

Forward-Ready e-mails

Used to Promote Parts of Recruiting Season

Stand By to Receive Forward-Ready e-mail

A Recruiting Season e-mail you can forward to your recruit

This one will be a reminder for *Open House*, which is *Tonight!*

When you receive this e-mail, why not take a second and forward it to someone you think might be interested in coming

Perhaps add a personal note

To make it look less cluttered, cut off the heading at the top; this part:

From: Derek Gentle [mailto:pastor@xysqrst.com]

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 10:03 AM

Subject: Why not take your on-campus visit tonight?

[Note: Room is left at top for church members to write a note as they forward the e-mail to their friends]

Take Your On-Campus Visit This Evening

Open House at First Baptist Church

See the campus, tour the facilities, and meet the staff!

Monday, September 27 5:30 to 8:00 PM

1279 Friendship Road (County Road 8)

Just Past Tallassee Elementary School & Community Hospital

Who Would Be Interested?

- *Those who are interested in visiting services at First Baptist, but would feel more comfortable having seen the building first*
- *Those who would like to learn more about the church and its programming and ministries*
- *Those who have attended weddings and funerals at First Baptist, but have not seen the rest of the facilities*
- *Those who have attended our services, but have not seen the rest of the building*
- *Those who have driven past, but have never been inside*

Signing Day at First Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 6

Signing Ceremony: 6:15 PM in the Fireside Room

As you probably know, First Baptist is in Recruiting Season. Naturally, every recruiting season concludes with *Signing Day*. And, yes, the Fireside Room will be decorated in church colors and we will take photographs! The room will be a comfortable setting and the tone will be informal and upbeat. To participate, call Pastor Derek Gentle at the church 283-2287 or see him in person. He will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Who Would be Interested:

- Those who have been attending for quite a while, but have not yet officially joined the church.
- Those who get nervous in front of large crowds. Here, people can join the church in a way that is public, but which is a smaller setting than the morning worship services.
- Christians who want to commit to meaningful church membership

Following the Signing Ceremony, there will be a special, church-wide event

Celebrate Church Membership Service

The service will be held in the Worship Center and will start at 6:30

Dr. Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama State Board of Missions (and former pastor of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa) will be preaching.

Signing Ceremony: An Invitation

It's Up To You

These days, many people are very deliberate in joining a church. They often attend services for months before making a final decision. That's not necessarily a bad thing. People should know what they are getting into before making a serious commitment. And these people are saying they consider church membership a serious commitment.

However... If your questions are all asked and answered... if you are satisfied that First Baptist is the kind of church of which you want to be a part... if you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ... if you are committed to spiritual growth and to sharing the good news of the Gospel... then you're ready.

You're Invited

You are invited to unite with First Baptist Church in a special ceremony on Wednesday, October 6 at 6:15 PM. This will be like national signing day in NCAA football. When a football player is recruited, a coach from the university comes to the player's high school for a signing ceremony. They set up a table and decorate it with the colors of the college team. Then the signee and his family sit down with the coach and the recruit formally signs papers to accept the scholarship. Pictures are made for the local paper and it is a big moment. On October 6, we will set up a table in the fireside room for those who desire to sign on to church membership. We will take pictures and everything, one family at a time! After the Signing Ceremony, at 6:30 in the worship center, we will have a special church-wide worship service that will celebrate church membership. The signing ceremony goes right along with our church bylaws:

In joining a local church, believers unite with the rest of the congregation by covenant. Church members willingly commit to walk together, giving themselves to the Lord, and to one another. This covenant admits them to the privileges of the church, and in it they also place themselves under its discipline and government...

In order to be accepted as a member of the First Baptist Church, one must subscribe to the faith and practices of the church. Therefore, persons desiring membership shall enter into covenant together with the congregation. This covenant shall be signed by prospective members to profess their faith in Christ, agreement with church doctrine and practice, and to promise to support the services and work of the church.

You will find attached a copy of the "Letter of Intent" we will be using in the signing ceremony. It is a summary of what we are "shooting for." Don't get the idea that we are asking for sinless perfection at First Baptist (for then, we would have to leave the church). For example, we are expected, as members, to try to reach the Tallassee area for Christ. However, there is nothing in the Letter of Intent about how many times a week you share Christ or how many people you talk to about the Lord. That will vary. But if this is something you believe in doing and intend to share as a goal with us ("It is my intention to..."), you can sign it in good conscience. The attachment gives you the opportunity to look the Letter of Intent over before the signing ceremony.

To Accept

To accept this invitation and make arrangements, or if you have questions, please call Pastor Derek Gentle at the office...

Considering First Baptist for Your Church Home?

Membership Information Classes Start this Sunday

Learn about the beliefs, organization, and goals of First Baptist Church. These will be held three Sunday evenings, September 26, October 3, and October 10, at 5:15 PM. These are led by Pastor Derek Gentle. Each session is different and each session is a stand-alone session; you won't be behind if you miss one since none of the lessons are built on the one previous. You can explore membership at First Baptist and decide for or against joining – with no obligation. Each session is presented in an informative way, and not like a sales presentation.

Who Would be Interested:

- Those who want more information about First Baptist as they consider joining.
- Those who have been attending for a while, but want more detailed information about the beliefs and organization of the church
- New members who've not yet had the opportunity to attend this class

To Attend: Just meet in the foyer at 5:15

FINAL SESSION

Membership Information Class this Sunday

It's Not Too Late to Join In!

Learn about the organization, strategy, and goals of First Baptist Church this Sunday October 10, at 5:15 PM. Class is led by Pastor Derek Gentle. Like the ones previous, this session is a stand-alone session; you won't be behind if you missed one of the previous lessons. You can explore membership at First Baptist and decide for or against joining – with no obligation. Each session is presented in an informative way, and not like a sales presentation.

This Session will Include:

- An introduction to our Mission Statement and Church Principles
- Our strategy to reach the Tallassee area
- How our Ministry Teams work
- My SHAPE and a Ministry Profile: How a person might like to be involved at First Baptist
- An introduction to our Ministry Staff
- Ways one can join First Baptist Church

Who Would be Interested:

- Those who want more information about First Baptist as they consider joining.
- Those who have been attending for a while, but want more detailed information about the organization of the church
- New members who've not yet had the opportunity to attend this class

To Attend: Just show up in Room 304 at 5:15

Tonight! 6:30 PM

**Special Church-Wide
Celebrate Church Membership
Worship Service**

The First Baptist Sanctuary Choir will be singing

We will observe the ordinance of baptism

Church-wide: RA's, GA's, and Youth will meet in Worship Center

Follows the Signing Ceremony which takes place in the Fireside Room at 6:15

Due to illness, Dr. Rick Lance cannot preach tonight. However, Dr. Sammy Gilbreath will be preaching. So, we will be hearing one excellent preacher instead of another!

Sammy Gilbreath

Sammy Gilbreath has been the director of the Office of Evangelism for the [Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions](#) since 1996. In that capacity, he directs the total program of evangelism for Alabama Baptist churches and associations.

You can read a great, brief article about Dr. Gilbreath [here](#) ...which gives you much insight into him as a person and the interesting methods of evangelism in which he is involved!