

baby dedication

fellowship church



Congratulations! We are thrilled for you and your family.

In the midst of all that is changing in your home and family, we invite you to take a moment to focus on what really matters most. No one will have more influence on your child than you! We want to be your biggest fans, your strongest supporters, and your trusted guides as you raise your child to know what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

On this page you will find all of the information you need to participate in Baby Dedication here at Fellowship Church. We hope and pray you will complete the steps outlined below as you enter into this exciting and important time in the life of your family.

The Process

1. Review the Parents Preparation letter on the next page and then listen to three brief messages about what it means to become a godly, effective spiritual leader in the life of your child. Complete the three homework assignments outlined in these messages. These messages can be downloaded at http://www.essexalliance.org/dedication_homework *(Note- These messages were produced by the staff at Essex Alliance Church, We do NOT have a dedication class and will thus contain some information specific to their church. The intent is to focus on the solid universally applicable principles in the parenting talks.)*
2. Once you have completed Step 1, contact the church office at 225-673-4735 or crichard@fellowshipchurch.cc to schedule a date for your child's Baby Dedication ceremony. This ceremony is normally held monthly during our Sunday worship service. We hope and pray you will invite your family and friends to join you for this exciting and important time of celebration and dedication.
3. One week prior to your baby's dedication please provide a picture and the baby's full birth name to Shannon Stone via email sstone@fellowshipchurch.cc or bring them by the church office.

A Clarification

Baby Dedication is not infant baptism. We believe that when people are old enough to understand what it means to put their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they should have the opportunity to make that choice for themselves. An infant is not able to understand sin, forgiveness, the sacrifice our Savior made for us, and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This event is about your commitment as a parent to lead your child into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, so that as he gets older, you are able to guide him and to help him understand what that means.

Questions?

Please contact:

Family Pastor Brian Robert at (225) 673-4735 brobert@fellowshipchurch.cc

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Parents Preparation Letter



If we agree that dedication is primarily parents' publicly dedicating themselves to raise their children in the nurture and love of the Lord, we'll agree that these things should be true of the parents:

Parents should be committed Christians. Parents should believe salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Parents should have reached a point of believing the Good News – that God invites them to be part of His kingdom, family and mission in this world. (If you aren't sure how to become a committed Christian, please speak with a small group leader or staff member – any of us would be glad to help you take this important step.)

Parents should be aligned with God's Word - Romans 3:23 states the obvious that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". We should always strive to repair our broken relationship with God through the repentance of sin, confessing our sin with a desire for forgiveness and a commitment to the avoidance of sin in the future. In particular preparation for raising a child in the ways of the Lord, it is important to get aligned with God's word. This insures parents have integrity when teaching, correcting and directing their children in the future.

We often receive questions regarding a single parents or families where only one parent is a committed Christian. Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. We highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence or partnership of a spouse. However, we do ask parents living together who are not married to take steps to understand and surrender to God's family plan prior to dedication.

Parents should be involved in the church – either as committed members or as people preparing for membership.

Parents should take seriously their responsibility to raise their children with a strong spiritual foundation. Parents should be committed to having their children in church, and even more importantly, to making God a part of their daily lives. Here are a couple of passages that provide insight to this type of parenting; one from the Old Testament, and one from the New Testament:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:5-7

"Fathers [*Parents*], do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

Sincerely,
Pastor Brian