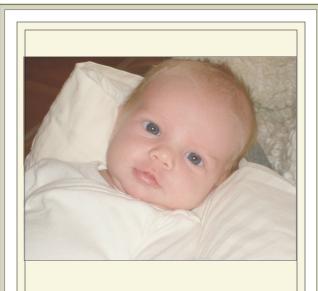


### FAITH CHEST

YOUR CHILD IS A GIFT FROM GOD.... A TREASURE. YOU HAVE MADE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO BEING YOUR CHILD'S PRIMARY SPIRITUAL GUIDE – MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WISDOM, GRACE, PATIENCE, CREATIVITY AND MUCH JOY AS YOU EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY.

The faith chest is a visual reminder of your commitment to making your home a "Home of Faith". It is meant to be a storehouse of "treasures", Bibles, books, DVD's, readings, C.D.'s.... any resources that you and your family use to help you and your child on this journey of faith. Use the resources and when you are done, store them here and save them for the next generation of faith.

SUGGESTION: CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR CHILD'S DEDICATION BY ADDING A RESOURCE TO THIS FAITH CHEST. ENCOURAGE FAMILY MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME....EVERY YEAR.



By dedicating our children to the Lord, we are committing ourselves as parents to the biblical task of raising them in a way that is pleasing to God. We are promising the Lord that, with His help, and with the support of the church family, we intend to ...

- teach the Scripture to our child
- pray with them regularly
- model a life of holy living that is pleasing to God.

First Baptist Church

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## PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION



When God blesses us with the precious gift of a child, it is good to respond to God with thankfulness and a fresh commitment.



#### PSALM 127:3 "CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD"

**DEUTERONOMY 6:5 – 7 "YOU SHALL LOVE THE** LORD YOUR GOD WITH **ALL YOUR HEART, AND** WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR **MIGHT. KEEP THESE** WORDS THAT I AM **COMMANDING YOU** TODAY IN YOUR HEART. **RECITE THEM TO YOUR** CHILDREN AND TALK **ABOUT THEM WHEN** YOU ARE AT HOME AND WHEN YOU ARE AWAY, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU RISE."



MATTHEW 18:5 "WHOEVER WELCOMES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME WELCOMES ME."

## Questions about Parent/Child Dedication

### What is the difference between Infant Baptism and Infant Dedication?

A very young child is not able to understand the commitment that is being made, however, we, as parents, do. It is the faith of the parents, not the child that is the focus of the Dedication Service. Therefore as we dedicate our children to the Lord, we are dedicating ourselves to love, nurture and train them in the principles of Christian living. We do not baptize babies at First Baptist Church because the Bible teaches that baptism is only for those who have personally accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Very young children cannot make that decision. Baptism is a public testimony of an inward transformation by the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual (Acts 2:41)

The dedication of a child does not guarantee a child's salvation, but is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your desire and willingness to teach your child the truth of God's Word that one day may lead to his or her salvation.

## At what age are children dedicated?

We encourage you to dedicate your child in the first year of life. Not only does this make the service more comfortable for you and your child, but it also serves as a good reminder that it is never too early to begin the process of spiritually nurturing our children. If you have an older child who has never been dedicated, we welcome you to make this public commitment to the Lord.

# Can my child wear a christening gown?

Yes, these are often family heirlooms with a meaningful history in the extended family. But, a christening gown is not required.

