

## A Brief History of FBC St. John

On August 18, 1938, the First Baptist Church of St. John's Station was organized by the Rev. W.A. Todd in a tent meeting at 8801 Burton, with 9 charter members. Todd's original intent was to plant churches at which older or retired pastors could preach, so he organized the Baptist Evangelical Association. A wooden building was purchased and moved to the site in September of that year, after a storm blew the tent down. The church joined the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association in October of 1940.

The church was rapidly growing and added several rooms, until on July 30, 1941, the church voted to build a 60' x 80' building, which was completed September 20, 1942. This was not a simple task during the war years, requiring the War Department to be in constant consultation for materials. On Easter, in 1945, the church had a high attendance of 500 in Sunday School, and became debt-free on January 16, 1946, retiring the mortgages on the church building and the pastor's home.

The church continued to grow through the war years, to the extent that more buildings were erected, and finally on September 9, 1956, ground was broken for a new worship center, with the first worship service being held there on March 9, 1958. The original capacity of the new worship center was 1300, but our current configuration has a capacity of 800. The enrollment/membership peaked during the years of 1960-61, with approximately 1,100 attending Sunday School.

FBC St. John has had over 40 persons called and yielded to full time Christian service of one form or another. Over the 77 year history of the church, there have been 10 full-time pastors, with 2 of them occupying nearly half of that time, with 18 years each.

**More Recent History** – There was a church split in the mid-1980's. The church was somewhat stable in the late 1980's through the mid 2000's, until our pastor of 18 years was stricken with and eventually died from cancer. After that followed several interims and a short-lived full time pastor which didn't work out. The church experienced decline during this period, with Sunday morning attendance averages dipping below 100. There were talks of merger with a larger church needing more space. In 2013, a pastor search committee was formed and in early 2014, a new pastor was called. He was a great fit and the church began to experience revitalization. In the summer of 2015, our pastor was called to teach at a university, so we again find ourselves searching for a new pastor.

It would be very easy to be discouraged by the circumstances, a church once great in numbers, now struggling to survive. But, it is in these circumstances that we are reminded that we serve a sovereign God. For many years, we relied on ourselves, our rich history, and our resources. We acted in pride and depended on our own wisdom. We felt we could build up this church and reach this community. It is now that we realize, the great work that will be done in this church and this community can only be by God. We believe He is humbling us to show us his greatness in the work He will do. Gideon wasn't allowed to go war with the Midianites with 32,000 soldiers or 10,000 soldiers. God only let him take the 300 men who lapped the water with their hands. This was all done so that God would be glorified. May He be glorified here!

## **Church Organization and Operation**

This church is governed by and with the consent of its members, each of whom has an equal right to voice and vote. All church business shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, ratified on July 24, 2002, and the Operating Manual, revised 2013.

FBC St. John is currently organized by offices, councils, committees, and ministries. The members of this organization structure are volunteers and members of the church. All positions are brought before the church for approval, as a result of the search and nomination process.

The Pastor is the chairman of the Church Council, which is made up of all other ministerial staff members and all other chairpersons, directors, and coordinators.

The church holds quarterly business meetings, at which a financial report, trustees' report, and other committee reports are given. Any church business may be discussed at these meetings, if it is orderly, pertinent, and appropriate. This meeting is chaired by the pastor.

In 2015, we were in the process of re-writing the constitution and changing the "committee" structure. The current constitution and committee structure may be more appropriate for a much larger church. Our intent is to simplify and focus on ministry. A draft has been completed. Review and approval of the new constitution has been tabled until we have a new pastor.

## **Core Beliefs**

FBC St. John affirms the Baptist Faith and Message of 2000. Our theological position would best be characterized as conservative.

Our mission statement is "To glorify God in a united spirit, leading people to Jesus through active Evangelism, Discipleship, Fellowship, and Service".

We hold to seven core values: 1. Absolute Truth, 2. Passionate Worship, 3. Redeemed Fellowship, 4. Loving Family, 5. Sacrificial Service, 6. Deliberate Simplicity, 7. Missional Living

Currently, our musical worship style is blended, incorporating a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary praise songs. Accompaniment consists of guitar, drums, and piano.

FBC St. John has always been a "mission-minded" fellowship. We support the SBC Cooperative Program financially, pray for those "on the field", send youth mission teams annually to the field, and assist in disaster relief as able. We have also sent members to seminary to become pastors and to the field as career missionaries.

### **Current Ministries**

AWANA	Benevolence	Mother's Day Out	Youth Ministry
LLEI's (Senior Adults)	Children's	Reachout	VBS
Sunshine	Handbells	Sunday School	Recreation

### **Area Schools**

Ritenour is the public school district in our area. It is fully accredited from pre-school through twelfth grade. Ritenour offers a wide variety of programs, including athletics and fine arts.

There are also private schools available in the area. A few of the closest are:

Our Redeemer Lutheran School is available from pre-school through eighth grade.

North County Christian School offers pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Westminster Christian Academy offers seventh through twelfth grade.

## FBC – St. John

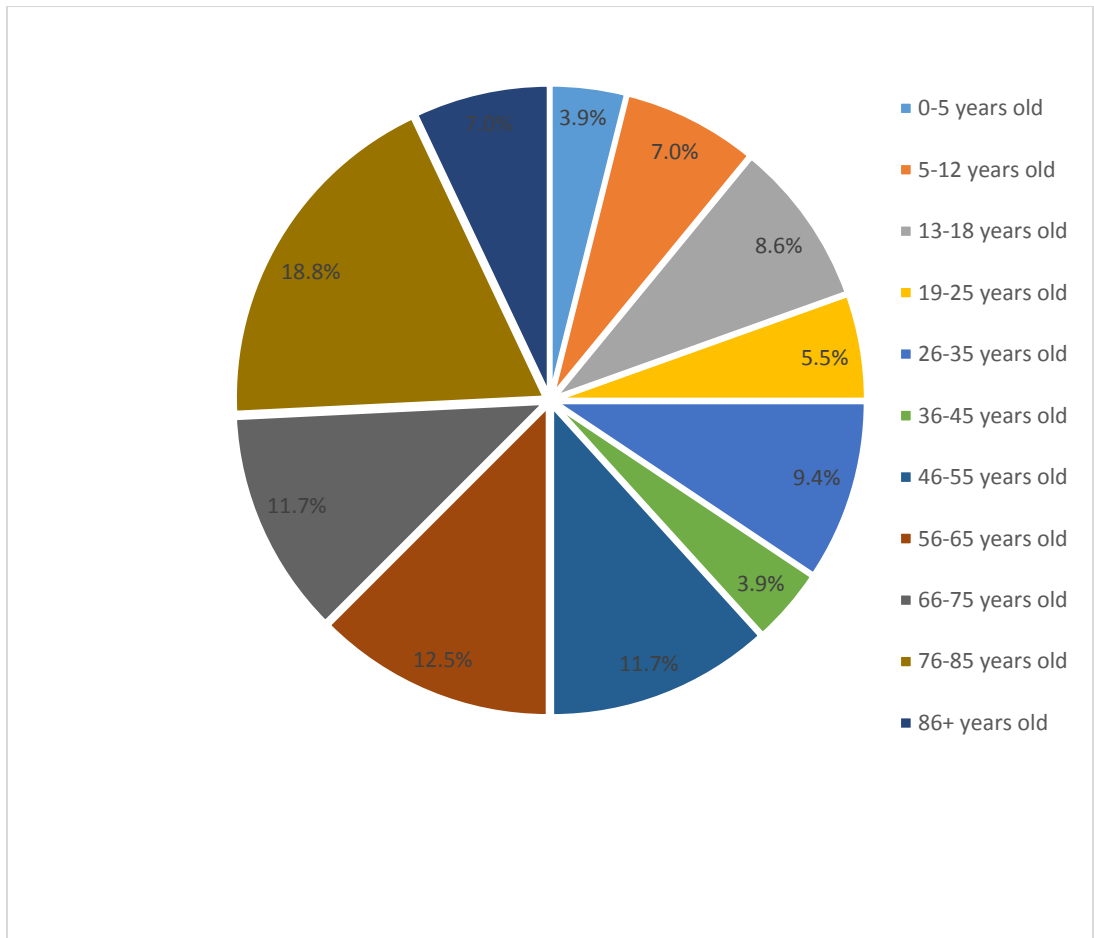
### Average Attendance, Annual Budget, and Age Distribution

2015 Average Worship Attendance (January – August) = 121

2015 Average Sunday School Attendance (January – August) = 86

Average Age = 51 years old

0-5 years old	5-12 years old	13-18 years old	19-25 years old	26-35 years old	36-45 years old	46-55 years old	56-65 years old	66-75 years old	76-85 years old	86+ years old
3.9%	7.0%	8.6%	5.5%	9.4%	3.9%	11.7%	12.5%	11.7%	18.8%	7.0%



## Regional Demographics (see map next page)

### **Bridgeton**

White – 72.4%  
Black – 18.7%  
Hispanic – 6.4%  
Asian – 2.5%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$47,202  
Median Home Price - \$164,100  
Under 18 – 19.9%  
Over 65 – 20.2%

### **Hazelwood**

White – 64.1%  
Black – 30.5%  
Hispanic – 3.0%  
Asian – 1.4%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$47,218  
Median Home Price - \$127,700  
Under 18 – 23.2%  
Over 65 – 12.4%

### **Florissant**

White – 83.9%  
Black – 11.7%  
Hispanic – 3.7%  
Asian – 1.8%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$47,202  
Median Home Price - \$138,900  
Under 18 – 23.3%  
Over 65 – 14.7%

### **St. Ann**

White – 69.5%  
Black – 22.1%  
Hispanic – 5.7%  
Asian – 2.2%  
Med. Household Inc. – \$38,159  
Median Home Price – \$107,100  
Under 18 – 22.4%  
Over 65 – 13.0%

### **St. John**

White – 67.4%  
Black – 24.3%  
Hispanic – 6.8%  
Asian – 1.8%  
Med. Household Inc. – \$38,765  
Median Home Price - \$92,700  
Under 18 – 24.1%  
Over 65 – 12.3%

### **Berkeley**

Black – 81.8%  
White – 14.3%  
Hispanic – 3.5%  
Asian – 0.4%  
Med. Household Inc. – \$35,099  
Median Home Price - \$79,000  
Under 18 – 30.5%  
Over 65 – 10.8%

### **Maryland Heights**

White – 73.2%  
Black – 11.9%  
Asian – 9.8%  
Hispanic – 4.5%  
Med. Household Inc. – \$54,643  
Median Home Price – \$159,200  
Under 18 – 20.3%  
Over 65 – 12.2%

### **Overland**

White – 73.3%  
Black – 16.4%  
Hispanic – 6.4%  
Asian – 3.2%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$45,333  
Median Home Price – \$102,200  
Under 18 – 22.4%  
Over 65 – 12.7%

### **Ferguson**

Black – 67.4%  
White – 29.3%  
Hispanic – 1.2%  
Asian – 0.5%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$36,645  
Median Home Price – \$97,400  
Under 18 – 28.7%  
Over 65 – 10.3%

### **Creve Coeur**

White – 79.9%  
Asian – 10.1%  
Black – 7.2%  
Hispanic – 2.6%  
Med. Household Inc. – \$98,093  
Median Home Price – \$382,800  
Under 18 – 20.9%  
Over 65 – 20.7%

### **Olivette**

White – 60.9%  
Black – 23.9%  
Asian – 10.7%  
Hispanic – 3.3%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$76,019  
Median Home Price - \$297,800  
Under 18 – 25.6%  
Over 65 – 16.4%

### **University City**

White – 50.8%  
Black – 41.1%  
Asian – 4.3%  
Hispanic – 2.8%  
Med. Household Inc. - \$53,807  
Median Home Price - \$192,400  
Under 18 – 19.5%  
Over 65 – 16.0%



Address **8665 St Charles Rock Rd**  
**St Louis, MO 63114**

