



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ALEXANDRIA

Dedication Day

*"I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.*

*I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands."*

Psalm 63:2-4

October 24, 2021

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DEDICATION SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

October 24, 2021 | 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Preludes... Deborah Lloyd and Alydia Wingard
Glorify Thy Name (*arr. Pethel*)

How Firm a Foundation
a variation in the style of Aaron Copland (arr. Courtney)

Thrive (*arr. Zaloudik*)
Children, Youth and Adult Choirs with orchestra
Soloists: Debbie Townsend, Caleb Hughes,
Charlotte Moutray, Charlie Ellis
Speakers: Catalina Edminster, Kent Broome,
Landry Elliff, Joy Combs

To God Be the Glory... Hymn 28
Congratulations Video from former Pastors:
Vernon Davis - Jay Wolf
Gary Hollingsworth - John Compton

Welcome and Introduction of Guests... Don Davidson

Dedication Reading
(*reading is located on page 2*)

Prayer of Dedication

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah... Hymn 82

Amazing Grace (*arr. Knight*)
Bill Killmer, soloist with choir and orchestra
John Driggers, bagpipes; Deaf signing

Message... Don Davidson

Song of Decision
Lord, Here Am I... Hymn 537

Opportunities of the Week... Wayne Jenkins

Closing... Don Davidson

Benediction: The Blessing (*arr. Wagner*)
Adult Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra

Postlude... Deborah Lloyd
Festival March (*J.S. Bach arr. Thompson*)

Dedication Reading

Pastor:

O God, we are grateful to have come to this day, a day to celebrate what You have done!

People:

We give You honor and glory, You have provided future and hope.
How can we keep from singing your praise?

Pastor:

We praise You, God; we are thankful for those who planned for years to create such a place for ministry, and for those who gave sacrificially to make this dream come true.

People:

We prayerfully dedicate this magnificent building: the Sanctuary, the Children's areas, the gathering spaces, and ask that you use it to bring glory to your kingdom, reaching people near and far with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor:

Your Holy Word says, "I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory."

People:

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name, I will lift up my hands."

All:

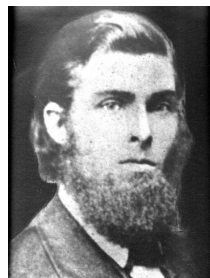
May this building be the place where we witness to your truth, where grace and lives are disciplined for Jesus Christ. Help us be a community of faith that connects and equips people. To you alone be the glory forever. We dedicate this building to You.
Amen!

THE HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEXANDRIA and its continued impact.



- 1803** Five men and seven women from Back Lick Baptist Church form the Baptist Church of Alexandria and call Jeremiah Moore to be their first Pastor.
- 1804** The congregation purchases land and erects their first meeting house.
- 1812** Church membership reaches 54. Church leaders assist in founding Columbian College, now George Washington University.
- 1826** Early church leaders are active in community missions efforts and first support International missions by contributing to the Carey Station Mission in India.
- 1829** A fire destroys the church building, and the community raises funds to rebuild.
- 1836** The Black members begin what will become Alfred Street Baptist Church.
- 1840's** The church splits over a difference in opinion regarding the role missions should play in the church. The Pastor and the pro-missions group meet elsewhere until the court decides in their favor. The congregation reunites, and the church takes a strong stand for missions.
- 1858** The church undergoes significant expansion at the downtown location on Washington Street.

1862 Dr. Charles C. Bitting, Pastor at the time, is arrested for refusing to follow military orders to pray for President Lincoln, citing his strong belief in the separation of church and state. Later, the Union forces take over the church property to use as a hospital. During the Civil War, First Baptist is the only Protestant church in Alexandria to hold services off-site, and Dr. Bitting, the only Pastor not to leave town.



Dr. Charles C. Bitting

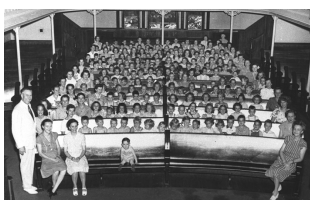
1865 The war ends, and the building is returned to its members. After renovations and repairs, services resume.

1885 The Women's Missionary Society, later the Women's Missionary Union, is organized. Increasingly, the church is becoming a vital force in the community, and a leader in religious circles, not only in Northern Virginia but also in the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Southern Baptist Convention.



In the first 100 years, the church survives wars, a fire, occupation, reconstruction, controversy, financial deprivation, and tornadoes.

1911 FBCA continues to grow! The building is renovated to include eleven classrooms and the installation of a new pipe organ.



1924 The first Vacation Bible School (VBS). Initially, VBS is a community-wide endeavor alongside local churches. FBCA's program flourishes over the next century, growing to an average of 500 children each summer.

1926-37 Several additions and renovations take place as the church continues to outgrow its space.

1949 The King Street property is purchased.



1952 Ground Breaking

1954 On May 9th, FBCA officially relocates to 2932 King St. Later that year, part of the congregation forms Downtown Baptist Church and remains at the former location on Washington Street.



1961 A four-story education building is built.

1974 The Parents' Day Out (PDO) ministry opens. This community ministry, now the Weekday Childhood Ministry, has grown tremendously over the past 45 years, and the renovated space allows for kindergarten, as well as before and aftercare school care.

1980's In Pastor Jim Witt's Young Adult Ministry, Kathy Wise and several women start after-school programming for children in Presidential Greens, a local apartment complex. This leads to relationship building, holiday celebrations, tutoring, mentoring, Bible studies, and various kinds of support and advocacy. The program paves the way for Casa Chirilagua, one of FBCA's primary mission partners in Alexandria today.

1984 The Deaf Congregation is formed. This has been a dream of Deacon Cy Shelton, who invited the deaf to church for many years. Pastor Vernon Davis' wife, Bennie Ruth, having grown up with deaf parents, helps make this possible. Cy Shelton also encourages the church and the Alexandria Police Department to initiate a teletypewriter service to better communicate with the deaf in the community.



1987 FBCA holds the first *Living Christmas Tree (LCT)*. The LCT has become a favorite holiday tradition for many in the City of Alexandria. At present, it has run for 27 years, taking breaks in 1989 and from 2016-21, during the building renovations and the pandemic. A Vietnamese Congregation begins to hold services at FBCA.

1992 A Hispanic Congregation begins to hold services at FBCA.

2001 FBCA dedicates the Faith Activities Center. After the attacks of September 11th, the Stairwells Men's Ensemble sings the National Anthem on WMAL, a local radio station, and again later for the Washington Nationals.

2003 200th Anniversary.

2008 The ordination of Kim Eskridge, Pastor for Children and Women, is held. The first ordination of a woman to the Gospel Ministry at FBCA since Sandi Evans (Rogers) in 1981.



2017 The last service is held in the original King Street sanctuary.

2018 The official groundbreaking for the renovated sanctuary is held and renovations begin.

2020 A global pandemic chages the world. The congregation cannot meet in person for over four months, and the church holds services online.

During the pandemic, FBCA takes every opportunity to connect with the community and show the love of Jesus to Alexandria through community-based missions such as food and diaper drives, financial assistance, counseling, and more.

In August 2020, in-person services resume. On October 25, 2020, the first service is held in the renovated sanctuary.

2021— *Looking towards the future...*

On **October 24th** the congregation officially dedicates the space to the work of the Lord in Alexandria and around the world. First Baptist Church is poised and ready for the next chapter in its history. We have the facilities, staff, resources, and membership to make a real difference in our city and the world. The same spirit that has been evident throughout our history is still in abundance. We are ready for the challenges that await us and we are committed to following our LORD wherever He leads.

THE SENIOR PASTORS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA

1803-1811

Jeremiah Moore

1811-1816

John Paradise

1816-1823

Spencer H. Cone

1823-1824

John Bryce

1824-1837

Samuel Cornelius

1841-1845

Edward Kingsford

1848-1853

O. W. Briggs

1853-1854

Henry H. Tucker

1855-1859

Samuel Moore Shute

1859-1866

Charles C. Bitting

1866-1869

Edward J. Willis

1869-1874

Charles H. Ryland

1874-1881

William S. Pennick

1881-1886

Oscar F. Flippo

1886-1891

Isaac M. Mercer

1891-1900

John H. Butler

1900-1903

George L. Hunt

1904-1905

John A. Wray

1905-1908

W. F. Fisher

1908-1916

William F. Watson

1916-1923

Eugene B. Jackson

1924-1929

Percy L. Vernon

1929-1940

Pierce S. Ellis

1941-1957

Ernest F. Campbell

1957-1963

J. P. Allen

1964-1969

James T. Ford

1971-1983

M. Vernon Davis, Jr.

1984-1991

Jay L. Wolf

1993-1996

Gary L. Hollingsworth

1997-2004

John C. Compton

2005-2021

Don Davidson

BUILDING UP CHURCHES IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA & WASHINGTON, D.C.

Churches FBCA planted
or assisted in establishing:

1836

Alfred Street Baptist Church

1897

Del Ray Baptist Church

1908

The Baptist Temple
(Formerly Second Baptist)

1942

*The Glebe Baptist Church

1943

Groveton Baptist Church

1946

Fair-Park Baptist Church

1953

*Duke Street Baptist Church



Grace Capital City Church



Alfred Street Baptist Church

1954

Downtown Baptist Church
Triangle Baptist Church

1992

New Hope Church

1997

Gateway Community Church

2014

District Church
Redeemer City Church

2017

West End Community Church

2018

Grace Capital City Church

2019

Neighborhood DC Church

**No longer active.*

Missions

Striving to fulfill the Great Commission....

At home...

- FBCA's Clothing Closet
(est. 1971)
- Meals on Wheels
(involvement starts in the 1970s)
- ALIVE (Co-founded in 1969)
- Carpenter's Shelter
(involvement starts in the 1990s)
- Bethany House of Northern VA
- Sanctity of Life Ministries
- Good News Jail ministry
- Mary's Moms
(A teen mom ministry)
- Samaritan's Feet



*"Volunteers from FBCA helped to put over 15,000 pairs of shoes on kids' feet at 35 events for Samaritan's Feet."
- J. Rollins*



- Rebuilding Together Alexandria
- Young Life - Young Lives - Wyldlife
- Rising Hope Mission
- The Campagna Center
(named after former Pastor Campbell's daughter, Elizabeth Ann Campagna)

- Casa Chirilagua
- Operation Elf
- ESL Classes (early 2000s - 2020)
- For the Nations DC (a new ESL program)
- Refugee Resettlement Assistance



*"Crisis equals opportunity. Rarely in the history of First Alexandria have our neighbors and mission partners faced so many crises. Seldom have we had such dynamic opportunities to reach and to serve by the Spirit of Christ."
- Pastor Wayne Jenkins*

Across the USA

In 1996, the youth choir begins to take annual mission trips across the United States. They share their faith, conduct neighborhood Vacation Bible Schools, and help with minor construction projects.



2010 Youth Choir mission trip to South Carolina.



BGAV Disaster Response Team.

In 2017 a team from FBCA received training in disaster response coordination. When a disaster strikes, we can quickly dispatch 3 to 5 people to man a trailer, set up a command center, assess needs, and inform the BGAV, a network of churches for missions & ministry, of what is needed as a part of the Incident Command response.

Around the world.

For many years, FBCA averaged ten mission trips a year, and today we still endeavor to take several groups each year. Projects range from constructing homes to training programs for regional missionaries with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Locations include Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Brac, Croatia, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, England, Fiji, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Norway, Panama, Russia, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, and the West Indies.



In addition to sending our people around the globe, FBCA has been involved with several established worldwide mission programs from right here at home.

Organizations have included:

- Feed My Starving Children
- Operation Christmas Child
- Samaritan's Purse
- Food for the Hungry





Capital Stewardship Committee

Charlie Black
Dee Buchanan
Vicky Jordan
John Kirby
Larry Meyers
Chad Moutray
Jennifer Renner (Kelly)
Tricia Ritchie
Barbara Ritzert
Beth Spivey
Matt Szramoski
Jessica Taylor
Mitch Waldman
Mark White

Interior Design SubCommittee

Stephanie Angle
Anna Bennett
Karen Kelly
Kris Meyers
Erin Rexroth
Patti Wells



Building Committee

Tim Bailey
Anna Bennett
Jerry Heilbronner
Catherine Hill
Laing Hinson
Scott Humphrey
Richard Kitchens
Jason Mori
Bob Redding
Adam Stenberg
Chee Taylor
John Whitley

Architect: HLR Architects
Construction:
Whitener & Jackson
Acoustic and Lighting
Design: Idibri
Organ: Schantz
Lighting: Barbizon
Electronics: RCI Systems
Construction Project
Management: Downey & Scott
Seating: Miller Church
Interior, Inc. and Kivett's Inc.
Civil Engineering: RC Fields

Thank you for supporting
First Baptist Church
during this time of
transition!

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