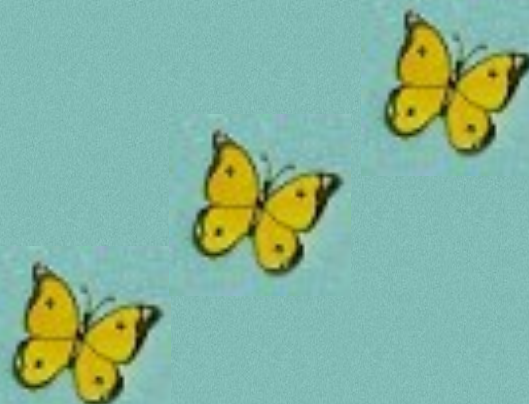


*We have
A
New Baby!*



Baby
Dedication
&
BLESSING



BABY DEDICATION & BLESSING

WHO CAN BE DEDICATED?

Baby dedications are for Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church families who want to commit before God and the church that they will raise their child in a Biblical manner.

IS BABY DEDICATION BAPTISM?

No. We believe that baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and have trusted Christ as their Savior. Since a baby is unable to understand their need for repentance, we do not practice infant baptism.

WHY DEDICATE CHILDREN?

Our Old Testament biblical example of baby dedication is found in 1 Samuel 1:11, 26-28 where Hannah, dedicated (or set apart) Samuel unto the Lord.

Our New Testament biblical example of baby dedications is found in Luke 2:22-32, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God.

Each child is a gift from God. As you dedicate them, you are “giving your children back to the Lord” and entrusting them to His care. Baby Dedications are a time for *Christian* parents to commit to God, their family, and the rest of the local congregation to raise their children in a way that honors God.

PARENTS REQUIREMENTS:

Because baby dedication is a commitment from the parents to raise their children in a God-honoring way, our baby dedications are limited to children with at least one parent who is born again. We do not dedicate children whose parents are unmarried and yet live together. The Scriptures make very clear God’s command that the sexual union is reserved exclusively for the institution of marriage between one man and one woman. Once the couple is married, we will happily dedicate their children). Also, if you are unmarried but not living together, we allow only one parent to participate in the dedication ceremony. Though we believe God can bring good out of every situation, it is our responsibility as a church to uphold a standard that is in line with God’s Word. If you are unsure what it means to be born again or have any other questions about these requirements, we would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail. You can call the church office at (907) 276-6673.

WHEN ARE BABY DEDICATIONS?

We have baby dedication and blessings on the 4th Sundays of the month. Please fill out the form on the back of this document and turn it in to the office two weeks before the 4th Sunday.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

For Baby Dedications: After our 4th Sunday worship time, we will ask the parents and children, and extended family members to come and stand in front of the congregation. The pastor will ask for a verbal commitment from the parents and the congregation (see below). The pastor will then pray a prayer over the parents, children, and family members.

We are to do the most we can to "set apart" our children to God until the day that they can make their own choice (something all of us must do at one time or another). By dedicating our children to the Lord, we are making a vow to raise them in God's ways and not our own. We are committing ourselves to this promise, and we must do all we can to keep it. The following is a list (though not exhaustive) of some of the things we as parents should do as part of keeping our vow.

1. Pray constantly for your child.

A parent's responsibility to pray for their child does not end at his/her dedication but continues until the day he/she commits his own life to the Lord. (Job 1:5, NIV)

2. Instruct your child in the way of the Lord.

We are taught in Ephesians 6:4 (NIV) to "bring them (your children) up in the training and instruction of the Lord." And Proverbs 22:6 adds, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6, NIV). If we, while our children are young, instruct them in this way, those ways will likely develop into a life-long commitment.

3. Be a living example of Christ to your children.

It does not do your child any good to instruct them in the way of the Lord if you do not walk what you talk. Therefore, you must always examine yourself and your witness to your children. We as parents must strive to be that example to our children even as Christ is our example. (Proverbs 20:7)

4. Discipline our children in the same way the Lord disciplines us.

Some of the Scriptures that relate to this subject are as follows: (Proverbs 29:15; Proverbs 29:17; Proverbs 13:24, NIV)

For Baby Blessings: Because we believe all children are a blessing from the Lord, we will bless each child regardless of whether the parent(s) are born again. We use Mark 10:11-13 as our guide; people brought children to Jesus and He blessed them. It is from this passage of Scripture that we bless all children, especially those of whom both parents are not born again believers.

Baby dedications & blessings are only scheduled following the parents' acknowledgment of their responsibilities and return of the Baby Dedication Request form.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14, NIV)

BABY DEDICATION REQUEST FORM

Baby dedication is open to parents who can truthfully say, "I will commit myself to raising this child to know the Lord Jesus Christ by loving, disciplining, training, and setting a positive Christlike example."

If you are interested in having your baby dedicated, please fill out the following form and submit.

Questions to Consider:

- ☐ Do you recognize Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?
- ☐ Do you recognize your child as a gift from God and give heartfelt thanks for His blessing?
- ☐ Do you desire to dedicate your child to the Lord who gave him/her to you?
- ☐ Do you pledge as parents that you will bring up your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
- ☐ Do you promise to give your child every possible benefit of home, of school and of church?

These are the commitments that are asked of you to dedicate your baby. You can discuss any of these questions when you meet with the Pastor or Minister.

Date: _____

Mother' Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Baby's Name: _____

Baby's Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Have you accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Mother _____ Father _____

NOTE: If neither parent has accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, then the pastor will only bless the children.

- ☐ Are you a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church? Mother _____ Father _____

OPTIONAL:

Grandparents: _____

Godparents: _____

Comments:

Date of Appointment with Pastor/Minister: _____

Comments From Pastor/Minister: _____

Time & Date of Dedication/Blessing:

After 11:00 AM Worship Service on _____
Date