



*Loving God, Seeking Truth, Serving People*

## CHURCH PROFILE



### INTRODUCTION

First Baptist Church, Henrietta is a body of baptized believers who have confessed their belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It has a 146-year history and is located in the capital of Clay County, near the corner of State Highways 82 (Omega Street) and 148 (Graham Street) north of Highway 287. The membership is affiliated with Texas Baptists (the BGCT). Sunday morning worship service can be described as a blended style, mixing traditional hymns and contemporary music. Currently, on Sunday evenings there is a time of Bible study and youth activities. Wednesday night activities include a fellowship meal, children's choir and missions groups (GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends), youth activities, Bible study and prayer meeting, and adult choir.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Search Committee: Rick Hanson (chair) [search@fbchenrietta.org](mailto:search@fbchenrietta.org)

## VISION

First Baptist Church Henrietta continues a long history of focusing its ministry on Biblical truth. The roots of the inerrant and absolute Word of God run deep and remain bold and uncompromised by a changing culture. Jesus Christ is the head of this church and is worthy of our praise and commitment. Jesus is our leader and example, and the Holy Spirit is our guide. The church body consists of those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and have trusted Him for eternal life. The collective family of members love, encourage, teach, disciple, equip, and serve each other. The church shines a light of love and truth to those outside its walls.

As the Body of Christ **LOVING GOD**, we envision: (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:37)

- Spirit-filled, authentic, corporate worship services where the focus is on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and people worshipping enthusiastically with their presence, their songs, their testimonies, their prayers, and their attention to the Word of God. (Colossians 3:15-17)
- periodic remembrance of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection through observation of the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- the collective celebration as people confess Christ as Lord and obediently follow in baptism. (Romans 6:4)
- people discovering their God-given spiritual gifts and using them to serve God and others. (1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:10)
- people being good stewards of their time and money to the glory of God. (Psalm 90:12, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Colossians 3:23-24)
- growth as the by-product of hearts that are fully His. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

As the Body of Christ **SEEKING TRUTH**, we envision; (Isaiah 34:16, Acts 17:11)

- Biblical truth as the foundation, upon which all programs and activities are built, with an emphasis on an intergenerational approach. (Matthew 7:24-25, 2 Timothy 3:16)
- the Word of Truth being sought, taught, studied, preached, proclaimed, memorized, and applied through Life groups and other small groups, sermons, choirs, discipleship, and other ministries. (Psalm 119:9-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-2)
- a continuing Bible-based Children's ministry with a strong VBS and emphasis on music and missions. (Deuteronomy 6:7)
- a continuing Bible-based Youth ministry that values Christ, community, and compassion. (Romans 15:5-7)

- our mission to take the Word of Truth into the community, the state, the nation, and the world. (Acts 1:8)

As the Body of Christ **SERVING PEOPLE**, we envision: (Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 22:37)

- increased intentional opportunities to share our faith and the Word of Truth with non-believers as we go into the community. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- continued growth of missional outreach and partnering with other nonprofit Christian entities to meet the needs of people and further the cause of Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:9, Matthew 25:31-41)
- a church family which welcomes guests, seeks to develop relationships with them, and reaches out to parents and family members of children and youth who attend Wednesday night and other church activities.
- a church family relating to all generations to show unconditional love to each other, praying for each other, caring for each other's needs, sharing joy and grief. (Galatians 6:2, Romans 12:15, I John 3:16-18)
- a church family united in purpose with a prayerful vision with strong connections and communication with multiple opportunities for fellowship. (John 17:20-23, Hebrews 10:24-26)
- easy to navigate facilities which provide a safe, secure environment for all who enter, can accommodate a large group gathering, and enhance community outreach.
- strong coordination and connection of leadership. (Jeremiah 3:15, Ephesians 4:11-12)
- a church that uses up-to-date technology and media as a tool to enhance worship, communication, connection, outreach, and church administration.

## HISTORY

First Baptist Church was organized on November 11, 1876, when Rev. Hardee, along with 10 charter members, organized the church in the Clay County community of Cambridge, 5 miles northeast of Henrietta. In 1882, three months after Henrietta was chosen as the county seat, missionary to the native Americans in Oklahoma, Adoniram Judson Holt, preached the first sermon on the unpaved streets of the tent and dugout town.

Under Pastor H. M. Burroughs, the church moved to the new county seat of Henrietta. The Cambridge building was then used for school and church purposes by the black community. During Bro. Burroughs' tenure, a congregation which became the First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls was established as a mission of the Henrietta church. The first church building in



Henrietta was erected on the present location in 1884. Isaac B. Kimbrough served as pastor in 1885-1887 and again for a year in 1897.

In 1912, Pastor W. B. Holland conducted a memorable revival in a tent set up on the present parking lot. It lasted nine weeks and over 100 people were saved.



In 1916, the church building was rebuilt while E. B. Moore was pastor. God sent J. N. Hunt to shepherd the church from 1922-1934. He was followed by Edgar Lee Moody who served as pastor from 1934 to 1942.

Groundbreaking for the present educational building was held on February 11, 1950, when John Lewis was pastor. Robert Smith was the pastor when the building was



completed. The Sunday School began using the building May 10, 1952. During Bro. Smith's tenure as pastor, the church aided a Hispanic church in Wichita Falls, underwriting their land and building which was then deeded to the church as they organized. In the summer of 1957, while Kenneth Cantrell was pastor, the East Side Mission of the church organized as the Grace Temple Baptist Church, Henrietta.



In 1962, a committee was elected to make plans to build a new sanctuary. A non-traditional, more modern A-frame design was selected. The 450-seat sanctuary was dedicated on November 8, 1964.

Cordell Bales served as pastor from 1972 to 1977. He was followed by Leslie White who served from until 1979. Ted Traylor, pastor from 1981 to 1988, revived the tent revival practice. The tent was set up on the present Child Development Center location. Anticipating future growth, property was purchased during this time, and the south parking lot was added. Ron Gunter pastored from 1990-1994. In 1992, a new educational wing was begun. This two-story building with Sunday School rooms upstairs and a larger foyer, office suites, fellowship hall, and kitchen was dedicated in 1993.

While Timothy L. Jones was pastor, The Child Development Center was dedicated in 1997. Ricky Gunther pastored from 2000 to 2007 and began studying options for remodeling and updating the first educational building. Randy Osborn began as FBC Henrietta's 42<sup>nd</sup> pastor in 2007. In 2009, renovation of the educational building was begun and completed the following year. After Bro. Randy's resignation in July 2022, Dr. Wallace Watkins was called as interim pastor in September. Under his direction, the church has been doing a self-study and reaffirming/redefining our mission and vision in preparation for welcoming a new pastor.



## ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE

### Professional Staff

Interim Pastor: Dr. Wallace Watkins

Interim Music Minister: Greg Cox

Student Minister/Missions: Rory Dunson

Children's Director: Sarah Farris

Secretary: Robbin Avenius

Financial Administrator: Laura Lee Brock

It has been the practice to make church decisions mostly by tradition or by the influence of the pastor, the deacon body, and church committees. Last year some committees were redefined as teams, allowing flexibility in ministries and members. The Transition Team and Pastor Search Committee, with input from the church survey done in May 2022, recognize the need for an umbrella entity that can coordinate ministries, communication, and scheduling.

Name of Group	Function/Purpose	No. of Members/Entities	Frequency of Meetings	Role *
Deacons	Spiritual servants caring for the people of the church through family ministry assignments	Currently we have eighteen	Monthly	2
Ministries	Consists of teams who minister to needs within the church membership (See Ministry Teams below)	Varies according to needs	As needed	1
Committees laid out in Bylaws	Oversees and facilitates the day-to-day operation (See Committees below)	Presently 10	As needed	1, 2

\*Role legend: 1—Minister and laity share responsibility

2—Laity take primary initiative and responsibility with ministerial output

## Committees

Committees are made up of a designated number of church members and are elected for a staggered 3-year term.

Budget/Finance Committee	Provide general guidance in fiscal matters of the church	6 members	Monthly	2
Bldg. & Grounds/ Kitchen Committee	Supervise the care and maintenance of entire church property and report needs	6 members	As needed	2
CDC Committee	Work with the CDC Director to oversee the daily activities	6 members	As needed	2
Committee on Committees and Teams	Discover, enlist, and recommend the chairman and members of all standing committees and the chairman of each team for election	6 members	As needed	2
Long-Range Planning Committee	Is charged with the responsibility of discovering and analyzing long-range church and community needs and recommending long-range goals and strategies to meet these needs	Pastor, Ministers of Music and Youth, Chm. of Finance, Bldgs. & Grounds Comm., SS Dir., Chm. of Women's Men's & Children's Ministries, Chm. of Missions, Deacon Sec'y, One Trustee	As needed	1
Memorials Committee	Notify the family of the person for whom a memorial is given and send an acknowledgement to the sender of the received memorial	3 members	As needed	2
Nominating Committee	Discover, develop, enlist, and recommend, for election by the church, the workers in the educational organizations of the church	6 members	As needed	2

Personnel Committee	Provide general supervision of duties, salaries, and benefits of all employees	Deacon Chairman, Finance Comm. Chm. & 3 other members	As needed	2
Policy & Procedures Committee	Keep operational procedures and personnel policies and procedure up to date as changes and additions are made by the church	3 members	As needed	2
Tellers/Banking Committee	Receive and count all the monies received through tithes and offerings; deposit these funds promptly	3 members	Weekly	2
Trustees/ Insurance Committee	Recommend to the deacons and to the church adequate and proper insurance for the church	5 members	As needed	2

### Ministry Teams

Teams are made up of members and active non-members with no limitations on the number of members or the length of time a person can serve on the team.

**Acts of Kindness Ministry:** Plan acts of kindness activities to reach out with the love of Christ to our community.

**Baptism:** Do all things reasonably necessary for the proper observance of the ordinance of baptism.

**Children’s Ministry:** Coordinate all the activities of the children’s classes in Sunday School, Church Training, VBS, and other church activities.

**Preschool Ministry:** Maintain church nursery, plan activities for children’s church and help with preschool choir.

**Church Float Team:** Design and build float that appropriately represents the church while carrying out the themes of the Clay County Pioneer Reunion that occurs yearly in September.

**Evangelism:** Lead the congregation and assist the pastor in preparation for special times of spiritual renewal. Explore innovative ways of communicating the Gospel to the contemporary world.

**Grow Groups:** Establish groups to create relationships through spiritual and social activities.

**Hospitality/Bereavement:** Hospitality—Arrange for proper accommodations and food for church guests on special occasions. Bereavement—Assist families with meals at the church or at their home.

**In-Reach Ministry:** Be responsible for reaching out to our homebound members and members residing

in nursing homes or in assisted living facilities.

**Lord's Supper Team:** Do all things necessary for the proper observance of the Lord's Supper.

**Media/Sound/Technology Team:** Media—start up all media equipment to be used for church service and ensure that all are working properly. Sound—Run sound board for church services and additional events. Technology—Ensure that church technology is working correctly.

**Men's Ministry:** Help men grow spiritually through Bible studies, retreats, etc., and, also, by having fellowship with others through fun activities.

**Missions Team:** Have oversight of mission work to be undertaken and conducted. Encourage giving to the Lottie Moon Offering, Annie Armstrong Offering, and the Mary Hill Davis Offering.

**Music Ministry:** Fully support the Worship Pastor and the music ministry of the church. Assist in the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and overall upkeep of all music and equipment.

**Social Media Ministry:** Enhance connection among all church members and friends through social media platforms.

**Ushers:** Provide for the proper distribution and collection of the offering plates. After taking up offering, make sure money is secure.

**Welcoming:** Welcome all who come to our Sunday School and church services. Escort visitors to appropriate Sunday School class or any other facility.

**Women's Ministry:** Provide activities, such as Bible studies and special social events for women to make lasting friendships and to be encouraged and supported in their journey with God.

**Youth Leadership Team:** Encourage youth to grow spiritually through Bible studies, mission/service projects, summer camp, and social events.

#### Tasks that do not fall under the responsibility of a committee or a team

**Benevolence:** Determine, organize, and administrate discernment with compassion that will provide needed assistance to members of the church and community.

**Care and Maintenance of the Church Bus:** Be responsible for care and maintenance of the bus and have it ready for any church group needing the use of the bus.

**Flowers:** Secure flowers and decorations suitable for use in the auditorium and other areas of the church.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

A summary of FBC budget for the church year 2022 follows:

Total Budget	Budget Receipts	Designated Receipts	Total Receipts	Total Expenses
474,500.00	453,698.10	108,263.85	561,961.95	440,576.61

A summary of support for our partners and for missions in the church year 2022 follows:

### Partners

Cooperative Program, SBC	Wichita-Archer-Clay Association	Chaparral Baptist Camp	Clay County Outreach, Inc.	Church Starts International	Child Development Center
28,015.89	3,018.20	2,685.35	3,017.21	3,447.78	5,185.39

### Missions

Annie Armstrong	Mary Hill Davis	Lottie Moon
1,776.45	2,305.52	2,145.45

The data below shows historical giving records for the FBC Henrietta over the last decade.

Year	Giving by Congregation	Mission Contributions
2013	414,393.44	14,015.94
2014	421,715.60	12,941.00
2015	373,224.79	7,930.98
2016	388,738.57	8,115.25
2017	393,955.39	6,096.97
2018	433,556.93	5,225.20
2019	452,384.16	4,175.31
2020	484,831.86	4,154.67
2021	555,045.17	5,844.42
2022	561,961.95	6,227.42

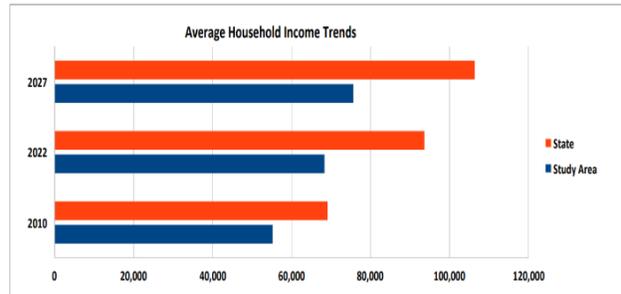
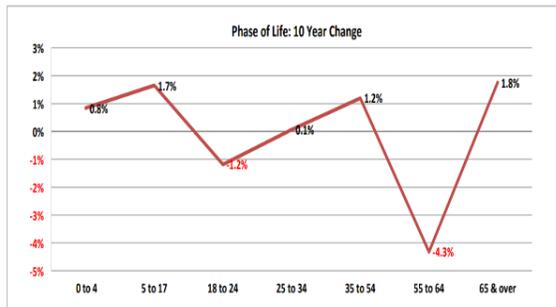
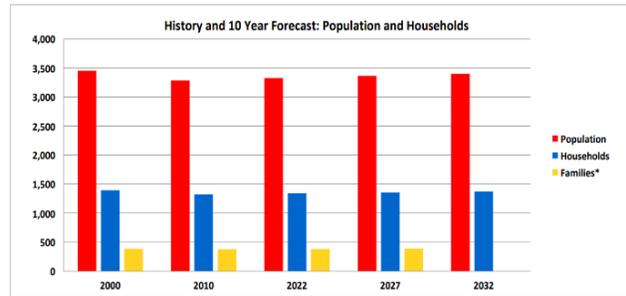
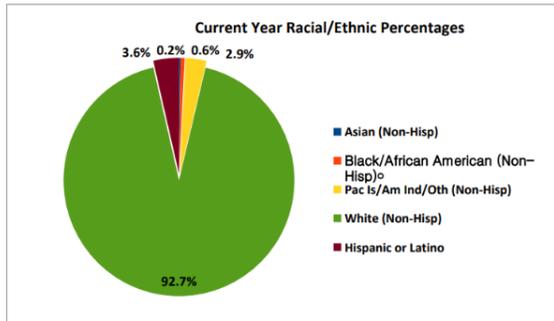
## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY



The 20,834 sq. ft. church building is located on 0.634 acres of land with frontage on state highways 82 and 148. The education building, constructed in 1952 and extensively remodeled in 2009, includes a nursery and children's Sunday school classes, choir room, storage, and kitchenette on the first floor, youth worship center, youth Sunday School classes, a work room, and a kitchenette on the second floor. The building, which houses a 450-seat sanctuary and a foyer, was completed in 1962. A second education building, constructed in 1993, houses adult Sunday School classes, a welcome center, the fellowship hall, kitchen, offices, an elevator as well as a basement. The Child Development Center (0.442 acres), across the street from the church offices on Main Street, was built in 1997 with an addition in 2020 and has offices, kitchen, day care rooms, and an enclosed playground. The church owns 3 houses: a pastor parsonage (2,271 square feet living space on a 0.354 acre-lot), a second parsonage for an additional staff member (1,616 square feet living space on a 0.331 acre-lot), and a house adjacent to the parking lot which is used for storage. The church also has a 15-passenger 2011 Chevrolet van.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Henrietta has a very homogeneous population of 3,326, and little change is expected in the 10-year future. The school age, the 35-54 age, and the 65+ age populations, however, are predicted to show moderate growth in the next ten years. The general level of adults' education is mixed, with the adult population closely split between blue- and white-collar occupations. Compared to the state averages, the number of families in poverty is somewhat below and the median family income is somewhat less.



## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

For the past six years the membership records are as follows:

Year	Resident Membership	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Baptisms
2017	1457	217	150	1
2018*	1459	221	158	4
2019	1465	218	165	6
2020	1480	199	156	2
2021**	1495	161	131	13
2022	1480	164	133	18

\*Some 2018 records were unavailable.

\*\*2020 attendance is for Jan.-Mar. and Nov. Dec. Other months were online because of COVID.

### **MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE CHURCH IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS**

- 1) Establish a Church Leadership Team moderated by the pastor and made up of chairs of buildings and grounds, personnel, and finance committees, chairs of missions and evangelism teams, chairman of the deacons, other ministerial staff, Sunday School director, and 2 at-large members that would subsume the Long-Range Planning Committee. (Representatives of other committees and teams could be invited or invite themselves as needed.) The Leadership Team would assist the church in understanding its biblical mission and define priorities; work toward church unity and improve communications; recommend an annual master calendar of coordinated plans for worship, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, missions and ministry; coordinate a church schedule of activities and special events and use of the facilities. This team would not have authority over the committees/teams of the church but would be an umbrella group of leaders who would assist in fulfilling the total mission of the church and coordinate and evaluate the work of the church. Meetings would be held at least quarterly.
- 2) Explore for ministry opportunities for expanding fellowship among members outside the walls of the church.
- 3) Encourage the missions committee to evaluate how FBC can truly become a Great Commission church by looking outside its walls and seeking to meet community needs out to the ends of the earth. Encourage everyone, but especially the youth, to have an international/third-world experience in hands-on missions prior to their graduation from high school.
- 4) Work toward becoming an intentionally intergenerational church which values all generations and engages them in mutual activities for worship, fellowship, study, ministry, missions, and outreach in a consistent manner.
- 5) Expand and/or renew partnerships with other churches, other Christian-based entities, and schools for the purpose of ministry and fellowship.
- 6) Encourage the Policy and Procedures Committee to revisit the current constitution and bylaws and bring them up to date as needed making any additions, deletions, and/or changes deemed necessary and bring the revised constitution and bylaws back to the church in form of a recommendation for the church's consideration.
- 7) Recommend that the Leadership Team take a close look at facilities and future needs.
- 8) Request the Personnel Committee and permanent pastor to evaluate the church's needs for staff to see what roles are not being met, which could be combined, and/or which could be parttime.