



Faith Baptist Church of Palm Bay
Church Profile

Church Mission

In the words of Rev. James Godley, founding pastor, "From the very beginning, there was a good spiritual process, that continued through the years with souls saved, people blessed by the Lord and by the fellowship with one another. Also, numbers were added to the church."

History

Faith Baptist Church was formed as an Independent Baptist Church in 1979 when a small group of families in the Melbourne/Palm Bay area were looking for a church home and decided to start holding a prayer and Bible study in one of their homes. The first meeting had approximately 30 people in attendance. One of the families contacted Rev. James E. Godley, a retired pastor, to come and minister to them. As their numbers grew, they moved the services to the Red Cross building and later to the Y.M.C.A. While meeting in the Red Cross building, the first church constitution was written, and they incorporated under the name Faith Baptist Church of Melbourne.

In 1980, the church purchased a piece of property on Emerson Drive that was just under six acres in size, The first service held on the new property was Easter Sunday 1982 in the unfinished "metal building." When the building was completed, it was dedicated with the slogan, "In the heart of the community with the community at heart." From the start, the members of Faith Baptist Church gave sacrificially and trusted God to provide the necessary funds for various building projects.

In 1981, a young man by the name of Louis Schulz was called to the position of interim Youth Pastor. He came and began a bi-vocational ministry, working three days a week to supplement a small salary. After Pastor Schulz and his wife Terry completed their training at Pensacola Christian College, they returned to the Palm Bay area and Pastor Schulz was called to be the Assistant Pastor of Faith Baptist Church. Pastor Schulz became Senior Pastor the following year after James Godley retired. Pastor Godley continued to serve in the church as an assistant until his death.

In 1983, charter members Al and Linda Knipfer left for Bob Jones University to train for ministry, and then returned in 1991 to serve the church. Al became an assistant to the pastor and Linda worked in the office. Pastor Al and Linda continue to serve in ministry at Faith Baptist Church to this day. Al predominantly serves in the area of Pastoral Care and as Financial Secretary.

In 1987, the church officially changed its name to Faith Baptist Church of Palm Bay.

Faith Baptist Church's third pastoral staff member came in 1990. Ernie Merritt was called as the church's second youth pastor, later becoming the Minister of Children and Families. The Lord used Ernie and his wife Melissa's impacting ministry for sixteen years before he was called as Senior pastor to the Fundamental Baptist Church of Escondido, California, in 2006.

In the fall of 1995, Faith Christian School was established. Faith Christian School is a homeschool group that provides accountability, record keeping, and standardized test administration. Homeschool co-op classes meet on Fridays during the school year and are open to both FCS and non-FCS homeschooling families in the church.

In 2005, Jason McGrath was called as an Associate Pastor to minister in the areas of music and administration, after completing his training at Pensacola Theological Seminary. His wife, Lawanda, has served the church as nursery coordinator.

In 2008, Matthew (Matt) Thomas was called as a pastoral intern to minister in the area of youth and children's ministry. He was added to the pastoral staff as Youth Pastor in 2011. Matt received his ministry training from Liberty Seminary in Virginia. Matt married his wife Morgan in 2011. Morgan is involved in the music ministry and assists Pastor Matt with the youth.

In 2013, Elizabeth Gibson Schulz was added to the church staff as a part-time administrative assistant. Elizabeth has a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida. Elizabeth also serves in event planning and church communication.

In 2015, Matthew Decker was added as a part-time pastoral assistant. Matthew serves as an administrator in Faith Christian School, oversees church maintenance, and helps with teaching and preaching. Matthew received his training at Piedmont International University in Winston-Salem. His wife, Krista, serves in various children and music ministries.

In 2016, Pastor Schulz resigned from the pastorate at Faith Baptist Church after 34 years of service. Pastor Schulz stated several personal reasons that have adversely impacted his ability to continue as Senior Pastor and prompted his sudden resignation.

Pastors Schulz, Knipfer, Merritt, McGrath, and Thomas all received their ordination from Faith Baptist Church. All our pastors have served many years at Faith Baptist Church.

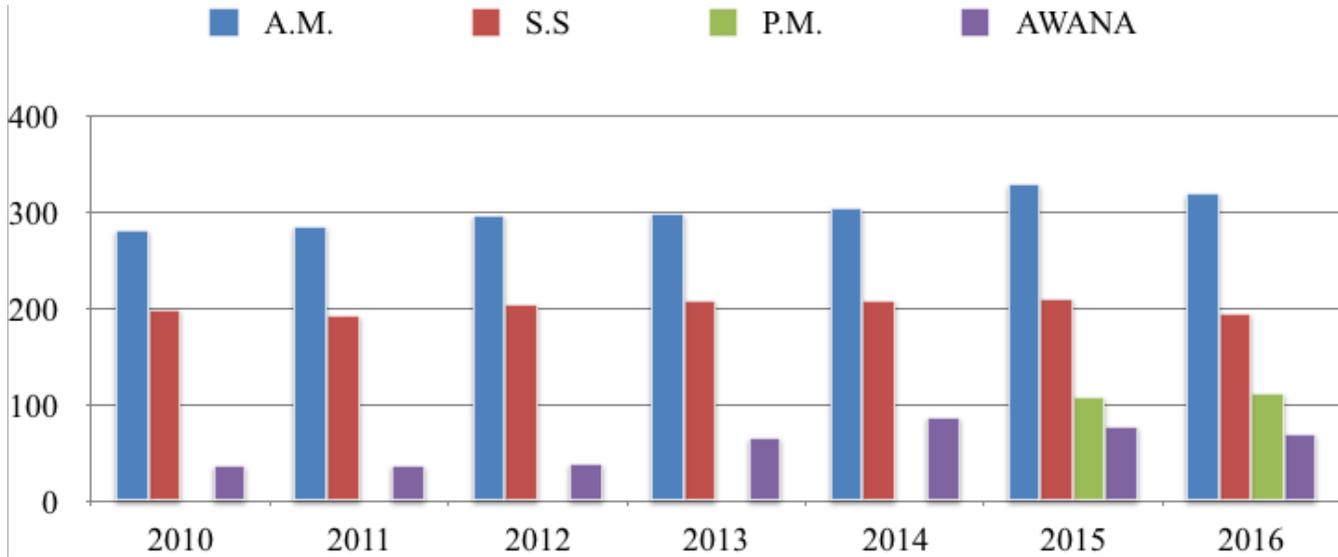
Missions

In 1980, the church committed to the support of their first missionary, Roy "Chick" Watkins, a missionary to Liberia, for fifty dollars per month. God would bless this early act of love and faith as Faith Baptist Church would continue to invest in foreign missions by setting aside 10% of the church's offerings for missions. Faith Baptist Church currently supports 42 missionaries who serve both in the United States and in countries around the world and 2 missions ministries; these ministries are the Independent Baptist College of Asia-Pacific and the Carpenter's Project. Faith Baptist Church has also sent groups to Africa, Haiti, Nicaragua, New York, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic on short term mission trips.

Current Ministries

Presently, Faith Baptist Church has approximately 300 worshipers that gather on Sunday mornings. Having gone through five building programs in the last thirty years, Faith Baptist Church has used its facilities to advance the work of the Lord's kingdom in numerous outreach ministries which are listed below. In the mid-1990s, Faith Baptist Church committed to become debt-free and handle all future building programs in a manner where the church remains debt-free.

Attendance Trends



* The PM attendance data collection started in 2015.

On Sunday mornings, Worship Services and Sunday School Classes meet simultaneously at 9:45 and 11am. Since October 2014, the following Sunday morning schedule was implemented to provide the needed additional Sunday School space.

Sunday Morning Schedule

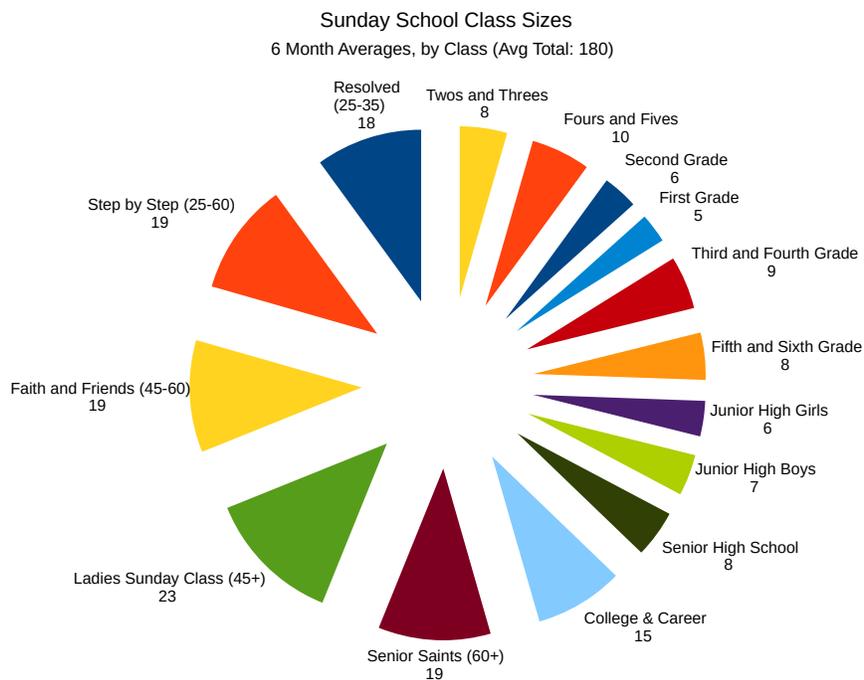
9:45 Hour	11:00 Hour
Worship Service	Worship Service
Nursery	Nursery
2 and 3 Year Old	2 and 3 Year Old
4 and 5 Year Old	Children's Church Jr. (Ages 4-6)
1st and 2nd Grade	Children's Church (Grades 1-5)
3rd and 4th Grade	Jr. High Girls
5th and 6th Grade	Jr. High Boys
College and Career	Sr High
Resolved (25-35)	Step by Step (35-60)
Faith and Friends (45-60)	Ladies Class (45+)
New Members Class (2nd Sunday only)	Sr Saints (60+)

The Sunday evening worship service starts at 6:30pm. Choir practice meets at 5pm every Sunday afternoon.

Faith Baptist Church has various children’s ministries such as AWANA which meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year, Super Church and Super Church Jr. which meet during the 11:00 am Sunday worship service, Sunday school classes, Sunday evening children’s group, pre-teen activities for ages 9-12 years old, and Vacation Bible School during the summer.

Ministering to the teen and college and career groups, Faith Baptist Church provides classes which meet on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and also offers various activities and Bible studies throughout the month.

Adult Sunday school and Bible studies are held during both worship services on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evening, adults meet for a worship assembly at 7pm, and then split into topical Bible study groups and prayer from 7:20-8:15pm. Below is the attendance data for our Sunday morning classes for 6 month averages.



In 2015, Faith Baptist Church gained provisional status as an Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) Training Center, under the direction of Tom Wells, deacon, teacher, and ACBC certified Biblical Counselor. Since 2004, Faith Baptist Church annually sent groups to ACBC (formerly NANC) Biblical Counseling Training conferences. The church has operated as a semi-formal counseling center since that time incorporating the counseling principles taught by like-minded counseling organizations associated with the Biblical Counseling Coalition and is working to get more staff and members certified through ACBC.

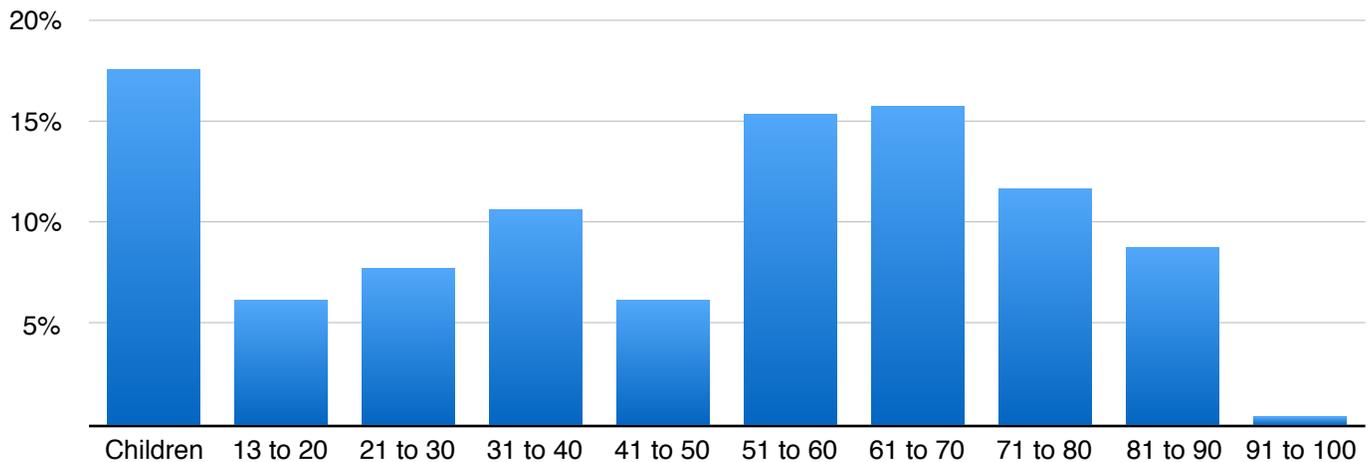
Music Style

The music at Faith Baptist Church is conservative in style, utilizing a 30+ member choir on Sunday morning. Accompaniment tracks are used with the choir along with the piano. Piano and organ are used for congregational singing accompaniment along with a small orchestra. A single guitar is used in youth group and on Wednesday night assembly, and occasionally for other functions. The Celebration Hymnal along with a self-printed songbook (lyrics only) that contains modern hymns and songs are used for congregational singing and worship.

Congregation Demographics

Faith Baptist Church is a fairly diverse congregation, with people who come from all over the United States and some from other countries. One hundred members on our membership list are under the age of 18, while about 300 are over the age of 18.

Typical Sunday Morning Attendance Demographic



Directions

From I-95: Take the Palm Bay Road Exit (Exit #176) and head west to Minton Road. Take Minton Road south to Emerson Drive. Go west five blocks on Emerson and the church will be on the right. The address is 341 Emerson Drive NW Palm Bay, FL 32907.

Local Area Information

For more information about Palm Bay and the surrounding areas, feel free to visit the following websites.

City of Palm Bay - <http://www.palmbayflorida.org/>

Melbourne Chamber of Commerce - <http://www.melbourneregionalchamber.com/>

Brevard County - <http://www.brevardfl.gov/>