BACKGROUNDER



MINISTRIES

First Baptist Church of Dallas has a diverse congregation made up of individuals of all ages, races and cultures. As a downtown church, First Baptist seeks to minister to its own members as well as the plethora of people who live, work and play in Dallas. Meeting people where they are is one of the hallmarks of First Baptist's ministry; its new 21st-century campus will allow the church to continue to serve people daily in downtown Dallas.



Downtown Residents, Businessmen and Guests

Unlike the former buildings, which acted as a closed-off fortress, First Baptist's new campus is accessible to the downtown community. Overall, more than three-quarters of an acre of open space will be added with the completion of the new campus. A cross-tower and fountain, which is programed to an original orchestral score of hymns and spiritual songs, will be a source of relaxation and meditation for those looking to escape the hustle-and-bustle of downtown. Surrounded by outdoor tables and seating and conveniently located near First Baptist's St. Paul Café, this area is available for residents, businessmen and guests of Dallas to enjoy daily.

In addition, First Baptist offers a variety of other ministries to those in the community



regular includina Career Solutions workshops, sports and fitness classes, and various services through the Pathways Counseling Center, such as Celebrate Recovery weekly meetings; DivorceCare support groups for adults and kids; and GriefShare sessions. First Baptist also supports the Downtown Pregnancy Center, which offers practical amenities and resources regarding unplanned pregnancy, sexual health and needs of a growing family.

Children and Families



First Baptist is committed to helping parents lay a firm biblical foundation in their children's lives and at home. Understanding the importance of ministering to families, the church offers a variety of programming for children, newborn through the sixth grade, including two hours of Sunday School on Sunday mornings, children's worship arts classes on Sunday evenings and AWANA discipleship on Wednesday nights.

Safety and security is a top priority for First Baptist. The new campus design intentionally places the Donald Preschool & Children's Suite, housed within the Horner Family Center, between the Parking Garage and main Worship Center, allowing parents to conveniently sign their children into age-appropriate ministry activities using state-of-the-art security check-in. In addition, the new St. Paul Street sky bridge means families no longer

have to cross busy street traffic when moving from the Horner Family Center to the Worship Center. Play facilities within each secured children's hallway provide a protected environment for kids and parents to engage with others.

Pre-teens and Teens

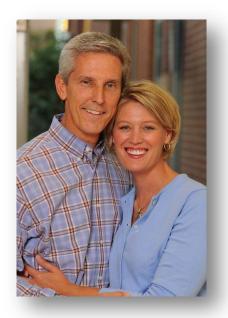
First Baptist desires to encourage students to be Christ followers, worshippers and lovers of God's word. Consistent with its reputation of being built on the Bible, the First Baptist pre-teen and teen ministry uses biblical, practical teaching during Sunday-morning and Wednesday-evening large and small group worship to help students grow and equip them with the truth. In addition, summer camp, junior high and high school mission trips as well as student worship choirs and orchestras give teens opportunities to share their faith around the nation.

The fifth floor of the Horner Family Center on the new campus is customized for teen and pre-teen members of First Baptist. Designed around the theme "The places you will go," both middle school and high school youth will build lasting relationships with Christ in an urban-loft setting fully equipped with a worship auditorium, lounge area, study rooms and gymnasium.

Adults

First Baptist offers a number of discipleship, worship and service opportunities for adults of all life stages – from college to senior adults.

Currently Sunday mornings offer both contemporary and blended worship services, which combine traditional and modern worship styles, hymns and praise songs. More than 50 Sunday School classes, including one specifically designed for individuals with mental handicaps, are offered for adult discipleship. Adults can join Discipleship University on Sunday evenings, which include Bible courses taught by various professors within the First seminarv Baptist congregation. Other ministries include Thursday night college-student worship, "nearly-wed" seminars for engaged couples, women's retreats and weekday Bible studies, and senior adult fellowships. The First Baptist new campus allows for easy access to classrooms for adult discipleship.



Seeking to serve the Dallas community, as well as those around the world, First Baptist is active in local,

national and world missions. The church supports multiple mission churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex with the hope of extending its ministry to local communities. Twenty-one of its mission chapels have become autonomous churches. In addition, the church supports several missionaries and sends its own teams to serve in other states and countries.

Local and National Influence

First Baptist is committed to spreading the Gospel message to the ends of the earth. As a part of this, the church owns and operates KCBI-FM, a listener-supported Christian radio station, which broadcasts biblical truth found in the Word of God throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

In addition, First Baptist produces "Pathway to Victory," a broadcast ministry of its pastor Dr. Robert Jeffress, which helps viewers and listeners dig deep into God's Word. The "Pathway to Victory" radio show is heard every weekday on more than 700 stations and in six of the top 10 U.S. markets.

For further information, visit <u>http://www.firstdallas.org</u>.