



NEW PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

BABY DEDICATION

REV. QUINTON M. HERBERT, PASTOR

Greetings in the Mighty Name of Jesus our Christ.

Congratulations on your decision to dedicate your child to the Lord! We are eager to assist your family with taking this very important step. A Parent-Child Dedication is made of several important ingredients. First is the recognition that the child you hold is not yours, but God's. God is the author of life. Your baby is not an accident, mistake, or even the outcome of your choice. The baby you hold today is a miracle of God's creative power. This life, with all of its uniqueness and potential, is a gift from God. No person has your child's exact personality, gifts, or fingerprints. What a marvelous thought! No wonder the Psalmist declared. . .

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." - Psalm 139:13-14.

Let's celebrate! Our church body wants to join you in gratitude and joy as we celebrate the blessing God has placed in your arms. Parent-Child Dedication allows the church to partner with you, pray for you, and encourage you as you look forward to all God will do through the life of your child.

God has not left you without instructions for parenting, and He has not left you to do this task alone. When our church comes together for a Parent-Child Dedication, we're not simply celebrating the gift of a child and the commitment of a parent. We're embracing our responsibility to support families by teaching God's Word, serving one another in love, training up disciples of Jesus, and pointing others to Christ.

This booklet provides information about the process for baby dedication at the New Pilgrim Baptist Church as well as some frequently asked questions and some information for you to submit in advance of the special day of your baby's dedication.

"...I prayed for a child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life, he will be given over to the Lord." - 1 Samuel 1:26-28 (NIV)

In His service.

Rev. Quinton M. Herbert



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

babydedication



And they brought young children to Him. . .and He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them. ~Mark 10:16

01 WHAT IS BABY DEDICATION?

A Baby Dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, godparents, and sometimes entire families make a commitment before the Lord to submit a child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways.

02 HOW MANY OF MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE BABY DEDICATION?

There is no specific number of persons who can attend. We want you to invite your families. Photos are allowed and encouraged. This is a special time for your family, and we hope that your family will be able to share in it.

03 WHY DON'T YOU BAPTIZE BABIES?

The practice of infant baptism is not found in the Bible. Baptism is for believers who have faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is only seen in the Bible when someone receives Christ and confesses Him as Savior and Lord. For this reason, we have a service of dedication to Christ for parents and their children, but we do not confuse this dedication with baptism, which follows a conscious profession of faith. If you have questions about baptism, we will be glad to discuss them with you and provide guidance and an opportunity to follow Christ according to His Word.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONT'D

04 CAN A SINGLE PARENT PARTICIPATE IN THE BABY DEDICATION?

Yes. We want to do all we can to encourage your walk with Christ. Single parenting is double-duty in child-rearing. Our church desires to be part of your extended family. We hope to provide compassionate support, spiritual growth, and a variety of ministries to enable you to succeed in parenting your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If you want to participate in a dedication service and would like the support of your parents or another family member, we would gladly discuss this matter with you before the service of dedication and guide how they can participate with you

05 CAN THE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS PARTICIPATE JOINTLY IN THE BABY DEDICATION IF THEY ARE NOT MARRIED?

No. While we honor each child's life and encourage parents, married and unmarried, to embrace the importance of spiritual commitment for children, a Baby-Child Dedication service is intended to reflect the teaching of the Scripture on family life.

Understanding the sacred honor of marriage as presented in God's Word, we believe every public act of worship is to conform to His standards. To fail to recognize and honor the specific teaching of Scripture on matters of family life would violate the integrity of our church and the Savior we serve. For unmarried or living together individuals, taking steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's plan for their individual lives would take precedence over participation in a Baby-Child Dedication service.

Our goal in ministry is to meet people where they are in life, lead them to God's grace and truth, and help them discover life abundant in Christ and His church.

06 HOW CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CLASSES AND MINISTRIES THAT MAY INTEREST MY FAMILY?

Lots of information is available on this website. You can also reach out to our Administrative Staff at info@newpilgrimbc.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FOR THE PARENTS

Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, prayerfully until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God. Parents who make this vow of commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of God and not according to their own ways. Some of the responsibilities include teaching and training the child in God's Word, demonstrating an example of godliness, disciplining according to God's ways, and praying earnestly for the child.

CHOOSING A GODPARENT

What should you look for when it comes to choosing a Godparent? Can the person be trusted to maintain a long-term relationship with the child?

A GODPARENT...

- Enjoys prayer life
- Is spiritual in their words and actions
- Is prepared to guide the godchild towards salvation
- Enjoys stability in their lives
- Has high moral character
- Has patience and can relate to a child
- Would be an exemplary role model

FOR THE GODPARENTS

The role of the Godparent is to look after the child's religious path and to bring the child up in the Christian faith. The primary responsibility is to support your godchild in living a Christian life in fellowship with the Church. You are promising to do all in your power to support your godchild in their life in Christ. The Godparent needs to be a practicing member of the faith into which the child is being dedicated and they must be sufficiently well-connected to the family of the child to be able to exercise the responsibilities they undertake in the dedication service. Godparents must have their eyes fixed on the Lord, believing that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and must be prepared to share his/her belief with their godchild. The Godparents should help make sure the godchild gets to church regularly. Setting an example by regular church attendance and by being willing to take your godchild with you to worship is a great witness and a great way to keep your oath as a godparent. Some parents expect Godparents to be gift-givers – buying gifts for birthdays, Christmas, etc. When the early church saw the need for godparents, it never intended them to be used in this way. The greatest gift that a godparent can give to a child is love, prayers, and their continued presence as a Christian model of faith.

GODPARENTS SHOULD:

- Pray for your godchild regularly.
- Set an example of Christian living.
- Help your godchild to grow in the Faith of God, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Give every encouragement to follow Christ and fight against evil.

THE PROCESS:

Baby Dedication is held every 2nd Sunday at 10:30 am during Morning Worship Service. Any exceptions must be approved by the Pastor. Dedication forms are available in the church office and at the back of this booklet. Please submit your form either electronically to info@newpilgrimbc.org or the Church Secretary at least one week prior to the baby dedication.

Parents and Godparents must arrive at 10:15 am on the day your infant is scheduled to be dedicated. All other family members must arrive no later than 10:25 am to take advantage of reserved seating. Late arrivals must find seating in the general congregation. Members of your party sitting in the reserved section must be willing to stay through the entire Worship Service. If they have to leave early we suggest they find seating within the general congregation.

Parents, please advise those participating in the dedication of your infant, that they will be asked to come forward and stand before the congregation.

For questions regarding registration and any additional information please contact the church office at 410-327-5611 or email info@newpilgrimbc.org RE: BABY DEDICATION

BABY DEDICATION INFORMATION FORM

The purpose of dedicating your child to the Lord is two-fold in nature; both to present your child to God and to present yourselves to God for the help that you will need as parents to raise this child.

Name of the child to be dedicated (First, Middle, Last)

Birth Date: -----

City of Birth:-----

Dedication Date: -----

Mother's Name:-----

Married Single Separated Divorced Widowed

Address:-----

City,----- State,----- Zip -----

Home Phone ----- Cell Phone-----

Email Address -----

When did you receive Christ as Savior?-----

Father's Name:-----

Married Single Separated Divorced Widowed

Address:-----

City,----- State,----- Zip -----

Home Phone ----- Cell Phone-----

Email Address -----

When did you receive Christ as Savior?-----

TO PERSONALIZE YOUR BABY'S DEDICATION, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE: For Example:

Does your child's name have any special significance?

What is your vision for your child's life?

What are you praying for child that we could pray with you?

Is there anything that you would like us to share with the congregation as your child is dedicated?

Is there a special scripture you have for your child?

Mother's Signature/Date

Father's Signature/Date