

First Baptist Church of Pensacola
Ministry Organizations

First Baptist Church of Pensacola Mission Statement:

At FBCP, we glorify the Father by following the Holy Spirit in telling the story of Jesus.

We seek to do this by leading people to...

- Discover personal faith in Jesus as their Savior.
(Evangelism)
- Devote to Christ as their Lord. (Worship)
- Develop into mature followers of Jesus. (Discipleship)
- Demonstrate Christ-like love in attitudes and actions.
(Fellowship)
- Deploy into the world as witnesses and servants of Jesus.
(Missions)

FBCP Beliefs and Biblical References for our Mission:

We believe the local church is the Body of Christ made up of baptized believers, and it is God's will for every believer to be a member of one for mutual fellowship, edification, and mission.

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel and seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body whose members are equally responsible. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.”
1 Corinthians 12:27

“God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” Ephesians 1:22-23

We believe the Church should observe Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as the two ordinances Christ gave to His Church.

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior; the believer’s death to sin; the burial of the old life; and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord’s Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16

We believe it is the duty and responsibility of every Christian and church to deliver the good news of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for Him.

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a

spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is the duty of every child of God to seek continually to win the lost to Christ by personal effort.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Many FBCP Ministry Organizations support the congregation in accomplishing the FBCP Mission. Following is a description of one of those Ministry Organizations:

Operation Christmas Child Ministry Team

Leadership:

Chairperson/Leader: Jill Satterwhite

Church-Wide Ministries Supported by this Team:

This Team supports the FBCP Missions Ministries.

Ministerial Contact:

Coordinating Pastor, Missions and Ministry

Biblical References for this Team:

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not

heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19-20

Purposes, Expectations, and Anticipated Accomplishments of this Team:

Operation Christmas Child provides an opportunity for you to participate in international missions without leaving town. It also provides you with several opportunities during the year to get to know other members of our church and community as we work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with children in over one hundred other countries.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief organization. OCC's mission is to collect gift-filled shoeboxes from people in the United States and ten other sending countries. Samaritan's Purse sends these shoeboxes to Christian pastors in over one hundred different countries. The shoeboxes are distributed to children outside of the U.S. who have been affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

The local Christian pastors use these shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse provides information on how the local pastors can present the Good News of Jesus Christ through

a child-friendly presentation before the shoeboxes are distributed. Every child receives a booklet called, "The Greatest Gift," written in their own language which further explains the Good News. Afterwards, children may return to their local church to attend a twelve-week discipleship course called, "The Greatest Journey," to deepen their understanding of Christianity. The OCC program is very effective. Approximately one of every seven children who receive a shoebox makes a decision for Jesus Christ.

FBCP has been sending shoeboxes for many years. You can pack a shoebox individually or with your family. In October, shoeboxes are provided for individuals who want to pack a shoebox that they return to the church in November. Also, you can join other members as we work collectively toward our annual Church Wide Operation Christmas Child packing party. All year, members work toward the goal of packing more than 3,500 shoeboxes at the packing party. In late November or early December, you will have the opportunity to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to volunteer to inspect shoeboxes for international shipping at one of OCC's eight U.S. processing centers.

Everyone at FBCP can participate in international missions through OCC regardless of their age or health. You do not need a passport, a plane ticket, or to take a week out of your home or office. You can meet members of other ages whom you probably would not otherwise have the opportunity to get to know. Also, it gives you opportunities to invite friends and community groups to our church.

Members of this Team

At FBCP, Jill Satterwhite serves as Ministry Team Leader for OCC. She also serves on the OCC Area Team, which oversees

the collection of shoeboxes that have been packed by churches, groups, and individuals in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

Judy Leatherwood and Barton Starr complete the core team at FBCP.

Organization of this Team

The core team coordinates the purchase of all of the items and oversees all of the details involved in packing the gift-filled shoeboxes. Many other volunteers assist with the project. Contact a member of the Team for information about how you can participate in this very important and worthwhile ministry.

Meetings, Meeting Agendas, and Work Schedules

In addition to attending the church-wide packing party in November, the easiest way for you to get involved in the OCC Packing Party is to attend one of the many Preparation Days that are scheduled during the year. These are usually three to four hours during a weekday morning or afternoon or on a Wednesday evening. A few times during the year a Saturday event will be scheduled. These Preparation Days are announced in the FBCP weekly and monthly newsletters and are usually posted around the church.

During these times, church members as well as their friends and guests come together to sort, unpackage, repackage, roll, and rubber-band the myriad of items that have been purchased for the packing party. The only physical skills that are necessary are the ability to sit at a table and open packages of pencils and other items. Sometimes these are groups of eight people; sometimes these are groups of more than sixty people. There are always varieties of tasks that need to be completed.

We pack shoeboxes with toys such as soccer balls, dolls, Days for Girls kits, matchbox cars, and stuffed animals. We include school supplies that run the gamut from crayons and construction paper to solar calculators and protractors. Almost every box contains some type of ball and some type of clothing item. We tuck in basic hygiene items such as toothbrushes and soap into every shoebox.

FBCP's Locally Directed Missions Fund primarily funds the packing party. Individual members also make financial donations, small and large, and different civic groups and stores donate items as well.

If you have a child who is in elementary school, be sure to take the child to the November Go-Kids party which is an evening of fun, focusing on Operation Christmas Child. This is where younger children can learn about international missions, Operation Christmas Child, and can pack their own shoebox. The November Go-Kids party is customarily scheduled on the Friday evening immediately before the all-day Packing Party on Saturday.

Records of Meetings

Contact Jill Satterwhite for more information about meetings and Team activities.