

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 15

12:00 Noon Bible Study/Johnathan Bryson  
Chapel Class/Bring a bag lunch if you so desire  
5:15 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Hamburgers/Trimmings/Slaw/Chips/Dessert/Drinks

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 19

9:45 am Baptism Class with Pastor Dwayne/Parlor

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

5:00 pm The Chosen – Season 4

Wednesday, May 22

12:00 Noon Bible Study in the Chapel/Johnathan Bryson

5:15 pm Family First Feast

Menu: Tacos with trimmings/Ice Cream Bar/Drinks

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

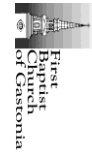
Sunday, May 26

9:45 am Baptism Class with Pastor Dwayne/Parlor

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

5:00 pm The Chosen – Season 4



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# The Builder

First Baptist Church of Gastonia

Volume XIII Number 20

Week of May 19, 2024

Join us for Family Feast  
May 15 @ 5:15 when our friend Dump Harper will provide an update on the work in Ukraine

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TAKE A BREATH



Worship Greeters

May: Art Queen, Ann Siva

Welcome

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May 12 – 31  
19 – Scott Irvin  
20 – Shawn Desmond  
22 – Martha Jean Stegall  
23 – Nancy Kabool

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

May: Kindness

May 15: Jeremiah 31:3

May 22: Romans 2:4

May 29: Ephesians 4:32

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WELCOME TO  
OUR NEW MEMBERS



Jim and Linda Willis

COMING SOON

A A STUDY OF  
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- SUMMER 2024 -



First Baptist Church, Gastonia North Carolina

First Baptist Church 704-865-8576

A place to belong, a place to become, a place to bear witness

2650 Union Road Fax: 704-865-8579

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## Baptism - Why and How Part 2

Now that we have learned that baptism is a public proclamation of our identity as followers of Christ, let's take a look at why and how we baptize.

Many different things might cause a person to pursue baptism. Some joined the crowd because their friends or family members got baptized and it seemed like the thing to do. Others have gotten baptized because they thought it was something they were supposed to do, or even had to do. but what are solid, biblical reasons to be baptized?

By returning to the story of Saul we can see why one would aspire to baptism. Saul is first mentioned in Acts 7:58. We read that he was a committed religious young man who held the coats of others while they stoned the first-century Christ follower, Stephen to death. This certainly does not present him as a friend or follower of Christ. Saul even went so far as to approach the high priest of his day and request official temple records so he could persecute people who converted from his faith to become Christ followers. But then something happened to Saul as he traveled to the ancient city of Damascus. Here is the story from Acts chapter 9.

*3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (Acts 3-6 NRSV)*

Saul surrendered his life to Christ. He was changed from a person who depended upon his own good works to a Christ follower who learned to follow Christ so fully that he later say: *"For me, living is Christ..." (Philippians 1:21 NRSV)*

Most of us will never have a dramatic conversion experience like Saul, and that is okay. Conversion is not merely trying to do better or working harder  
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(continued from column 1)

to be a good person. Conversion to become a Christ follower is realizing like Saul, that Christ is life.

And this is why we, as part of the Baptist tradition, immerse in baptism. The immersion is not mystical, nor does it have special powers. In some respects, baptism is a drama in three acts.

### Act I

#### Entering the Water

This reminds us of Christ willingly facing crucifixion by entering into this world as a human being over 2,000 years ago. We celebrate and remember this each year at Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

### Act II

#### Immersion

Immersion reminds us that Christ was buried by being placed into a tomb.

### Act III

#### Rising from the Water

This third act depicts Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Later in Saul's life he wrote a letter to the church at Colosse and explained baptism's symbolism this way:

*Going under the water was a burial of your resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. (Colossians 2:11-14 The Message)*

Baptism by immersion into water depicts the image of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It also represents the death and resurrection of our old way of living and resurrection to our new identity in Christ.



### What is Baptism All About?

Join Pastor Dwayne in the parlor on May 19, and 26 at 9:45 to learn more about baptism.

Open to All Ages

Open to anyone - even if you've already been baptized and just want to learn more.

Some questions we plan to discuss.

- Why was Jesus Baptized?
- What does baptism do for me?
- What if I never get baptized?
- Why do some churches immerse and others sprinkle the baptismal water?

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### Children's Version – Part 2 Baptism - Why and How

Today, we're going to share about something really special that people do when they follow Jesus. It's called baptism. Baptism is like a big, exciting step to show everyone that you love Jesus and want to follow him forever!

Why Do People Get Baptized?

Have you ever wondered why someone would want to be baptized? Well, some people do it because they see their friends or family members doing it, and they think it's a cool thing to do. But that's not the main reason to get baptized. We get baptized because we love Jesus and want everyone to know!

### Learning from Saul's Story

In the Bible, there's a guy named Saul who didn't like Jesus at first. In fact, he used to do mean things to people who followed Jesus. But one day, something amazing happened! Jesus appeared to Saul and changed his heart. Saul decided to follow Jesus and became a new person!

### CHILDREN'S VERSION

(continued from column 1)

Baptism is like Saul's story. When we get baptized, it's like telling everyone that we want to leave behind our old way of living and start fresh with Jesus.

Now, let's talk about what happens during baptism. It's like a little play with three acts!

### Act I

#### Entering the Water

Just like Jesus came to Earth over 2,000 years ago, we step into the baptismal pool to show that we're ready to follow him.

### Act II

#### Immersion

When we go under the water, it's like saying goodbye to our old life without Jesus.

### Act III

#### Rising from the Water

Coming out of the water represents Jesus' amazing resurrection from the dead. It shows that we have been given new life with Christ!

Baptism is a way to show everyone that we believe in Jesus and want to follow him forever. It's a special moment where we declare our love for him in front of our friends and family. Just like Saul's life changed, our lives will change too when we surrender to Jesus.

