



# Transition Team News

First Baptist Church - DeLand, FL

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## On the Move!

The Transition Team of First Baptist, DeLand has been blessed with a group of 12 individuals representative of our widely diverse church. There are 7 women and 5 men who serve in various programs and ministries of the church including Deacons, the Leadership Advisory Board, Sunday School, Music, and both our contemporary and traditional worship services. Years as members of First Baptist for the group range from just a few years to more than 50.

The Transition Team has had three meetings and an all-day retreat for organizational and goal setting purposes. The Intentional Interim Ministry helps us get a healthy perspective on three distinct stages in the life of our church: Endings or Closure,

In Between Time, and New Beginnings. **Closure** is that time leading up to the last days of our former Pastor and had to do with concerns such as:

Dis-enchantment,  
Dis-identification,  
Dis-organization, and  
Dis-engagement.

The **In Between Time**, sometimes referred to as the Wilderness Period, and where we are now, has to do with Direction Finding, Clarity/Identity, and Searching. As we prayerfully work and study together we will begin to more clearly identify who we are and discover our unique mission and purpose which will result in a mission statement to help guide us into the years ahead. Through each of these steps we will trust God to enable the body to arrive at right de-

isions by studied and purposeful Christ-like agreement and consensus among the congregation. As we emerge from the In Between Time we will be ready to recommend that the church elect a Pastor Search Committee that will begin its work in earnest. With the arrival of our new pastor and the involvement of new members in leadership responsibilities we will be able to follow through with the mission the Lord has prepared us for on the road to **New Beginnings**.



"Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up."

### Our Tasks

Heritage & History  
Leadership  
Mission & Vision  
Relationships  
The Future

## Heritage, History and Ministry Fair

One of our early tasks will focus on our identity and ministry. We have already begun planning a Heritage, History and Ministry Fair which will include displays and presentations on historical and church documents, photographs, ministerial leadership through the years, vignettes by historical characters, and active ministries in which our church regularly

takes part. We will be relying on those of our congregation who are involved in these ministries to help us put the Fair together. Additional tasks ahead will include those that deal with leadership and decision-making, missions and vision, relationships, and preparing for the future ministries and leaders of First Baptist Church.

There is much to do, but we believe that our Transition Team, hand in hand with our many faithful members, is ready to move forward toward rebuilding the First Baptist Church as the strong beacon for Christ it has always been.

### Events

- Team meets each Sunday.
- May 31 is our first "Body Life" gathering at 6:00pm.
- Coming in June! Heritage, History, and Ministry Fair
- 15 Points of Light praying weekly in our homes for our Intentional Interim Ministry

## Testimonies from Transition Team “Retreat”

“Retreat” often is used as a battle or war term, with the definition being “to go back or backward, withdraw, retire.” The retreat attended by members of the Transition Team recently was highlighted by just the opposite—a program of forward-looking, positive planning for the future of First Baptist. The general attitude of the team: withdraw, retire from planning our church’s future? **NEVER!**

I am proud to be a part of this team.  
—Jack Fortes

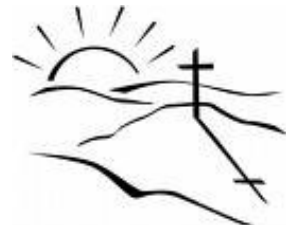
Our Saturday retreat was a very spiritual experience as we prepared ourselves for the many tasks ahead of us. We finally can see the fruits of all the hard work and dedication of the Selection Team and Pastor Steve. I am both encouraged and enthusiastically looking forward to working with our Christ-centered team, our God-loving church members, and our Pastor in discovering God’s plan for and purpose of our Christian growth at First Baptist Church, DeLand. —Curt Voelbel

I have been very humbled to be a member on this transition team full of Godly people who love to serve the lord. I am so happy to be a part of this team and excited to see what God will be doing in the life of our church. We all recently shared our testimonies and I was deeply moved and then convinced that these are people full of the Holy Spirit who will walk hand-in-hand with our church body to a place of peace and harmony. Thank you for allowing me to experience this exciting time in our church which, in the future, will be seen as a cornerstone in the life of our church. —Jim Mize

The meeting on Saturday was wonderful. The ideas just flowed. I feel blessed to be working with such an enthusiastic group.  
—Arlene Temple

I have been given a privilege, to serve the Lord with all my heart. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Transition Team. This past Saturday, God showed me what wonderful and committed people come to First Baptist.  
—Leticia Policke

After three scheduled meetings with the Transition Team I feel a sense of excitement for the future of our church. An inner reawakening for my own heart is the jump-start I needed.  
—Sharie Mesibov



Transitions call for sacrifice, but promise something new.

**“Call unto me,  
and I will answer  
thee, and show  
thee great and  
mighty things,  
which thou  
knowest not.”  
- Jeremiah 33:3**

## Body Life

“Body Life” gathering at 6:00pm in the Chapel. Body Life is a coming together of our congregation in conjunction with the Transition Team for the purpose of worship, reporting, dialog, and study. These gatherings are very important opportunities in the course of the Intentional Interim Ministry, because out of these special times we learn more about ourselves and how our church fits uniquely into God’s plan and purpose. We will worship and pray together, and we will hear from many words of encouragement, insight, and challenge.

## Transition Team Members

Team members are looking forward to helping us all understand more about the Intentional Interim Ministry and how we will all work together in this, so don’t be shy about approaching them! Members are Bob Anderson, Nancy Ballesteros, Linda Bruschaty, Jack Fortes, Gary Meadows, Sharie Mesibov, Jim Mize, Nancy Hunt, Leticia Policke, Arlene Temple, Curt Voelbel, and Dot Whitehead.