
- Church and state should be separate. [*Matt. 22:21.*]
- The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. [*1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 6:12.*]

The Family:

- God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society, composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. *[Eph. 3:14-15.]*
- Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. This is the God ordained framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression, and the means for procreation. Mark 10:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; *[Matt. 5:28; Gen. 1:28.]*
- The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, both created in God's image. *[Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 3:28.]*
- A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He is to provide, protect, and to lead his family. *[Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:4, 5:8.]*
- A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. *[Eph. 5:22-23.]*
- Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. *[Psalm 139:13,16; Psalm 127:3; Deut. 6:4-9; Ex. 20:12]*

MAKING HIM KNOWN

The only way others will know about Christ is if we make Him known. "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:20). The following section describe how First Baptist is structured to make Christ known:

1. **How to Get Involved:** How to join a ministry team
2. **Church Structure:** Learn how our church is organized.
3. **Church Committees:** Meet the leaders of committees and learn how you can participate in them.
4. **SHAPE Inventory:** An assessment tool to discover where you fit best in God's work at First Baptist.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

At First Baptist, we believe there is a place for every talent and gift. Every member is expected to serve as a leader or alongside a leader as a member of a committee. “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:4-5). The following section describes the structure of our church and suggest places for you to get involved. Read through them prayerfully considering where God may lead you to serve and make Christ known. When you have found a direction, call the leader of that committee or call the pastor to begin getting connected.

CHURCH STRUCTURE

Leadership

- **Pastor:** Brent McCune (573) 286-7096
- **Deacon Chairman:** Jim Stewart (573) 552-7333

Church Officers

- **Trustee Chairman:** Mike Fahrer (573) 372-6886
- **Clerk:** Penny Ricketts (573) 286-1207
- **Treasurer:** Richard Dascher (573) 434-6246

Committees

The ministries of the church are overseen by committees. Each committee is overseen by a chairman. These chairmen and the church officers are nominated by a nominating committee and voted on by the church body. Each committee chairman chooses its own members. Committees include:

- **Stewardship:** Richard Dascher (573) 434-6246
- **Solace:** Cathy Fahrer (573) 372-6886
- **Hospitality:** Lori Powell (573) 286-8855
- **Personnel:** Ray Powell (573) 552-7165
- **Worship:** Ray Powell (573) 552-7165
- **Ushers:** Jim Boone (573) 873-5086
- **Missions:** Mike Fahrer (573) 372-6886
- **Discipleship:** *Currently Vacant*
- **Safety Team:** Jim Stewart (573) 552-7333

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Pastor

The pastor serves as a shepherd to the flock, giving spiritual nourishment and pointing toward the Chief Shepherd, Christ.

Ways to Serve Alongside:

- Business Meetings:** Every other month on Sundays after fellowship dinner. Come to share ideas and to vote on church business.
- Council Meeting:** 1st Wednesday of every month. Church officers and chairmen meet for church planning.
- Laurie Care Center:** About every other month, come to assist residents of the nursing home and join them in worship as we lead a service.
- Revival:** Open your home for a prayer meeting leading up to revival, volunteer as a nursery worker, host a revivalist during their stay.
- Wednesday Night Recharge:** Play with the band on Wednesday nights.
- Training for Ministry:** If you have a call to ministry, receive training.
- Visitation Ministry:** Come visit the lost and hurting in their homes and during hospital stays.

Deacons

Deacons are servant leaders, meeting spiritual and practical needs of the congregation.

Ways to Serve:

- **Become a deacon:** The word deacon simply means “servant”. Deacons are servant leaders in the church. Their primary responsibilities include meeting the needs of the congregation, conducting church discipline, administering the Lord’s supper, and visiting the hurting in times of need. Their qualifications are described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Acts chapter 6 also tells the story of how the first deacons were chosen. If you feel called to this role, let the chairman of deacons know.
- **Become a yokefellow:** Some men may not feel called to the role of deacon or are unsure. If you would like to serve alongside our deacons in their duties in a support role, you may consider becoming a yokefellow.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Trustees

Trustees make legal binding agreements and take care of the church property. Major responsibilities include maintaining the church property, overseeing the custodian, and dealing with legal issues.

Ways to Serve:

- Jr. Trustee:** Serve alongside our trustees helping them with the maintenance of church property. Responsibilities may include making repairs, changing lightbulbs, maintaining the church van, etc.
- Cleanup Days:** Throughout the year there may be special days to clean up the church property.

Clerk

The clerk maintains records of church membership while confirming new members, dismissals and transfers. The clerk also presents church records of baptisms, new members, membership numbers, etc. at the annual business meeting and in writing.

- Serve as Clerk or Assistant Clerk

Treasurer

The treasurer leads in the receiving, recording, and depositing of financial giving. The treasurer also leads in budgeting and the disbursement of church monies.

Ways to Serve:

- Serve as Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer

COMMITTEES

Stewardship

The stewardship committee manages the church budget. Offerings received are prayerfully distributed for the Lord's work. This committee is composed of a minimum of four members of the church with the treasurer as chairman. The assistant treasurer is also a member of this committee. The committee presents an annual budget at the May business meeting, and a semiannual budget review at the November business meeting. The stewardship committee shall also make recommendations to the church of deserving students for scholarships and suggest the amount to be given.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Members should have some financial know how and spiritual gifts of wisdom, giving, administration, discernment, faith, helps, knowledge, and wisdom. Rewards include Seeing gifts result in ministry opportunities and seeing individuals thrive in their ministry from being supported financially.

Solace

The Solace committee coordinates flower arrangements and donations to be given for funerals. This committee also writes cards to those who are hospitalized.

Ways to Serve:

- **Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Members should have sensitive hearts toward those who are grieving. Members do not personally arrange flowers but should be comfortable with the ordering process. Members should also have some skills in letter writing. Beneficial spiritual gifts include encouragement, mercy, and healing. Rewards include seeing spiritual progress as individuals go through trials, witnessing God's healing, and being in the heart of the fellowship of the church.

Hospitality

The hospitality committee hosts fellowship dinners, prepares meals for special church guests, and decorates the church. Fellowship Dinners: This committee shall host all church fellowship dinners where refreshments are served. Specifically, they shall: Prepare the fellowship hall to accommodate the function scheduled; Maintain the kitchen in a clean and sanitary manner, properly cleaning the facilities after the function concludes; Ensure that adequate supplies are on hand. Guest Meals: The committee shall be responsible for the scheduling of special church guests for meals and/or lodging as need dictates. Decoration: This committee shall look after the decorating of the church facilities for all regular services of the church.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Useful skills may include cooking or cleaning. Members may also have skills in decorating and arranging flowers. Beneficial Spiritual Gifts include leadership, service, helps, evangelism, and of course hospitality. Rewards include observing the unity and fellowship of the church and seeing visitors and guests feel the welcoming atmosphere of the church.

Personnel

The Personnel creates job descriptions for church employees and suggests salary changes. The personnel committee may also act as a liaison between employees and the church. Job Descriptions: It shall be the duty of this committee to compile a job description for each person paid a salary by this church body. This includes: list of duties of each person, time off and vacation time. Salary Changes: Suggestions as to salary changes must be made in conjunction with the stewardship committee and come before the church body.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Useful skills may include typing, communication, and dealing well with conflict. Beneficial spiritual gifts include encouragement, administration, discernment, helps, knowledge, and wisdom. Rewards include seeing God work through the employees of the church and being involved in the formation of the purpose of church employees.

Worship

The Worship committee will lead the church in the worship of God through spiritual, musical, and technical means. This committee shall consist of the worship director, church pianist, and others deemed necessary. The Music Director shall plan, coordinate and direct the committee in leading the music of the church. In conjunction with the pastor the Worship Committee will have charge of all matters related to the music of the church. The committee also has oversight of the sound, video, and projector ministry of the sound booth.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Useful skills may include musical abilities (vocal or instrumental) or technical ability in the sound booth. Beneficial spiritual gifts may include Teaching, prophecy, helps, and evangelism. Rewards may include participation in the end-goal of our church ministries: the glorification of God and seeing the development of skills and spiritual gifts in others.

Ushers

The usher committee serves by greeting, seating, and welcoming church attenders. The usher committee also collects church offerings and records attendance. Greeting: It shall be their duty to give a cordial Christian greeting to those attending the church services. Seating: Under the supervision of a head usher, the usher committee shall be responsible for providing, at all services of the church, a staff of ushers sufficient to seat the congregation properly and, as far as possible, make comfortable those attending the services. Offering: Committee shall be responsible for ensuring ushers are prepared to receive all offerings. Visitors: Ushers disburse visitors cards to visitors. Attendance: Shall keep a record of attendance during Sunday Morning service.

Ways to Serve:

- **Become a member of the committee:** Support the team by joining in the above responsibilities. Useful skills may include People skills and the spiritual gifts of service, administration, and hospitality. Beneficial spiritual gifts may include service, administration, and hospitality. Rewards may include Seeing visitors become a part of the church family and being at the heart of the warm, welcoming atmosphere of First Baptist.

Missions

The missions committee leads the church in the promotion of local, national, and international mission efforts. This committee encourages the church towards missions involvement and to become active missions participants in an Acts 1:8 strategy reaching our “Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the Missions Committee:** Help plan the missions events in our community and outreach to the world. Beneficial gifts include evangelism, leadership, mercy, administration, and faith. Rewards include seeing souls come to Christ locally and beyond as well as the joy of participating in obeying the Great Commission. You will also get to see others develop in their mission to the world.
- WOM:** Women on Mission is a group of women who lead in the promotion of national and international missions as well as local community efforts. They meet 2nd Tuesdays at 9:30AM at church, any and women are invited.
- Community for Christ:** A local thrift shop whose proceeds benefit the needy in our area, volunteers needed to sort donations and tend the cash register. Times are Tues, Thur, Sat 10-2, not every week, approximately every month and a half. Watch the bulletin and foyer for a sign up list.

- **Disaster Relief:** A Baptist organization that provides services during national disasters such as mud out, radio communications, chain saw crews, food units, childcare, and much more. Trainings occur throughout the year to get involved.
- **Lamine Association Engage Team:** Plan and lead in missions efforts in the Association which includes Camden, Morgan, and Cooper counties.
- **MBC Messenger:** Represent our church at the Missouri Baptist Convention as a voting member, making decisions in our convention.
- **IMB:** The international Mission Board, give toward offerings.
- **Ethnos 360:** Pray for these missionaries. We give from offerings.
- **NAMB:** North American Mission Board, give towards offerings and pray.
- **Missions Events:** Various Missions efforts through the year, bon fires, VBS, Trunk R Treat.

Discipleship Team

The Discipleship Team leads the discipleship ministry of the church and works as an equipper to the teachers and disciple makers of the church. This team includes the teachers of the church as well as the nursery, children, and teen ministry leadership.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the Discipleship Team:**
Consider joining if you are a teacher or are interested in assisting a teacher. If you are engaged in one-on-one discipleship in someone's life or involved with nursery, children, or youth ministry you may also find a place on this team.

Nominating Committee

Every year, the nominating committee composes a list of suggested new officers and chairmen for the new fiscal year. The nominating committee itself is elected in February. Their suggestions are approved by the church. New leadership begins its duties in July and continues through June of the following year.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the Nominating Committee:**
Three members of the committee are elected by the church. The other two are chosen by the pastor. These choices are made at the February business meeting.

Safety Committee

The Safety Team This committee is composed of four or more members and a chairperson. These members are properly trained for the responsibilities assigned to them within the committee. The Safety Committee shall be responsible for 1) Taking active measures to secure the church premises against outside threats, 2) Preparing the church to respond in emergency situations such as medical crises, natural disasters, fires, or otherwise, and 3) Creating a safe church environment by developing safety procedures and arranging background checks as needed.

Ways to Serve:

- Become a member of the Safety Team:** Consider joining if you are interested in the above mission

SHAPE INVENTORY

Below is an exercise to help you discover your talents and spiritual gifts using the acronym S.H.A.P.E. Read the descriptions below and make notes below each one.

Spiritual Gifts: God gives us spiritual gifts to help the church out. Take a look at the spiritual gifts and list the ones that you believe you may have or would like to explore.

Heart: Describe what you love to do. This may include age groups and types of people you enjoy working with, church ministries, issues, or possible needs that excite or concern you, and ministry or missions that keeps coming to your mind again and again.

Abilities: List the talents and abilities you may have. These can include job skills, subjects you have taught, personal assets, artistic abilities, craftsmanship, etc.

Personality: On a scale from one to five do you consider yourself to be:

Introverted	1 2 3 4 5	Extroverted
Structured	1 2 3 4 5	Spontaneous
Innovate	1 2 3 4 5	Practical
Thinking	1 2 3 4 5	Feeling

Experience: List experiences that may be useful in ministry. These may include previous church service, life experiences, education, special interests, and spiritual experiences.

The Spiritual Gifts

Below are the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to believers. Not everyone has all of the gifts but everyone has been given some. Prayerfully consider how God has gifted you. These gifts are based on those listed in Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-10; and Eph. 4:11.

- Exhortation:** To come alongside of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)
- Hospitality:** To warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)
- Mercy:** To be sensitive toward those who are suffering so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but more so caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress.
- Leadership:** To stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goal.
- Faith:** To be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction
- Serving:** To identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)

- ❑ **Tongues / interpretation:** To speak or understand in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified
- ❑ **Administration:** To steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others
- ❑ **Prophecy:** To speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)
- ❑ **Wisdom:** To apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations
- ❑ **Prophecy:** To speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak).
- ❑ **Evangelism:** To be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos= message - messenger of
- ❑ **Teaching:** To instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth
- ❑ **Pastor / Shepherding:** To be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care
- ❑ **Discernment:** To clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power.(good)
- ❑ **Healing:** To be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually
- ❑ **Knowledge:** To seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data

- **Generosity:** To share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return
- **Miracles:** To be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and mean
- **Helps:** To render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry
- **Missionary:** To be able to minister in another culture.