



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CARROLLTON

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## Overview

First Baptist Church Carrollton (FBC) is a Christian congregation of approximately 400 members located in beautiful Carrollton, Georgia. Adhering largely to the precepts of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, FBC maintains traditional Baptist organization and adherence to the ideals of soul freedom and congregational autonomy. One of life's most beautiful words is family. At First Baptist Church, we take seriously the Bible's teaching that Christians are the family of God and therefore brothers and sisters in Christ. As a "family of faith" we seek to worship and serve God, share the good news of the gospel message, and provide the spiritual environment necessary for the believer's spiritual growth.



FBC is characterized by our motto, "Caring People, Sharing God's Love". This statement is lived out in our communal life together. Our Church Covenant has been a guide to applying and understanding our values. It states:

"We believe that God's love is demonstrated through Christ and that His love should be the foundation for all relationships. Through His love, First Baptist Church believes in a vision of a fellowship that accepts all those who confess Jesus as Savior and Lord, and a commitment to love God and all people.

- We commit to live under the authority of Jesus Christ and to the open worship of God with dedication and devotion, respecting the call of God for both male and female into any lay or professional ministry of the church.
- We commit to serious study of the Bible, the inspired word of God, with the guidance of responsible scholarship and teachers under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- We commit to regular giving of money, time and abilities, and to the faithful care and creative use of our land and buildings.
- We commit to practice religious liberty by respecting the rights of the individual Christian, by affirming the freedom of all people in matters of conscience.
- We commit to ministry and prayer for each other, participating in each other's joys and sharing each other's burdens.
- We commit to evangelism and missions, and to make known through word and deed the love of God and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- We commit to the example of Jesus Christ, working for justice and peace.
- We commit to voluntary cooperation with other churches in the body of Christ.

- We commit to the free and open exchange of ideas concerning the governance of the church.

Believing that God sustains this covenant relationship and relying on the power of God's love and grace, we joyfully pledge to uphold this covenant.

We are the people called First Baptist Church: "Caring People Sharing God's Love."

## History



First Baptist Church can trace its history back to the establishment of the Upper Tallapoosa Baptist Church in 1847. In 1875, the present site of the church at the corner of Dixie and Newnan Streets in downtown Carrollton was built as a frame structure that was replaced by the brick building presently used as the Sanctuary in 1908. Many additions since include the first education building (the Annex) in 1928, the Benson Building in 1954, and Burns Hall in 1981. Renovations and updates to Burns Hall and the Benson Building with the Vision 2000 campaign provided better children's ministry areas and handicapped access to Sunday school classes and the sanctuary. The latest renovation refreshed the Sanctuary and expanded the organ with the Praise/Faith Campaign of 2003.

Outreach projects of the First Baptist Church over the years have included helping establish First Baptist Church of Carrollton on Old Bremen Road in 1873 and the Carrollton Baptist Association in 1874. We created the first Sunday school in Carroll County in 1878 and formed the Women's Missionary Union in 1890. With additions to our ministry such as The Place, our youth ministry center on S. White St., Open Hands United Christian Ministry on Newnan St., the addition of a second morning worship service in 2001, and yearly mission trips within the United States and in foreign countries, we hope to continue to expand and move forward on our goal to be "Caring People Sharing God's Love".

## Music and Worship

Music is always incorporated into worship services and other more casual gatherings of our people. The Music Ministry of First Baptist Church is committed to the use of the creative arts to glorify our Creator God. Opportunities are provided for people of all ages to bring praise to God and lead others in worship. This diverse and comprehensive ministry includes choirs beginning at age three through adult, as well as instrumental involvement using handbells and orchestral instruments. The church is blessed with the use of a Steinway piano and Wicks pipe organ to anchor the singing of the largest choir, the congregation.



Historically the sanctuary choir, accompanied by professional musicians, has performed a choral work at least once a year, such as the Mozart Requiem, Bach's Magnificat, and Handel's Messiah. On any given Sunday, the music may vary from classical, to more modern sacred music, to an arrangement of an old Gospel favorite to a Spiritual. The church at present seeks to incorporate music that brings an energy to worship. Among the members are multiple excellent musicians who regularly share their talents both in worship and in more casual settings. Our hand bell choir performs throughout the year.



Children's music is an important part of the music ministry of First Baptist. Children in preschool through 6th grade have the opportunity for musical experiences each week.

## Who We Are: Organization

FBC is congregational in its organization. It sees its pastor as a facilitator and leader, but not a CEO. Lay participation in the governance of the church is as follows. All are nominated and elected by church members:

### Deacon Body

FBC has a minimum of twenty-one (21) active Deacons whose term of office is three (3) years. The Deacons may vote to add additional active Deacons as the need arises. Each year vacancies created by active Deacons completing their three (3) year service

or vacancies created by the Deacons voting to add active Deacon positions will be filled by an election. Nominees for the Deaconship may be anyone who has been a member of FBC for a minimum of two (2) years. After serving a full term, a Deacon shall be eligible for re-election after being off the Body of Deacons for at least one year.

### Directors (Trustees)

There are six Directors (Trustees) who exercise powers conferred by the Church with regard to acquiring and disposing of all Church properties; executing all contracts for real property; executing contracts for gifts and bequests; and administering trusts, endowments and memorials; overseeing the awarding of scholarships and grants; and overseeing the safe keeping of all deeds and titles. The Directors (Trustees) shall be nominated by the Deacons and elected by the Church for a term of three years.

### Standing Committees

1. Finance and Stewardship Committee
2. Nominating Committee
3. Personnel Committee
4. Properties Committee
5. Constitution and Bylaws Committee
6. Committee on Committees
7. Long-Range Planning Committee

### Ministry Teams

Ministry Teams are volunteer groups that engage our members in the day-to-day tasks of the church's ongoing ministries. New members are encouraged to join a team that fits their interests. Teams include:

Advent	Flowers	Safety
Ambassador	Grounds	Technology
Angel Tree	Happiness	Transportation
Baptism	Hospitality	Usher Team
Bereavement	Kitchen	VBS
Children's	Linen Closet	Welcome
Disaster Relief	Lord's Supper	WMU
Education	Missions	Worship & Music
Fine Arts	Outreach	Youth Development

### The Church Council

Composed of the Pastor, Ministerial Staff members, Chair of the Deacons and a representative of each Ministry Team. The functions of the Council shall be: to propose Church goals and objectives; to coordinate program plans recommended by the Deacons, the Ministerial Staff, ministry teams and individual members; to schedule resources and facilities in keeping with the overall purposes of the Church; and to evaluate programs and activities with reference to Church goals and objectives. The

Council shall refer all items calling for further action to the Deacons for their consideration and presentation to the Church for action.

## Who We Are: Demographics

### Ages

Active Members By Age:

18 or under	30
19-29	46
30-39	34
40-49	65
50-59	54
60-69	59
70-79	75
Over 80	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>436</b>



Members under 50  
175  
Members over 50  
261

## Where We Live

The Carrollton Community offers many pleasant surprises for newcomers. We live in a small city with tremendous amenities for all. Our fantastic 16-mile Greenbelt loop is a highlight for young and old alike. The City Parks and Recreation Department works tirelessly to ensure a quality of life that one would expect from a much larger community. Youth sports, cultural arts, and recreation are just a few of the exceptional offerings our community offers. Our vibrant downtown square is a destination for shopping, local eateries and the arts and entertainment. From an agricultural standpoint, we are one of the largest cattle producers in the state.

At the same time, our proximity to Atlanta provides easy access to the metro area. In one hour a person can travel from downtown Carrollton to any of Truist Stadium, Mercedes Benz Stadium, Philips Arena, or Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport. It is easier to get to these destinations from Carrollton than from many parts of Metro Atlanta.

The population estimate for the City of Carrollton in July of 2020 was 27,259. Carrollton has a notably low median age (26 years) owing in part to the substantial college student population (The University of West Georgia and West Georgia Technical College) and growing popularity with young professionals and families with young children. Carrollton's historic population growth pattern over the last 20 years has been at an average annual rate of just two-percent. Because Carrollton is relatively autonomous

from the economic and development dynamics of the Atlanta region, this growth rate is more closely tied to Carrollton's own economy, which is diversified and stable. This slow and steady growth rate has benefitted the City of Carrollton by enabling services, jobs, and housing to develop simultaneously with the growth in population.



In 2016, the U.S. Census estimated that 77-percent of the city's population worked inside Carroll County.

Carrollton's position as a regional economic hub causes the daytime population of the city to increase to 40,016. Four of the top five employers in Carroll County are located within the City of Carrollton. The largest employer, Southwire, has more than 2700 employees.

Carrollton is also the home of Tanner Health System which employs more than 2500 employees.

In terms of k-12 education, Carrollton and Carroll County offer top- ranked, nationally accredited systems in both private and public school settings.

Carrollton is an ethnically diverse and well-educated community. Nearly one-third of all adults have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to one out of five adults nationally.

The median income for married-couple families in Carrollton is the highest in Carroll County (\$81,713). This family income has increased significantly from \$39,143 in 2000.

There are several nearby churches in our area including the other downtown churches: First United Methodist Church, Carrollton Presbyterian Church and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Other local churches include 1st Christian Church, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Southern Hills: the Church at City Station, Midway Church, Roopville Road Baptist Church, King's Chapel Presbyterian, A Place of Refuge, Carrollton Hispanic SDA Church, West Carrollton Baptist Church, New Life Christian Church, Church Without Walls and Lifegate Church.

A short video on Carrollton is linked [here](#).

## Commitment to Missions



FBC has a long history of commitment to missions, both local (community missions) and global (cooperative missions). In fact, our mission's budget is second only to staff and operating expenses. The Missions Ministry Team offers opportunities for all members to put our Christian faith and love into action, serving one another's needs, those of our local community and the world by giving of time, talents, and resources.

A sampling of our community missions includes:

- Open Hands United Christian Ministries
- Safe Families
- Circles of West Georgia
- Care Portal
- Habitat for Humanity
- Carrollton Baptist Association
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Jessy Togbadoya-Liberia
- Baptist World Alliance



For more information on these and other missions affiliations, please visit our website.

## Theology

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