

## *Why are Church Membership and Sunday School Important*

If a friend asked you, “Why should I join a local church? I get just as much out of it if I don’t join. Does it really matter if my name is on the church roster?” How should you answer that question?

*As a Local Church we Value church membership.*

1. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Testament that Christians were part of a \_\_\_\_\_ church

- Acts 2:47—...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
- Acts 13:1—...in the church that was at Antioch...
- 1 Corinthians 1:2—...To the church of God which is at Corinth...
- 1 Thessalonians 1:1—...To the church of the Thessalonians...
- Revelation 2:1—...To the (messenger) of the church of Ephesus...
- Revelation 2:8—...To the (messenger) of the church of Smyrna...

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ between a church member and a non-member is the level of commitment

MEMBER

NON-MEMBER

Commitment to *support* the church  
 Commitment to *attend* the church  
 Commitment to *serve* the church  
 Commitment to *encourage* the church  
 Commitment to the *unity*...  
 Commitment to the *mission*...  
 Commitment to the *purposes*...  
 Commitment to the *vision*...  
 Commitment to the *reputation*...

No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...  
 No Commitment...

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND DECISION RECORD**

NAME (MR., MRS., MISS)		DATE
RESIDENCE	ZIP CODE	PHONE
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)		ZIP CODE
BUSINESS ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	PHONE
BIRTHDAY (MONTH, DAY, YEAR)	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEAREST RELATIVE OTHER THAN ABOVE ADDRESS		ZIP CODE

MAKES THE FOLLOWING COMMITMENT:

- ACCEPTS CHRIST AS PERSONAL SAVIOUR AND LORD.
- DESIRES MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH:  BY BAPTISM  BY STATEMENT
- BY LETTER FROM \_\_\_\_\_
- ADDRESS OF CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_
- DEDICATES LIFE FOR CHURCH RELATED VOCATION.
- REDEDICATES LIFE TO CHRIST.
- OTHER DECISION \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Church membership tells us \_\_\_\_\_ can be counted on

When we need workers for the Wee Ones Worship (nursery) or the Sunday School or the worship team, we don't get the names out of the phone book!

### 4. Church membership gives us a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to something greater than ourselves

- Every *student*... needs a *school*
- Every *soldier*... needs a *platoon*
- Every *player*... needs a *team*
- Every *child*... needs a *family*
- Every *Christian*... needs a *church*

### 5. How we receive members at First Baptist:

- We make sure the person is a \_\_\_\_\_
  - "Repent and be converted..." Acts 3:19
  - "By grace are you saved through faith..." Ephesians 2:8-9
  - "Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord..." Romans 10:9-10
- We make sure the person is biblically \_\_\_\_\_
  - We are baptized because of the *example* Jesus set for us—Mark 1:9
  - Because He *commanded* it—Matthew 28:19-20; 1 John 2:3
  - Because it *demonstrates* that I really am a believer—Acts 18:8
  - It *illustrates* Christ's death and resurrection—1 Cor. 15:3-4; Col. 2:12
  - It *pictures* my new life as a Christian—2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 6:4
  - We baptize by immersion because Jesus was baptized that way and every baptism in the Bible was by immersion—Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39

#### *Early church leaders agree*

**Martin Luther**—*I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the Word imports and the mystery signifies.*

**John Calvin**—*The word "baptize" signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.*

**John Wesley**—*"Buried with Him," alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.*

*A "Baptism of Confirmation" is different than the "Believer's Baptism" of the Bible. Although infant baptism represents the greatest of intentions of loving parents, Christians should be baptized by immersion, following their personal decision to receive Jesus Christ as Lord. When a child is old enough to understand and believe on Christ, we seek the parent's permission for the child to follow Christ in baptism and church membership.*

- We make sure the person feels \_\_\_\_\_ by God to join the church

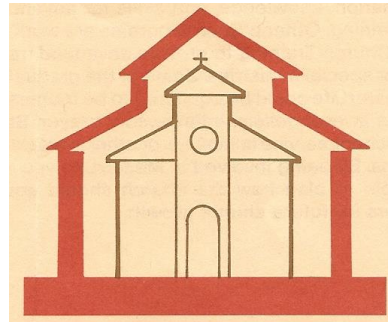
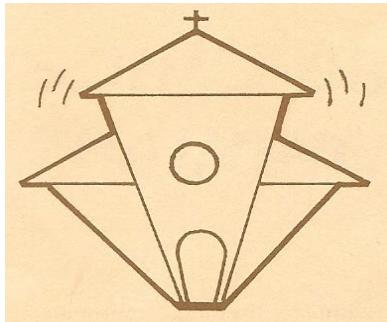
- One purpose of the invitation is to allow people the opportunity to trust Christ and unite with the church—an Application for Church Membership card is used and the pastor presents the candidate to the church. You may join with other members of the Connection Class today or come forward at any invitation and speak with the pastor.

### *We Value the Sunday School Connection*

In Nehemiah 8:1-8 we see a pattern that we follow in the church still today. The preacher spoke to the entire assembly, but to help the people make sense of all that was said, they divided up into smaller groups. At First Baptist, we call our small groups Sunday School classes!

#### 1. The Sunday School works to help us \_\_\_\_\_ spiritually as we focus on building Believers

- Sunday School teaches God’s *Book* on God’s *day* with God’s *people* focusing on God’s *mission*
- Sunday School is taught in a way that *challenges* Christians without *confusing* those who are seeking to learn more about God (non-Christians)
- A Sunday School class needs to have people at various levels of spiritual maturity and experience
- The Adult Sunday School class is a “proving ground” for new church workers and a “labor pool” for new recruits in the work of the church



- As the base of leaders is enlarged, it enables the church to grow larger in size and reach more people. An inadequate base of leadership will limit the growth of the church.

#### 2. The Sunday School helps us to interact socially and grow in our \_\_\_\_\_ with one another

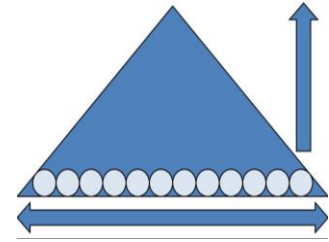
- In Sunday School we learn together, pray together, serve together, care together and share Christ together
- “Fellowship” is like two or more *fellows* in the same *ship*.
- We grow in fellowship as we work together on the same side of a struggle

#### 3. The Sunday School works to help us grow numerically as we focus on ways to share \_\_\_\_\_ with others

- Each class is encouraged to “adopt” at least one missionary and support him or her with prayer and special projects
- Each class is encouraged to increase attendance at least 20% a year



- Each class is encouraged to eventually start a new “mission” Sunday School class with members from their current class
- The Pyramid Principle of Sunday School: As the number of classes is expanded, attendance can increase—we average about 10 in attendance for every new class we begin



4. The Sunday School help us grow in ministry as we \_\_\_\_\_ one another

- As a church grows numerically it becomes impossible for one pastor to minister to everyone’s needs
- A ministering Sunday School class helps carry some of the work load of ministry
- The Jethro Principle of delegation—Exodus 18
- Each Sunday School class is encouraged to minister to each prospect and enrollee, and encourage them in times of crisis, times of blessing, and times of special need
- Ministry is done best in the context of small groups—Luke 9, Exodus 18, Nehemiah 8
- This is a primary way First Baptist provides ministry for you and your family

5. How you can plug-in to a Sunday School class

- Current class structure
- Campus map
- Enrollment card

*First Baptist Church*  
Sunday School Enrollment/Visitor Card

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in this class today  
 Please count me as a guest today  
 Please transfer me from \_\_\_\_\_ class

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with Sunday School Records



**Sunday School  
Classes and Locations  
2015-2016**

Skip Lawhorn, Sunday School Director

<b>Pre-School</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Adults</b>
0-24 months: Brenda Lamb 203	Grades 1-3: Lori White 304	Grades 10-12: S. Brandenburg 302	Young Singles: Young Adults Isaiah Frasure—208
2-3 yrs: Debbie Miller 201	Grades 4-6: Michelle Race 306	Grades 7-9: Angie Young 303	Mixed 1: Young Adults Tim Colwell—107
4 yrs-K: Jean York 202	Children’s Church 305		Mixed 2: Middle Adults Steve Lyons—209
Pre-School Registration 200			Mixed 3: Empty-Nest Adults Vic Byrd—207
			Mixed 4: Retired Adults Gary Norman—212
			Ladies 1: Young & Middle Vacant—204
			Ladies 2: Middle & Empty-Nest Ruth Howard—210
			Ladies 3: Empty-Nest & Retired Shirley Partin—205
			Ladies 4: Retired Ladies Sharon L/Sheliah W—106

*“A Family of Friends on  
Mission with God”*

