

Church Profile
First Baptist Church of Hallsville



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Introduction

First Baptist Church of Hallsville, Texas, is a wonderful church in a fast-growing area. At its peak in 1998, the church averaged more than 400 in Sunday School and offered two morning worship services. In recent months, the congregation is averaging 270 in worship and offers one blended worship service on Sunday mornings. The congregation has a strong emphasis on mission support and mission activity and maintains a thriving GA and RA ministry that averages over 55 children each Wednesday. The youth ministry is another strength of the congregation as more than 50 students participate in activities on a weekly basis.

The congregation has endured great tragedy in recent years with the deaths of one pastor and two pastors' wives. Becky Massey, wife of Pastor David Massey, passed away from cancer in 2012. Pastor David Massey passed away the following year in 2013. Associate Pastor Monty Pierce was named Pastor in 2014. Pastor Monty's wife, Candace, died of cancer in 2015. This was a sad time in the recent history of the church and brought the core members of the church closer together but also impacted the morale of the congregation.

Located in a growing community that is attractive to young families, FBC Hallsville wants to reach the community for Christ. The core leadership of FBC Hallsville fully expects to grow numerically and in impact for the Kingdom of God. The church is praying that God will send a servant-hearted leader who will model mature Christian living and will inspire and teach the congregation through outstanding sermons. The congregation is poised to grow under the leadership of a Christ-centered pastor who can cast a vision for reaching the community and inspire individuals to grow in their personal relationships with Christ.

Our Community

Hallsville is a city in Harrison County, Texas. It is located 7 miles east of Longview and 13 miles west of Marshall on US Highway 80. The population was 3577 at the 2010 census. In 2016 the population was estimated to be 4153. It has been said that Hallsville is one of the fastest growing communities in the state of Texas. Until 2003, Hallsville only had one traffic light. The town has experienced rapid growth in the past decade and now has five traffic lights, a larger corporate grocery store chain, a medical and dental clinic, two dollar stores and several fast food chains.

The demographic breakdown of the city of Hallsville from the 2010 census is as follows: 89.1% white, 5.5% black or African-American, .6% Native American, .3% Asian, 2.6% from some other race, 2% from two or more races. 6.1% of the population was Hispanic of any race. The median age was 32 and the median income for a family was \$49,868.

The heart and pulse of the community lies in the school, the Hallsville Independent School District. The school District covers 188 square miles with approximately 18,000 people living within the district. The school district has over 5000 students and was given an overall performance of **A** (exemplary performance) for 2017–2018 by the Texas Education Agency.

Contact Information

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History

The First Baptist Church of Hallsville, Texas grew out of the desire of the early settlers who wanted to worship God. As early as 1850, they worshiped in brush arbors, log cabins and homes. The church was officially founded in 1870 when a more permanent structure was built in the small town of Hallsville, Texas.

Though the meeting places might have been humble in design, the dedication of the congregation proved to be sincere and determined. Many descendants of the first settlers still attend the church. The last three churches built are located in the same general area as the first. In 1912, a white wooden building was built and remained in use until a brick structure was erected in 1952. Due to tremendous growth of the city and the congregation, a larger sanctuary was built in 1984 and remains in use today. A modern Activity and Children's Center was added to the church campus in 2008.

A total of 32 men served as pastor from 1861 to 1967. Pastors who have served since then are as follows:

- The Reverend George English, Sr. 1967 – 1978
- The Reverend John Taylor, Jr. 1979 – 1997
- Dr. David Massey 1997 – 2013
- Dr. Monty Pierce 2013 – 2018
- Dr. Tim Watson - Interim 2018

Professional Staff:

- Dr. Tim Watson, Interim Pastor (March, 2018)
- Vince Blankenship, Worship Leader (March, 2011)
- Porter Brewer, Minister of Youth (September, 2015)
- Jeanah Welsch, Interim Children's Minister (September, 2018)
- Shelia Vinson, Church Secretary (January, 1993)

Organizational Life

Our church decisions are made mostly by traditions, by the influence of the pastor, the deacon body and church committees. The church committees are summarized in the table below.

Name of Group	Purpose	No. of Members	Frequency of Meetings
Deacons	Spiritual and Service Leaders	21	Monthly
Church Council	Planning and coordination of church activities. Recommendations are presented to the congregation. Members consist of committee chairpersons and other church leaders	16	At least quarterly
Committees			
Nominating	Nominates and recommends committee members to be presented to the congregation. Members are selected by Deacon Body	7	As Required
Benevolence	Manages the Christian Aid Program (CAP) to meet the needs of those who need assistance in our community	6	As Required
Bereavement	Provides meals during/after funerals/deaths	7	As Required
College	College Activities	5	As Required
Decorating	Decorate sanctuary and other buildings	6	As Required
Fellowship	Church Fellowship functions	8	As Required
Media Center / Library	Manages Media Center and Library	3	As Required
Men's Ministry Team	Sponsor and supports men's ministries	8	As Required
Missions	Plan Mission Activities	7	As Required
Multi-Media	Operates audio / visual requirements		As Required
Personnel	Employment and management of church staff	7	As Required
Preschool/Children	Coordinates children's activities/events	9	As Required
Property / Grounds	Maintain the facilities	10	As Required
Senior Adult Council	Plans senior adult events/activities	8	As Required
Stewardship	Managing financial needs of the Church	10	3 per year and as required
Transportation	Manages Transportation needs of the Church	10	As Required
Women's Ministry	Sponsors and supports women's ministries	7	As Required
Church Clerk	Takes minutes for business meeting	2	As Required
Treasurers	Checks and approves expenditures of church	3	Weekly
Trustees	Signs church documents	5	As Required

In 2017, A Ministry Definition Team was selected by the church. This team was tasked with reviewing the bylaws and constitution for possible revision and updating. This included an analysis of the current "Mission" and "Purpose" statements and more clearly identify the "Vision" of our church. In conjunction with this review, the team will also evaluate the leadership and committee structure of the church.

MISSIONS

As a body of believers, it is our mandate to be a Great Commission church. To FBC Hallsville this means a call to live on mission in the Hallsville community, Texas, North America and the ends of the earth. Our church is committed to Pray, Give and Go. We promote the week of prayer for Mary Hill Davis, Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon special emphasis offerings. Our mission offerings also include World Hunger and sending Members on Mission through our Global Mission Offering. We support the Cooperative Program (8.5%), Soda Lake Baptist Association (3.0%), East Texas Baptist University student missions, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, Lakeview Baptist Encampment and church planters in Louisiana and the Northwest on a monthly basis.

Some of our recent annual mission endeavors have included a local Serve the City, supporting our local Outreach Center, trips to the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, Mega Sports Camps in Alabama, Louisiana, Colorado, Washington and Texas, Living Water in Haiti, special needs ministry in Mississippi, refugee ministry in Texas and disaster relief in Louisiana and Texas.

Over several decades, FBC Hallsville has made it a priority to educate our children in missions through Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors on Wednesday nights. This includes mission projects such as Operation Christmas Child, widow and widower ministry and many other local projects.

Current Ministries

The purpose of our ministries is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, here in our own community and beyond wherever God sees fit to use us. Here at home, it is our desire that anyone would feel welcome and loved when they come to our facilities or encounter one of our members out in the community.

Our all-age ministries include Sunday School and Sunday morning worship. Sunday night ministries include small home groups, chime rehearsal, and separate Sunday night Bible studies for the adults, youth, and children. Wednesday opportunities include a Wednesday night meal (during the school year), adult prayer meeting, youth worship time, choir rehearsal, RAs and GAs. Our congregation is involved in a variety of mission ministries including support of the cooperative program, the Hallsville Outreach Center, youth serve-the-city projects, annual church-wide serve the city projects, sports camps, and various member-organized mission efforts here in the United States and abroad.

Financial Status

	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$749,518	\$641,600
UNDESIGNATED RECEIPTS	\$658,214	\$674,969
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	\$201,813	\$184,063
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$860,027	\$859,032
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$714,357	\$617,744
TOTAL MISSION GIVING	\$185,737	\$148,331

Church Property

The First Baptist Church is located on 6 acres in the city center of Hallsville 1 block North of Hwy 80. The sanctuary was built in 1984 and seats between 450-500 people on the lower level and 144 in the balcony. Church offices are attached, along with classrooms, parlor and kitchen which were erected in 1952 but refurbished over the years. There is a choir room and classrooms at the rear of the sanctuary.

The Children's Ministry Center is a two-story complex completed in 2008 across the street at the back of the sanctuary. It houses a nursery and children classrooms with some adult classrooms. It also has a fellowship hall/ gym with a large commercial kitchen.

There is parking in front of the sanctuary and CMC as well as 3 different parking lots across a street on the east side of the sanctuary.

There is a youth building in front of the sanctuary called the "Fillin' Station" which was built facing Hwy 80 and has recently been upgraded.

Sunday School Attendance

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Avg. Attendance</u>
Babies	3	2
Pre-K	18	13
Grades 1-4	40	21
Grades 5-6	9	3
Jr. High	29	13
High School	54	21
Early Adult	53	9
Young Adult	104	24
Median Adult	229	47
Older Adult	87	43

Wednesday night programs include Mission Friends, GA's and RA's. There are 119 enrolled and the average attendance is 68. The youth also meet on Wednesday and average between 30-40 Junior High and High School students.

There is also an active Keen-ager group that meet 1 Thursday a month usually during the lunch hour.

Congregational Identity

Purpose Statement

Magnify the Glory of God, as we Build Up the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ."

Mission Statement

Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples, while Serving our Community and the World.

Matthew 22:37-40 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Vision Statement

Be a Unified People, Living in Obedience to the Word of God, who are:

- Devoted to Prayer
Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.
- Committed to Reconciliation and Restoration
2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- Living Intentional Missional Lives
1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Focused on Growing the Next Generation of Disciples –
2 Timothy 2:2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Affiliations

- Soda Lake Baptist Association
- Baptist General Convention of Texas
- Southern Baptist Convention

We adhere to the 1963 “Baptist Faith and Message”

Major Opportunities Facing the Church in the Next Five Years

- Continue to maintain and keep our buildings/grounds functional and appealing for all - priority attention will need to be given to our sanctuary
- Define discipleship and set up an effective program
- Set up a program to develop leaders in our church
- Reach out to the Hallsville area with a specific plan for connecting to people, plan and execute ongoing community events to meet and reach unchurched people and develop an effective plan for visitor follow-up and newcomer communication
- Identify a specific need in Hallsville that we can help meet (new or existing church ministry) and do it well
- Continue to develop the small group program (church & home) to include more church members and to attract new members
- Maintain an ongoing mission partnership locally, nationally, and internationally
- Use the 150th anniversary in year 2020 as a launching board for what we can be in the community
- Modernize our means of communication and use of technology while maintaining our congregational identity.

Our Interim Period

Our previous pastor, who was formerly our Minister of Education and Administration, resigned effective February 28, 2018, to answer God's call to another congregation. Soon thereafter, a group of deacons were charged with the responsibility of interviewing potential candidates for the position of interim pastor. After prayerful consideration they recommended to the church body that Dr. Tim Watson, Area Representative for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, become the interim pastor. Dr. Watson assumed his responsibilities as interim pastor on March 25, 2018.

During the interim period, Dr. Watson challenged the congregation in three specific areas:

Pray- He challenged our church to be a house of prayer. (Matthew 21:13) A prayer emphasis was implemented in the Spring of 2018, called Pray 168. This is where church members signed up to bathe our church in pray for 168 consecutive hours or one week.

Go- Our church was encouraged to be externally focused. (Matthew 28:18-20) We were challenged to be a fellowship that reached out to the lost, hurting, and new people in our community.

Give- We were reminded to be a congregation comprised of generous givers. (Acts 20:35) As the church's budget year ended, September 30, 2018, the congregation not only met but it exceeded its budget!

The interim period has been an exciting and unifying time in the life of our church. The congregation has been working in unison with the Ministry Definition Team as they presented new mission, vision, value and purpose statements to our people. These statements will aid our church in gaining clarity, focus, and alignment in the ministries and programs of First Baptist Church.

In the summer of 2018, the church elected the following people to the Pastor Search Committee: Shane Sherwood, Scott Bryant, Linda Sides, Charlie Jones, Dennis O'Quinn, Mike Smith and Gregg Greer.

Capital projects and improvements to the church plant were also a priority during this period of transition. New carpet and flooring were welcomed additions to the Fillin Station which serves as our Student Ministry Center. A remodeling of the foyer leading into the sanctuary has improved the church by adding more gathering space. New carpet, paint, and lighting fixtures have created a more inviting atmosphere to guests and to others who visit the church for the first time.

The interim period has been an exciting time in the life of First Baptist Church. The Sunday School has increased along with attendance in the morning worship service. Families have been added and most importantly, new people have come to faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To God be the glory, great things he has done!