

If you want to dedicate your child ...

If you are interested in participating in a future dedication service at First Baptist Fort Mill, please call Amanda in the church office (547-2051) or check out information on the web site (www.fbcfm.com/children).



You will be asked to do the following:

- Complete a Dedication Request Form
- Attend a Dedication Class prior to the Sunday of the service
- Invite grandparents and friends to attend the service

... other details will be given closer to the actual dedication.

What is the difference between dedicating your child and infant baptism or christening?

Many Christian churches practice infant baptism, or christening. These services are similar in some ways to the parent-child dedication, but they also include baptizing an infant, usually by sprinkling water on the baby.

We do not baptize infants. We believe that baptism is only for those who are able to decide for themselves to follow Jesus Christ. When an older child, teen, or adult makes that decision, and publicly shares their faith in Christ, then they are baptized.

Parent-Child dedications have been a part of Baptist tradition since the 18th century, following the Biblical models of Samuel in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament.

Do members of First Baptist *have* to participate in the dedication?

No. The dedication of your child is not a requirement, but it is an incredible privilege for Christian parents.

Is there an age limit for the dedication service?

No. The average age is 18 months & younger. We have had the privilege of dedicating children as young as five days old all the way up to elementary age.

First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC

www.fbcfm.com/children

Parent-Child Dedication



Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing.

Psalm 127:3

Parent-Child Dedication

First Baptist Church provides parents with the opportunity to dedicate their children to the Lord. We believe it is both the mom and dad's job to train their children to love the Lord, and we want to give parents the opportunity to make a covenant before the Lord and our church family.

We currently provide three opportunities during the calendar year: spring, fall, and winter. Please check the web site or call the church office for these specific dates and to receive information on the next dedication.



*Train children in the right way,
and when they are old, they will
not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

The dedication ... what it is ... and what it is not ...

Parent-Child Dedication

IS

- An acknowledgement that every child is a gift from God
- A parent's covenant to spiritual leadership in the home
- A promise from the church family to support & encourage parents in their family's spiritual growth
- A symbol of the commitment of the parents and of the congregation to lead the child in the way of the Lord

And he took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:16

Parent-Child Dedication

IS NOT

- Something to be taken lightly
- A promise that each child will turn out "perfect" - the dedication has no magical power!
- Baptism—the Bible does not teach infant baptism
- An assurance of the child's salvation

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