



First Baptist Church

411 Market Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

CHURCH PROFILE

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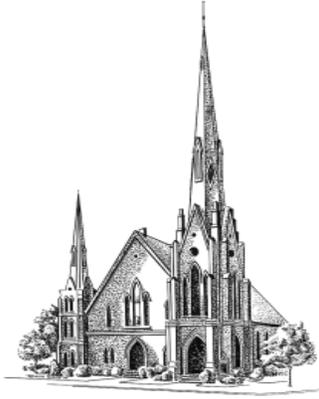
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September, 2011



First Baptist Church

Wilmington, North Carolina

Standing on the shoulders of those who have come before us, and believing that the best is yet to be for our congregation, we the members of First Baptist Church, Wilmington, North Carolina, commit to living out the following:

Our Mission

To honor God by becoming and helping others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

To become a community of believers that is open and welcoming to anyone, no matter where they are on their faith journey, and is intentionally joining with Christ in his redemptive work and purposes in the world.



Our Core Values:

We are intentional in our efforts to be...

BIBLICAL – We believe the Bible is true and that its teaching is the catalyst for life-change in an individual’s life and in the church. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12; Acts 20:32)

EVANGELISTIC – We believe unchurched people matter to God, and therefore ought to matter to the church. (Luke 5:30-32; Luke 15; Matthew 18:14)

RELEVANT – We believe the church should be culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally sound. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

TRANSFORMATIONAL – We believe followers of Jesus should live authentic Christian lives and strive for continuous spiritual growth. (Ephesians 4:25-26 & 32; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:1)

PURPOSEFUL – We believe the church is a unified community of servants, each one exercising their unique spiritual gifts, and structured according to the nature and mission of the church. (Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12 & 14; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Peter 5; Acts 6:2-5)

LOVING – We believe loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life. (1 Corinthians 13)

RELATIONAL – We believe life-change happens best through relationships. (Acts 2:44-47)

EXCELLENT – We believe excellence honors God and inspires people. (Philippians 3:12-16; Colossians 3:17; Proverbs 27:17)

SPIRITUAL – We believe the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and His cause is expected of every believer. (Philippians 2:1-11)

FREE – We believe in religious liberty for all people, the separation of church and state, and the autonomy of the local church. (Galatians 5:1; Matthew 22:21)



First Baptist Church

Brief Historical Facts

As early as 1690, Baptist work began in the Wilmington area. First Baptist Church was organized some time prior to October 1, 1808, when it contributed 10 shillings to the Cape Fear Association, now known as the Wilmington Baptist Association. We do not know where this earliest congregation met.

After a second organization in 1833, the congregation was known as Front Street Baptist Church; the church building was located in a house at Front and Ann Streets on Baptist Hill. The house still stands today. Lots for the present church building at Fifth and Market Streets were purchased in 1858. Subscriptions for the building were requested in the name of First Baptist Church. Construction of the current sanctuary began in 1860; the Civil War delayed completion, and the building was not dedicated until May, 1870.



The sanctuary of First Baptist Church was designed by Samuel Sloan, an architect from Philadelphia. It is modeled after Fredericksburg Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The building is an example of early English Gothic architecture, with pointed arches and two narrow spires. The spires, originally made of heart pine, were joined with wooden dowels; the taller spire rises 197 feet. The buttress at the base of the taller tower is 46 inches wide. In spite of many hurricanes and lesser wind storms that have struck Wilmington, the tall spire withstood winds as great as those of Hurricane Helene in 1958 which reached 135 miles per hour. However, winds from Hurricane Fran in 1996 caused the steeple to be blown from its original support structure. The congregation voted immediately to rebuild the steeple to its original height and look.



The sanctuary foundation holds tons of ship ballast discarded from sailing vessels that once crowded the Cape Fear River. The church appointed a committee in 1859 to collect the stones and have them hauled to the building site. A portion of the exposed ballast rock foundation can be seen in the basement of the Education wing.

The bell in the tower weighs 2,106 pounds; the tongue weighs 47 pounds. This bell was recast from an older bell and was enlarged. Some of the metal in the bell is over 200 years old.

The original estimate for erecting the sanctuary was \$20,592.00, but the actual cost was five or six times higher. Contributions for construction came primarily from the Wilmington congregation, some in the form of materials and labor. Donations were also sought from around

North Carolina and New England.

The sanctuary – balcony and lower floor – seats approximately 700 people; for a hundred years it was the largest auditorium in the city. The ridge line of the ceiling in the sanctuary is five stories high. Sunday School was originally held in the balcony before the Education wing was added in 1922.

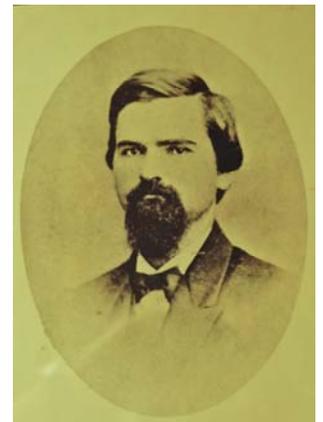


Oil lamps first lighted the sanctuary; these were followed by gas lights and then electricity. The present “art windows” were installed in 1903.

An ingenious air conditioning system was built into the sanctuary. The rosettes in the ceiling connected to an air space above them and were hinged so that they could be raised and lowered by ropes and pulleys. Some of the rosettes have been replaced by modern air conditioner diffusers.

The pews of the lower level of the sanctuary, like the grille work on the front of the balcony, are handmade. They originally cost \$3.00 each. The backs and ends of the pews are paneled with curly pine, the ends in Gothic panels. Original kneeling benches for parishioners who chose to pray in the pews are on display in the Archives Room located on the second floor of the WLI Building. At one time, the church was financed by renting pews. Fees ranged from \$10.00 to \$500.00 per year and were based on location and size of the pew. The renter had exclusive use of the pew for morning worship, prayer meetings, revivals and business meetings. The pews are still divided into sections and are numbered.

The Civil War era was significant in the history of First Baptist Church. Arches over the windows were being turned the day South Carolina seceded, and windows on the towers were being turned the day Fort Sumter was bombarded. During the war, many blockade runners penetrated the Union blockade to dock in Wilmington. In July 1862, one such ship, the “Kate,” sailed up the river, unloaded her cargo and sped away. She also left behind her the beginnings of a yellow fever epidemic. In a short time, hundreds of people were sick and hundreds died. Residents who could fled the city. The pastors of First Baptist Church, St. James Episcopal Church and St. Mary Catholic Church chose to remain and minister to the sick and dying. Dr. John Lamb Prichard, pastor of First Baptist Church, paid the price with his own life. Scars left by the Union rifle balls can be seen outside the sanctuary. A silver spur lost by a Union soldier was found when excavations were made for the Education Building in 1922.



The physical facilities of the church were first expanded in the late 1800s when a Lecture Room was added. In 1922, the Sunday School building was dedicated, and in the mid-1970s, the Activities Center at the corner of Canterbury Road and Independence Boulevard was completed. It was extensively renovated and rededicated in January, 2008. The Church acquired the house

directly behind the Education Building in 1964. The house is called the “Sidbury House” after the father of Dr. J. Burean Sidbury, a pediatrician who lived in it and practiced medicine from the house before opening the Wilmington Babies Hospital near Wrightsville Beach. The original owner of the house, Mr. John J. Connally, was the gentleman who sold First Baptist Church members the lot on which the sanctuary stands on today. The Sidbury House currently serves as Sunday School space.

In 1992 a slight renovation was made to the pulpit and chancel area of the sanctuary. At this time, the chancel and organ were lowered from the balcony gallery to the pulpit level, and the baptistry was moved from behind the pulpit to above the chancel. Also, the pulpit was moved out from directly under the arch in order for the minister to be closer to the congregation and to make room for the expanded chancel choir.



In 1997, the church once again expanded its facility with the purchase of the Wilmington Light Infantry/Taylor House (WLI), which is located beside the sanctuary.

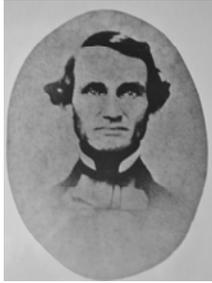
This was done to provide additional space for the church’s ever-growing Sunday School ministry. The main floor of the WLI Building currently serves as the administrative offices of the church. Both the upper and lower levels house additional Sunday School space, and the upper level houses the Archives Room.

First Baptist Church acquired additional property in the fifth block of Market and Princess Streets in July of 2005 when the former New Hanover County Law Enforcement Center became available. Named the Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center in memory of the deceased wife of Bobby Harrelson, the building houses the administrative offices and activity space for numerous nonprofit agencies.



Music has been an important part of worship in First Baptist Church. As early as 1844, a hymnbook was adopted and a “gallery” was approved for singers. Not until 1936 was a paid quartet replaced by a volunteer choir. The first Minister of Music was hired in 1942. A power-driven pipe organ installed in the 1890s was one of the first in eastern North Carolina. The organ in the sanctuary today is one of the finest instruments in the state; it has four keyboards and 2,793 pipes ranging from the size of a pencil to 32 feet in length.

First Baptist Church is known to have had 26 ministers in its 203 years, although records on ministers from 1808 to 1833 are sketchy. Our church has been instrumental in organizing nine other churches. In 1845, First Baptist Church was represented at the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention; in 1897 the SBC met in Wilmington. The Baptist State Convention was formed before the SBC, and it, too, met here in 1867 and 1886.



FBC received its first African American members in 1838. In 1845, at the request of the African American members, they began having their own worship services separate from the Caucasian members. The congregation decided it best (at the request of the African American members) that a new congregation/church be formed in 1864 (post Emancipation Proclamation) which would be predominantly African Americans. Thus, a new building was erected and the majority of the African American members of FBC met there for worship. The name of the new congregation was African Baptist Church. The congregation changed their name to First African Baptist Church and then to First Baptist Church in 1869. The two churches have worked in harmony with one another across the decades having joint worship services occasionally.

The congregation located at 520 North Fifth Avenue met for worship in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church located at 15 North Fifth Avenue for several weeks in February, 1974 after their sanctuary was damaged by fire. The two congregations met for a joint time of worship and fellowship at 520 North Fifth Avenue in February of 2008 as the two congregations celebrated their 200th anniversary.



Following this celebration, the two congregations invited six other congregations Winter Park Baptist, First Presbyterian, St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian, The Love Center Church, New Beginnings Church and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (3 predominantly African American & 3 predominantly Caucasian) to join in an 8 week on-going Bible Study whereby the pastors of the 8 churches would each lead a session. The congregations were asked to provide 15 members from each church to participate. The gatherings were held at the Activities Center of FBC. After the completion of the 8-week study, the churches joined in a mission project of building a Habitat for Humanity house in Wilmington. Members from each of the churches worked together each Saturday to build the house and members of the eight churches took turns preparing and providing lunches for the builders each Saturday. The Bible study was repeated the following year and there was an on-going prayer group made up of some of the participants of the Bible Study that met each week.

First Baptist Church has a long and illustrious history of providing ministry to people in the Wilmington area and around the world. Today's congregation of almost 2000 resident members

is proud of its past and has a hope for many more years of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

Additional historical information can be found in:

Dobson, Helen E., *Our Living Strength – A Historical Sketch of First Baptist Church, 1808-1983*

Everette, James E., III, *A Heritage of Hope – A History of First Baptist Church, 1808-2008*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH TIMELINE 1808-2011

1808 – 1850

- 1808 First Baptist Church was organized when it contributed ten shillings to the Cape Fear Association, now known as the Wilmington Baptist Association.
- 1833 After a second organization, the congregation was known as the Front Street Baptist Church. The church building was located in a private home at Front and Ann Streets, 305 South Front Street, which was called Baptist Hill. The house still stands today.
- 1838 Received its first African American members.
- 1844 Dr. McDaniel, founder and leader of NC Baptist State Convention, became our pastor.
- 1844 First hymnals (for choir only)
- 1845 Southern Baptist Convention founded. Wilmington Baptists were present.
- 1850 Acquired first organ.

1850 – 1900

- 1858 Purchased lot at 5th Avenue and Market Street to build new sanctuary
- 1860 Construction started on new sanctuary...estimated cost to be \$20,592. Actual cost was six times higher. It was a big financial challenge.
- 1861 Civil War started.

- 1862 A blockade runner brought the yellow fever epidemic to this area. Hundreds of people died, and the population fled. Dr. John Lamb Prichard, our pastor, stayed and ministered to the sick and dying. He contracted the fever and died.
- 1864 Sold Front Street meeting house (Baptist Hill) and congregation met in city hall for six years.
- 1864 Over one third of congregation was African American. They were given permission to start a new church. The name of the new congregation was African Baptist Church. The congregation changed their name to First African Baptist Church and then to First Baptist Church in 1869.
- 1868 Approved building and renting pews to help pay for the new sanctuary. The price ranged from ten dollars to five hundred dollars. Collection boxes were placed in businesses around the city and emissaries sent throughout NC and the Northeast soliciting donations to the building fund.
- 1870 First worship service in new sanctuary. Name changed to First Baptist Church. Both the worship service and Sunday school were held in sanctuary
- 1897 Southern Baptist Convention met in Wilmington
- 1898 A white mob gathered in the street at the corner of 5th Avenue and Market Street. They burned out the African American newspaper, shot many African Americans, and forced many to leave town. Became known as the 1898 Wilmington Race Riot and ushered in many years of racial unrest.

1900 – 1950

- 1903 Ladies of “Willing Workers Society” replaced side windows of the sanctuary.
- 1910 With donated supplies, church volunteers excavated three feet under existing auditorium behind the sanctuary for additional Sunday school space and called it Fireside Hall.
- 1913 Lottie Moon, patron saint of foreign missions died. She had inspired the Women’s Missionary Union (WMU) at FBC consisting of 200 women in 7 circles.
- 1920 United States passed 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.
- 1922 Built new Sunday School Educational Building including a roof top garden used for church-wide socials.
- 1924 New pastor, Dr. Marcus Kester, assigned women to leadership positions for first time.
- 1930 Purchased new parsonage at 117 South 4th Street for Dr. Marcus Kester, his wife, and ten children. He died six years later at age forty-eight.

1942 Hired Henri Emerian, a colorful and talented organist/choir director. Became the “music man of Wilmington.” He led the transition from paid quartet to an all volunteer choir.

1950 – 1960

1953 First Children Day with young people leading the worship service. Had large flowers, trees, and caged birds in sanctuary.

1958 Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Wilmington’s largest employer relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, taking many FBC members with them.

1958 Celebrated 150th anniversary of FBC with pageant of one hundred people highlighting history of First Baptist.

1958 Seven hundred forty people were in Sunday school and thirty-nine new members joined the church on May 4th.

1960 – 1970

1960 Average Sunday school attendance peaked at five hundred ninety three.

1961 Average Sunday school attendance decreased 20%.

1963 Purchased eight acres on Independence Boulevard.

1964 Purchased the Sidbury House next to the Education Building for Sunday school classes.

1966 Sunday school attendance stabilized at three hundred seventy five. FBC lost three hundred members in past eight years.

1969 First couples class organized against Southern Baptist Convention rules.

1970 – 1980

1970 Losing members.....average Sunday school attendance three hundred forty. First time idea for a contemporary worship service was introduced.

1971 Race riots in Wilmington. National Guard called in to restore order. Southside Baptist relocated to suburbs. Wednesday and Sunday night worship services cancelled at FBC due to city wide curfews.

1973 Committee on Church Goals recommended that church build an education building and new sanctuary on eight acres on Independence Blvd. The congregation was “split down

- the middle” on moving the sanctuary. The final decision was to build an Activities Center there.
- 1974 African American First Baptist church at 520 North 5th Street burned. FBC invited them to join worship service and gave them financial assistance.
 - 1976 FBC Activities Center dedicated to God. Its purpose was recreation, fellowship, and outreach.
 - 1978 Hired first Minister of Recreation and Youth, Rev. Don Vigus.
 - 1978 Ordained first female deacon, Mrs. Betty Stike
 - 1979 First Easter sunrise service at Airlie Gardens and first annual *Thanksgiving Wildlife Banquet*.
 - 1979 Last radio broadcast of Sunday morning worship service.
- 1980 – 1990**
- 1986 Dr. Michael G. Queen installed as new pastor.
 - 1989 FBC ordained first female minister, Ann Charles-Craft.
- 1990 – 2000**
- 1990 Sent representatives to Atlanta, GA for a gathering of Baptists that eventually became the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
 - 1990 Interstate 40 highway completed to Wilmington. Local population increased 30% in the next ten years resulting in a growth spurt for FBC.
 - 1992 The pulpit and chancel area of the sanctuary was altered and renovated.
 - 1993 First *Christmas at First Baptist* with a full orchestra and choir as a Christmas gift to the community.
 - 1996 Hurricane Fran toppled the one hundred ninety-seven foot FBC spire. The spire was rebuilt.
 - 1997 Acquired the Wilmington Light Infantry/Taylor house (WLI Building).
 - 1999 Capital campaign, called *Heritage and Hope*, to erase debt and renovate WLI building and build connecting building. Hoped to raise \$1.75 million; over \$2.6 million received.

2000 – 2011

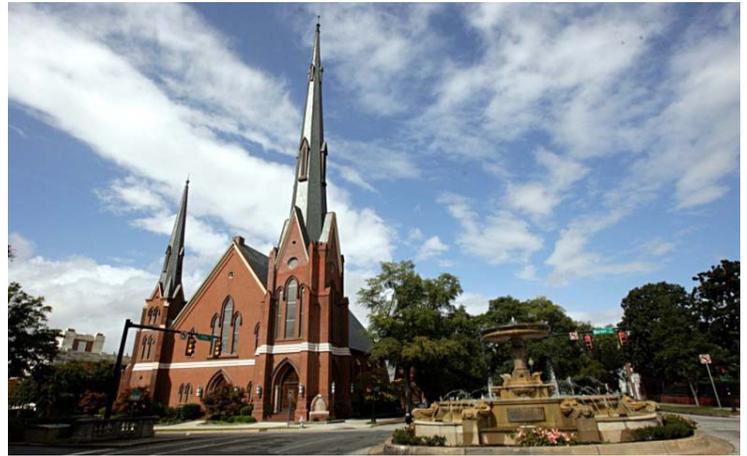
- 2001 First Baptist severed its ties with Southern Baptist Convention and partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
- 2004 Average Sunday school attendance was five hundred.
- 2005 The former New Hanover County Law Enforcement Center was acquired and renamed Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center. It currently houses the administrative offices of numerous nonprofit agencies.
- 2005 Started a new progressive worship service called *The Journey*.
- 2007 Activities Center extensively renovated.
- 2008 FBC celebrated 200th anniversary and rededicated Activities Center.
- 2008 Caucasian and African American First Baptist Churches--The two congregations met for a joint time of worship and fellowship at 520 North Fifth Avenue as the two congregations celebrated their 200th anniversaries.
- Following this celebration, the two congregations invited six other congregations to join in an 8 week on-going Bible Study whereby the pastors of the 8 churches would each lead a session.
- 2008 FBC choir performed at the centennial of the 1898 Race Riot at the memorial on North 4th Street.
- 2009 Congregation began writing daily devotions and Sunday school lessons that correlated with sermons, entitled *Along the Way*.
- 2011 Dr. Michael G. Queen retired after 25 years as pastor.

Timeline compiled by Ken Newland, First Baptist Church Historian

First Baptist Church

Where We Are

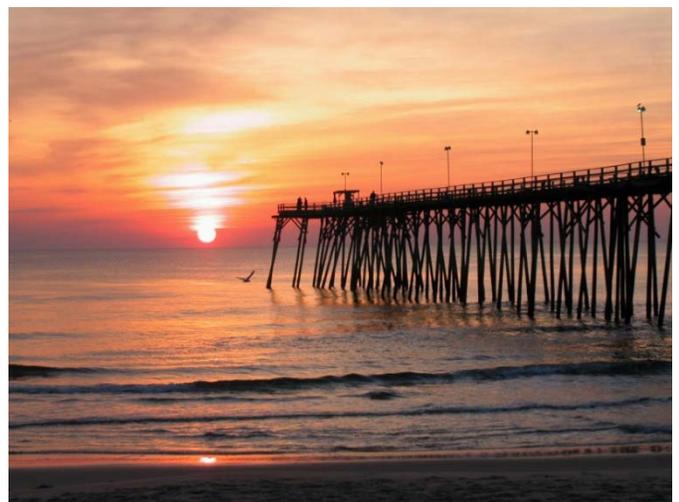
First Baptist Church is located in beautiful downtown Wilmington, North Carolina. This charming city, also known as the Port City, is located in the southeastern corner of North Carolina between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. More than a tourist town, Wilmington, NC has many attractions such as the Battleship North Carolina, Airlie Gardens and Screen Gem Studios.



Wilmington has become a popular destination because of its moderate, four-season climate, historic preservation district, annual events (Wilmington Riverfest and the Azalea Festival) and numerous championship golf courses. In addition, the nearby Wrightsville, Carolina and Kure Beaches are a mecca for boaters, surfers, sunbathers, beachcombers and seafood lovers.



The metro area has more than 350,000 residents and is home to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. It is also home to a regional visual and performing arts center, a regional medical center, the Wilmington International Airport, and to Screen Gems Studios- North Carolina, one of the largest motion picture and television studios outside of Hollywood. Wilmington, the county seat of New Hanover County, was incorporated in 1739 and was originally situated on seven hills located on the east side of the Cape Fear River. It was named in honor of Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, who was a patron of North Carolina's Governor at the time. To this day, visitors are reminded of its rich history by the grand old homes and tree-lined boulevards, making Wilmington one of the most beautiful small cities in the south.

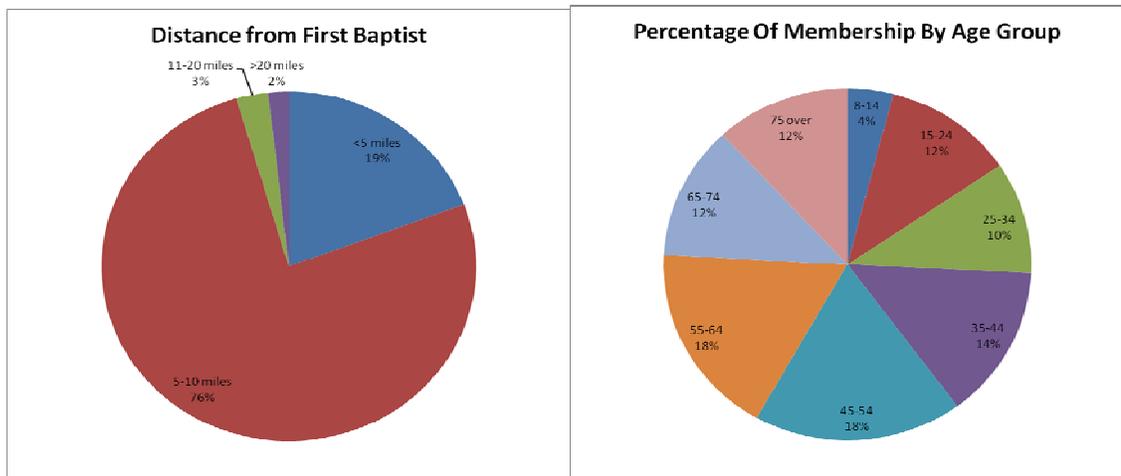


First Baptist Church

Demographics

First Baptist Church, located in historic downtown Wilmington, has served God and the community since 1808. There are currently 1,703 resident active members, with three other classes of membership that brings the total membership to 2,576: 250 inactive, 6 assisted living, and 551 non-resident. The congregation is largely comprised of members that reside in the city of Wilmington, and 95% of the membership drive 10 miles or less each way to attend worship services. There are two campuses: a downtown campus that includes the historic sanctuary, WLI Building, Sidbury House, the Harrelson Center, and the Activities Center, which includes a gym, meeting and conference space, a book store and is home to First Baptist Preschool. The Activities Center is located approximately three miles from downtown.

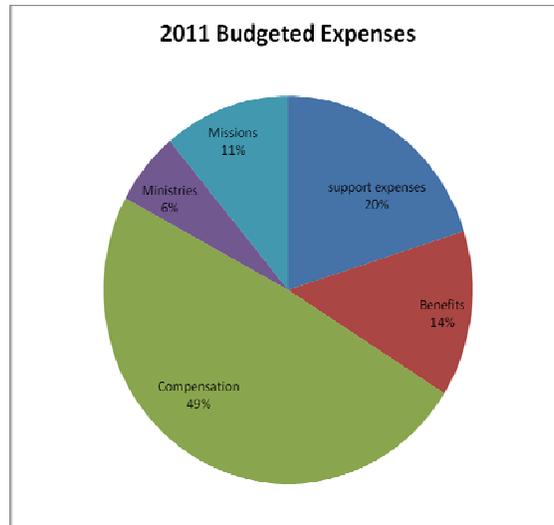
The congregation reflects a cross section of the community in age diversity and no single group makes up more than 18% of the total. The two largest age groups are 55-64 (18%) and 45-54 (18%). 68% of the congregation is married and 24% is single – single includes 18 years and older, divorced, and widowed, (children and unknown status – 8%).



Worship takes place each Sunday in two distinctly different services. *The Journey* service begins at 8:50 and includes a praise band, deepwater, leading in contemporary Christian music along with a multi-media presentation from the minister leading in worship. The *Traditional* service follows a time honored style of worship, begins at 11:10 and is led by the chancel choir. This service includes familiar hymns and reciting the Lord's Prayer. Average attendance for weekly worship in 2010 was 800. Sunday school is held between the two services at 10 a.m., and average Sunday school attendance in 2010 was 503. FBC writes its own adult Sunday school curriculum called *Along the Way*, and in the past year, 266 individuals in the congregation contributed, writing daily devotions and Sunday school lessons.

Each year, one Sunday is designated as *Consecration Sunday*, a time in which members are asked to make a financial commitment to support the annual budget after it is finalized by the staff and Financial Management Committee. This is done as an act of worship in both of the

worship services. The budget approved for 2011 is \$1,938,679 and 83% of that budget has been committed in pledges from 429 families. There are more families that give than make financial pledges. In 2010, 400 pledges were received to support the budget but funds were actually received from 664 families. The 2011 budget is allocated as follows:



FBC has had two major capital campaigns over the past 15 years to support facilities expansion and improvement. ***Heritage and Hope*** provided funding to expand the downtown campus by adding a connector building from the WLI building to the main facility and to fund repairs and up fit in the sanctuary and education space downtown. \$2,646,694 was raised in this campaign. ***Promise and Purpose*** raised \$2,906,860 and supported the expansion of the Activities Center.

The expansion of the Activities Center in 2008 has provided the church and community space needed to accommodate conferences, meetings, and a host of recreational activities. The Activities Center is home to the First Baptist Preschool, started in September 2007. The Preschool serves children from 1-4 and has been at full capacity each year since 2008. Enrollment for the 2011-12 school year is 111.

The Activities Center is also the site of Wednesday evening activities during the school year that include dinner (served by volunteers) and programs for children as well as adults. Wednesday night is called ***CrossTraining*** and in 2010-11, 95-120 first – sixth graders participated each week. The children’s time includes mission studies and activities and Bible study in small groups as well as contemporary worship songs and games. Childcare and age appropriate curriculum are also provided for birth-K, and 40-50 younger children attend each week. ***CrossTraining*** also includes 5-7 seminars for adults led by staff and lay leaders.



The Activities Center serves as the meeting place for a variety of church committee meetings and also provides weekly or monthly meeting space for over 30 groups / boards not affiliated with

First Baptist. Thousands of people in the community use the facility in the course of a year participating in the recreational activities held there such as halo hoops basketball for youth, adult softball and basketball leagues, pickleball, aerobics, shag and line dancing, to name a few; most of these activities occur on a weekly basis. Over the past year, the recreation ministry of FBC has organized activities such as kayak adventures, golf tournaments, surf camps, biking trips, NASCAR trips, diving trips, as well as local and global mission trips for participants of all ages.



The children's ministry at FBC conducts two summer camps at the Activities Center, *Camp Jonah* for 1-6th graders and *Camp Creation* for Preschool – Kindergarten. In 2011, attendance for *Camp Jonah* was 208 children for the week and *Camp Creation* had 121 participants.



The youth of FBC meet on Sunday nights at the Activities Center with 40-60 in attendance weekly. The *Youth Group* is active, participating in retreats, mission trips, feeding homeless people on Tuesday evenings and small group Bible study on Wednesday evenings. The *Youth Group* sponsors and conducts *Christmas at the Cove* each year by collecting new children's toys and clothes from the congregation, then making these items available for less fortunate families to select as gifts for their children at no cost.



In 2005, FBC purchased the former county jail building and converted it to the Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center. A generous gift from a member of the congregation made the purchase possible, and today, the center serves as office space for 10 nonprofit agencies meeting a variety of needs in the community. The center is managed through an independent Board of Directors, but is supported financially by FBC and is located adjacent to the administrative offices of the church. The transformation from a place of incarceration to a place of hope is evidence of God's work through FBC.

Harrelson Center Nonprofit Agencies

Drug Treatment and DWI Court



Phoenix Employment Ministry



Christian Women's Job Corps®



a HOPE Ministry

Philippians 3 Ministries



Communities
In Schools

Cape Fear



Cape Fear
Habitat
for Humanity®



First Baptist Church

Heritage

First Baptist Church is a warm, intimate, inviting, welcoming, investing, embracing and accepting community of faith. Many of our members joined the church because of encouragement from family and friends, while others joined because they felt welcomed and/or were impressed with our ministry to children, teenagers and adults. Members remain in First Baptist Church because of the deep, sustaining relationships, Christian fellowship and spiritual and personal growth. For many, First Baptist Church has become “family” where spiritual gifts can be used and congregation and staff work for common goals. The Staff and Congregation are authentic followers of Jesus through life’s stages.

First Baptist Church has a “whatever it takes” attitude, and we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ. There is a high level of accountability between the congregation and staff; consequently, there is a high level of trust and respect.

Our greatest hope for this transition and our future is that we find the next pastor that God has chosen for our church. We are proud, yet humble, of our tradition of excellence, and we are praying for a pastor who will lead and challenge us to become even more Christ-centered, compassionate and missional.





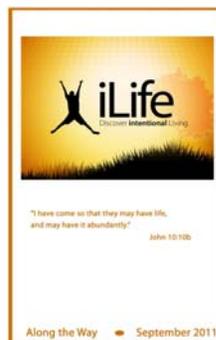
First Baptist Church Profile

Mission

First Baptist Church is not your typical Baptist church. It is a moderate church that is open to everyone. We are an intentional, welcoming, and growing missional church with members who love God and have a heart for the community. Located in downtown Wilmington, we have a historical house of worship that might appear large on the outside, but on the inside we have a family-like atmosphere. Our staff and congregation are authentic and sincere believers in Christ who seek opportunities to carry out God's mission.

We are involved in numerous missions and ministries. Some of those that mean the most to us are: Interfaith Hospitality Network, Jail Ministry, Music Ministries (Choir and Praise Team), Christian Women's Job Corp, Camp Jonah and Camp Creation (Children's Ministry), feeding homeless people, visiting homebound folks, our *Along the Way* Sunday School material, offering a variety of Sunday School options, and our Children and Youth Ministries.

Although we are a proud and progressive church, there are still areas that can be strengthened. First Baptist Church is active, but we recognize the need for more individuals within the church to get involved. We also feel that we could improve our assimilation of new members into the life of the church and bridge the generation and married/single gaps, especially between *The Journey* and *Traditional* worship services. Focusing on more cultural and ethnic diversity is also a need. First Baptist Church is a valuable resource to the community, and we want to continue to set a positive example and be a beacon of light to others.





First Baptist Church

Leadership

First Baptist Church is characterized by servant based leadership that involves a wide range of laity. We believe that we are most effective when we serve Christ together. Functioning as a cooperating body of believers, we are more engaged in the mission of Christ's church.

Currently, we are a staff-led church with broad-based strong lay leadership as well. Opportunities for more people to participate and share ideas are critical parts of the ministry of the church. Based upon spiritual gifts inventory assessments and personalities, it is vital to the health of the church that leaders be in the roles that are best suited for them.

FBC needs a passion for Christ and the Holy Spirit in our leadership. As a result of that passion and faith based vision, enthusiasm, hope, flexibility, encouragement, patience, strong commitments, listening, and compromising should be evident in the leadership as they guide the ministries and mission of the church. Without losing sight of our heritage, our leadership should have a clear vision for the future, but one that will join and embrace us where we are now. The church, having a servant's heart, should love, respect and support the new pastor and each other.

It is our hope that our leadership will clearly communicate God's vision for our church. This leadership should be proactive and enthusiastic. Leadership should continually seek new ideas in a team environment, and be willing to take risks with prayerful consideration for God's direction. A definite requirement is that our leadership will foster unity with encouragement, patience and prayer while remaining confident in God's purpose for our church and our city.

Since our current staff is tenured, talented, respected and effective, it is essential that the senior pastor recognize, appreciate and embrace them and their ministries, just as the members of the congregation do.

Understanding that change allows us the opportunity to become a more creative, visionary, mission-minded, energetic church, we are eager to embrace a new senior pastor.

Structure and Leadership

Church Congregation

Final authority in all matters pertaining to the church shall rest with the membership in keeping with the Constitution. A simple majority in a Church business meeting shall be necessary for any action unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution. The character of the church shall be an independent local autonomous church (Constitution and By-Laws of First Baptist Church of Wilmington, Article III)

Staff

Ministerial Staff

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music & Worship
Minister of Recreation and Missions
Minister of Spiritual Formation
Minister of Administration and Senior Adults
Minister to Students
Minister of Connections
Minister of Pastoral Care
Minister to Children's Ministries
Director of FBC Christian Preschool

Support Staff

Facilities Manager
Church Secretary
Financial Secretary
Coordinator of the Activities Center
Pastor's Administrative Assistant
Organist
Coordinator of Creative Communications
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Custodian
Activities Center Custodian

The Diaconate

Fourteen (14) members elected annually to serve a term of four (4) years, at the end of which time there shall be a lapse of at least one (1) year before being considered for re-election. In 2012, the term of service will be three years instead of four.

Deacon Emeriti

Diaconate Committees : Communion Committee; Prayer; Pastoral Care (includes Inactive Members Team); Connection Ministry (New Members Team, Deacon Security/Hospitality, New Member Welcome, Pastor's Gathering, Church Membership Study Team); Administrative (Constitution, Policies and Procedures, Pastoral Review); Fellowship; Officer Nominations; Deacon Nomination and Election; Deacon Emeriti; Vision Team; Diaconate Officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary)

Church Officers

The Church officers consist of "the pastor, Diaconate, trustees, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers as the Church shall see fit to elect for defined duties" (Constitution, Art. VI, sec, 1).

Church Clerk
Historian

Co-Treasurers (4)
Secretary of Corporation

Board of Trustees The function of the Board of Trustees is to hold legal title to all property owned or acquired by the church.

The Board of Trustees consists of six (6) members, two (2) of which shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years, except when necessary to fill an unexpired term. At least one member shall be a member of the Diaconate. No member shall be re-elected until absent from the Board for at least one (1) year

Committees, Teams, and Organizations

Standing Committees

Most committees elect members for three-year terms

A staff member serves as liaison

Audit Committee

Children's Ministry

Christian Education

Financial Management

Missions and Ministry

Personnel

Recreation and Wellness

Youth Ministry

Nominating Committee (one-year terms; appointed annually by the pastor and the chair of the diaconate)

Pastoral Selection Committee (9 members, nominated by the Diaconate and elected by the Church when needed. Nominations from the floor during the election shall not be precluded).

Ad hoc Committees

Created and appointed by the pastor and the chairperson of the diaconate on an as-needed basis

Teams

Members do not rotate off in a given year

Archives Team

Worship Team

Organizations

Men's Ministry

Woman's Missionary Union

Women's Ministry

Administrative Council

Consists of chairpersons of all standing and ad hoc committees specified in the constitution, Board of Trustees, Diaconate and pastor (meets quarterly; purpose is to provide a forum for discussion and coordination of all church committee activities)

Denominational Ties

We are an autonomous Baptist Congregation. We are affiliated with the National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance as we partner with other Baptist churches across the nation and around the world. We also work specifically with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Wilmington Baptist Association in an effort to better serve our state.

Other Leadership Roles

Sunday School Teachers

While Sunday school classes have the freedom to choose their own teachers and materials, the Minister of Spiritual Formation serves as a resource and guide for Sunday school.

Lay-led Ministries

Many of our ministries were initiated by lay leaders of the church.

Harrelson Center

The Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center is the home of several nonprofit agencies which work to touch lives and fill them with purpose, hope, and healing.





First Baptist Church

Connections

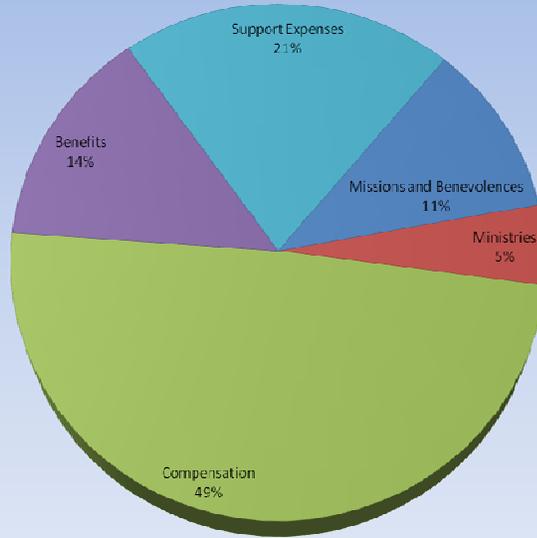
First Baptist Church is a community of faith that serves people in Wilmington, NC and around the world as we strive to become fully devoted followers of Christ. We honor our traditions and embrace the change the future holds for us. It is very important that our next pastor believes in and supports the tenants and the freedoms offered under the Baptist doctrine. However, our congregation is interested more in doing God's will than debating theological issues. We welcome all people wherever they are in their faith journey to worship God and serve others with us as we walk along the way with Jesus. We invite everyone to join us as we serve, together, the living God.

We have the privilege of various ministry opportunities as we serve our congregation. These ministries include children, youth, retirees and senior adults, young adults, recreation, men and women's ministry. For a detailed description of each, refer to our Mission and Ministries booklet. We also invite you to visit our website at www.fbcwilmington.org

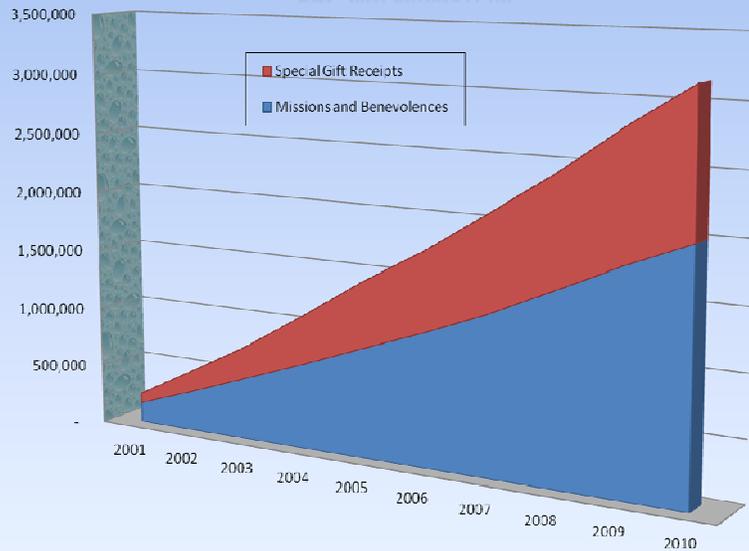
We are a unique Baptist church, one that is led by the Holy Spirit where missions and community outreach are top priority. We are called to be a missional church that serves the local community, state and the world. Some examples include Tuesday Night Homeless Feeding, Jail Ministry (we are baptizing inmates to the glory of God), Prayer Shawl Ministry, Wilmington Interfaith Hospitality Network, Communities in Schools, Christian Women's Job Corps, Good Shepherd Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Phoenix Employment Ministries, FBC Activities Center which also houses First Baptist Preschool and the Mustard Seed Bookstore, Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center which houses 10 nonprofit agencies. Again for a detailed description of each, refer to our Mission and Ministries booklet and visit our website at www.fbcwilmington.org

In addition to our congregation's time and talent, FBC supports these areas financially. 16% of our offerings is given to ministries and missions which amounted to \$214,500 in 2010 or almost \$2,000,000 in the last 10 years (see graphs). FBC supports 50 mission causes in our annual budget and 44 mission causes from special gift receipts (see list). FBC's financial support to CBF, both nationally and in NC, allows us to provide financial help for additional ministries.

BREAKDOWN OF 2010 GENERAL FUND EXENDITURES FOR FBC WILMINGTON



10 YR CUMULATIVE MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCES SUPPORT FBC WILMINGTON



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Special Gift Receipts	81,542	179,455	271,191	401,800	541,497	644,284	776,237	877,634	1,021,20	1,150,01
Missions and Benevolences	164,500	338,900	523,600	709,300	904,000	1,093,10	1,300,10	1,540,75	1,781,40	1,995,90

Ministries Supported by General Fund Giving in 2010

NC State Missions - NC Baptist Men	Operation Christmas Child
NC State Missions - CBF of NC	CBF NC General Assembly Travel
NC State Missions - WMU of NC	Fellowship Christian Athletes
Baptist Children's Homes of NC	Campbell Divinity School
NC Baptist Hospital - School of Pastoral Care	Gardner-Webb Divinity
Baptist Retirement Homes of NC	Mercy House
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	Associated Baptist Press
Bapt State Convention of NC	Baptist World Alliance
Wake Forest Divinity	Bapt Joint Comm for Religious Liberty
Bapt Theo /Richmond	Baptist Center for Ethics
Wilmington Baptist Association	Missionary Counseling Center
Care Net Congregational Asst Plan	Carousel Center
Wilmington Care Net Counseling Ctr	Duke Divinity School
Mission Trips/Mission Partnerships	Phoenix Job Services
Good Shepherd Center	Christian Women's Job Corp
Missions Possible	MOPS of FBC
Yahweh Center	Jo Ann Carter Harrelson Center
Habitat for Humanity	International Seaman's Center
Domestic Violence Shelter	InnerCity Homeless ILM Ministry
Jail Ministry	Market St Feeding Ministry
Special Needs	Baptist Today Newspaper
CBF of NC	Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
Scouting	Theological Edu Scholarships
Miscellaneous Missions	Leading Into New Communities
WIFH Network	Life Line Crisis Pregnancy Ctr

Ministries Supported by Special Gift Receipts in 2010

Forum Class Mission Project	Domestic Violence
Local Missions	NC Baptist Men
Children's Ministry	Jo Anne Carter Harrelson Center
Youth Ministry	Guatemala House
Music Fund	Guatemala Food Baskets
Global Missions - December	Thanksgiving Blessings
Inner City Missions - April	Chile Donation
State Missions - September	Jail Ministry
Good Shepherd Center	Christian Women's Job Corp
Fellowship Fund - July	Guatemala Mission Trip
Habitat for Humanity	CBF National Budget
WMU of NC	Boy Scout Book Bags
Baptist Counseling Center	First Fruits
Bereavement Fund	Haiti
Pastor's Fund	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Baptist Children's Homes - November	Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
Baptist Retirement Homes - February	Guatemala Shoes
Baptist Hospitals - May	S A Ministry
World Hunger - October	Guatemala Bicycle Ministry
Recreation Fund	
Ed Piner Fund	
Poinsettias	
White Christmas	
Baggett Bible Class	
Christmas at the Cove	



CONNECTIONS





First Baptist Church

Next Steps

The Transition Team will present this church profile to the nine member Pastor Search Committee on September 25, 2011 at the church business meeting. Prayerfully, this committee will seek, in a timely manner, the next pastor that God has planned for us.

Meanwhile, the staff and congregation will pray and maintain our strong commitment to God and each other. Likewise, we will maintain our visible presence in our community as we promote and support First Baptist Church's mission *of honoring God by becoming and helping others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.*



Acknowledgments



A special thanks to Dr. Bill Wilson from the Center for Congregational Health for his leadership, support and guidance during this time of transition for First Baptist Church. Even though we viewed ourselves as a “healthy” church, Bill, with his expertise, prevented us from making unhealthy decisions. Serving as facilitator for our Five Congregational Conversations, Bill made them fun and engaging for the participants while enabling the Transition Team to collect valuable data for our church profile.



Filling the pulpit three Sundays a month and assisting the staff with worship planning, Dr. Brett Younger has served as our Interim Preacher since June, 2011 and will continue in this role until a Senior Pastor is hired. An Associate Professor of Preaching at McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Brett brings experience and understanding to the role as he has previously served as Senior Pastor of four churches and Interim Pastor for one other congregation. During our time of transition, Dr. Younger’s thoughtful and often humorous perspective has been embraced by the congregation and helps provide continuing spiritual growth and a true sense of worship.

Acknowledgments

The five Congregational Conversations, where we gathered data for the Church Profile of First Baptist Church, would not have been possible without the strong commitment and tireless efforts of the Transition Team. These fifteen people have worked faithfully for many months, giving of their time and talents in facilitating the five Congregational Conversations and compiling the data for this church profile. Working diligently behind the scenes, they have sacrificed family time, leisure time and often workplace time. FBC will forever be grateful for their service!



Andy Powell, Ann Millard (Chair), Harry Williams, Susan Winstead, Austin Aley,
Andy Motley, Lindsey Reiner, Laura Kinkead, Doug Barbour,
Jim Morgan, Julie Bobo, Beth Upton, Carl Williford, Connie Allegood, Bob Merritt

Acknowledgments

Finally, the Staff and Support Staff of First Baptist Church provided vital assistance and support to the Transition Team. They were often called upon to provide valuable information and services, all of which are reflected in this church profile. Throughout our conversations, the congregation consistently communicated their respect, trust, support and appreciation for the staff. Not only are all staff members leading us through this intentional interim ministry and transition period, but they are also committed to working collaboratively with the pastor that God has planned for us.



Rev. Don Vigus, Rev. Kurt Wachtel, Marie Lane, Tim Age, Rev. Stefanie Riley, Judy Brown, Brenda Walden, Kelly Reynolds, Paula Philemon, Rev. Jayne Davis, Rev. Daryl Trexler, Jeannie Troutman, Dr. Jim Everette

(Not pictured... Dr. Frank Hawkins, Margaret Johnson and Michael Gunday)

THE BEST IS YET TO BE!

