

Our Mission at FBCNB

LEADING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been give to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (CSB)

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:9 (CSB)

You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to you Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 (CSB)

First Baptist Church

New Braunfels, TX



HERITAGE

First Baptist has been blessed by God through a heritage of faithfulness. Building and growth have characterized the commitment to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our growing community challenges us to reach out continually, and we will march into the future with faith and a growing expectation of God's guiding power in our lives. (from the 1998 church directory)

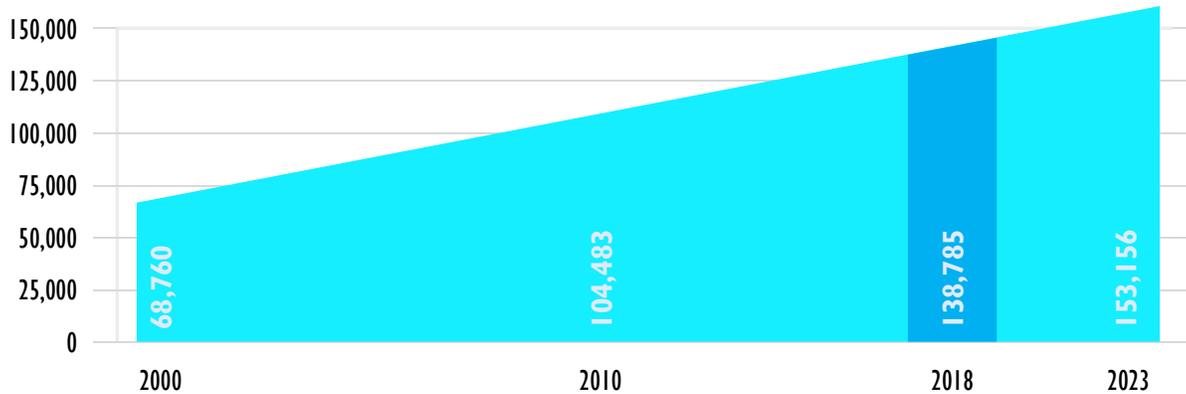
- 1905 - FBCNB was first planted, and a small chapel was built on S Seguin St.
- 1915 - FBCNB closed when financial support ran out from the San Marcos Baptist Association and the Baptist General Convention of Texas
- 1922 - FBCNB reopened
 - Moved several times
 - Met at First United Methodist Church on Thursday Nights
 - The German Baptist Associated appealed to the State Mission Board for help:
"They emphasized New Braunfels was a strategic location for Baptist work in the state."
- 1949 - New sanctuary erected on corner of Cross St and Guenther Ave, current site
- 1952 - FBCNB planted the Calvary Baptist Mission, which later became the Primera Iglesia Bautista of New Braunfels
- 1970 - FBCNB planted First Baptist Church of Canyon Lake
- 1972 - Current sanctuary was built
- 1982 - FBCNB planted Oakwood Baptist Church
- 1982 - Education Building built
- 1990 - Christian Life Center built
- 2015 - Arnold Ministry Center built

OUR CORNER OF THE WORLD

The I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio, consisting of 13 counties, is expected to catapult from 4.27 million in 2014 to 5.71 million in 2030. That would be a jump of 34 percent. Austin Mayor Steve Adler says, "Over the next 50 years, Austin and San Antonio will become a single mega-metro area. The corridor in between will be the first reflection of this coming future, providing greater connectivity to serve the increasing interdependence and joint economic potential as the two cities grow together."

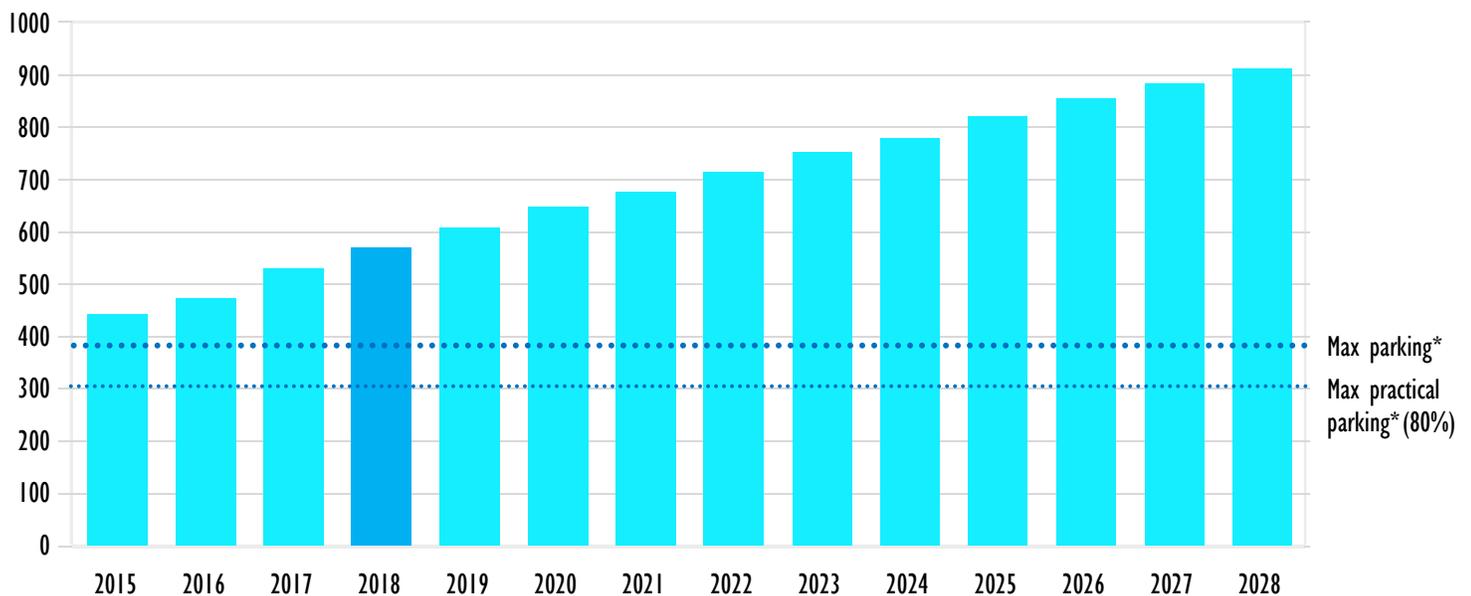
PROJECTION OF GROWTH

POPULATION OF NEW BRAUNFELS



Population within a 10-mile radius of First Baptist Church New Braunfels. Since 2000, New Braunfels has seen a population growth of 101.8%. Over that same period of time, the U.S. as a whole grew by 16.0%

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE



Projections are based on an assumed net growth of 40 people per year.
*Parking is based on 2 persons per car.

LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT SITE

ACCESSIBILITY

- Not along any major thoroughfare
- Most congregants no longer live near the building
- Most of our congregation and the population of New Braunfels are concentrated along I-35
- Many come from regional towns: Schertz, Cibolo, Marion, San Marcos, Seguin, etc.

VISIBILITY

- Very low traffic passing our building
- People don't know where we're located ("Are y'all that big church on the loop?")

NO MORE ROOM TO GROW

- Landlocked in an historic downtown area, surrounded by historic homes and small businesses
- Neighbors have been strongly opposed to our expansion, including conversion of empty lots and houses into parking lots or facilities. Also opposed to expanding upward (3rd floor). City agreed.

PARKING SHORTAGE

- We have 190 spots (not counting street and off-site parking)
- According to Lifeway, the rule of thumb for parking is one space for every 2 to 2.5 people
- We are averaging 600 in attendance on Sundays, so we would need 240-300 spots, or 3 acres, just to maintain our current numbers.
- Parking has been short for years and will continue to get worse.

OUTGROWING CURRENT FACILITIES

- Allowing for 22" per person, our sanctuary maxes out at 613.5 people. 80% capacity seats 490.8.
- Worship Service averages:

447	445	485	530	570*	610	650
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

*If growth continues at the same rate this year, which will be difficult because we're at capacity

- We only have room to launch two more adult classes. Many classrooms are already at capacity.
- First Baptist Kids Academy is maxed out and facing limitations due to code requirements.
- Children's Church is maxed out.
- Unchurched people WILL NOT put up with cramped facilities and parking shortages. Church people might if they have grown accustomed to issues. Most people joining FBCNB as members are church people. Very few are unchurched unbelievers.

ALTERNATIVES

BUILD ON CURRENT SITE

- We are horizontally and vertically limited in how we can expand in this historic neighborhood due to zoning codes, and the neighbors are strongly opposed.
- Our current site still poses challenges and limitations in parking, accessibility, and visibility.
- Even if we were permitted, it is not cost-effective to purchase homes or property in this neighborhood only to tear down or convert.

MULTIPLE SERVICES

The staff is fleshing out a plan for this as growth continues. Rushing Hall is currently being utilized as overflow seating during the worship service. A second service may double worship and education space, but it does not solve the shortage of parking or space in the preschool and children's education building.

PLANTING A CHURCH

We will continue partnering with the Bluebonnet Baptist Association to help plant churches. The following are a few church plants we've helped with since 2008:

1. New Life Church, New Braunfels (recently disbanded)
2. New Generations Fellowship, New Braunfels
3. CrossRoad Christian Fellowship, San Marcos (merged with Connection Church)
4. Fellowship Community Church, San Antonio (disbanded)
5. Grace Community Church, Kyle (disbanded)
6. Grace Fellowship, San Marcos (disbanded)
7. Revolution Church, Selma

MULTIPLE CAMPUSES

Among other issues, multiple campuses often lead to a divided congregation, competition, feelings of inferiority, and disagreements over resources and programming. Multiple campuses also fail to reinforce the family atmosphere we seek to cultivate. However, if we were to relocate, an additional campus may be a temporary option as we transition to the new location.

QUESTIONS

WHY DID WE BUILD THE ARNOLD MINISTRY CENTER?

- Our previous facilities did not meet our needs.
- We were faithful then to do what we felt God was leading us to do. Because we have been good stewards of the resources He has given us, we believe God is entrusting more resources to us and blessing our commitment to Lead People To Jesus.
- We have greatly benefited from that faithfulness. The Arnold Ministry Center has allowed us to grow to this point and will continue to serve us well until relocation is possible.

DO WE HAVE MORE ROOM IN THE AMC?

Our student ministry is using all of the finished rooms upstairs. There is one large room that the church voted not to finish. We will look further into the cost-effectiveness of finishing the room; however, it will not solve limitations with parking or worship space.

WHAT ABOUT OUR CURRENT DEBT?

We currently owe approximately \$662,000 on the AMC building loan, which, at the current rate, should be paid off in two years. (This does not include the cost of finishing the largest upstairs room in the AMC.)

ISN'T FBCNB BIG ENOUGH?

Is it our desire to grow a big church? No. While we delight to see God add to His kingdom, our motive is not simply to increase numbers for numbers' sake. We simply want to be found as faithful stewards with the people and resources God continues to give FBCNB. We are acutely aware that man cannot grow a church. Growth comes from God. The more God adds to our number, the more influence we have in our city and region. It takes more resources to affect a city as opposed to a neighborhood. Another benefit of a larger church body is the corresponding extension of outreach to our community, Texas, and the world. A larger church body would increasingly have a rich diversity of gifts and talents, a larger pool of resources, and more unified vessels through whom God works His will in our world. As God grows His church the importance of our small group ministry grows as well. Anytime a church grows larger than 150-200 people, knowing everyone well or growing close with all becomes difficult. This means we are already a church of several smaller congregations. So we are committed to a healthy small group ministry where everyone is needed and known.

ARE WE ABANDONING OUR COMMUNITY?

FBCNB is no longer a neighborhood church. In many ways, we are already a regional church. People are driving from Canyon Lake, Cibolo, Schertz, Marion, Garden Ridge, Seguin, San Marcos, etc. It's also important to remember that the church is not a building, but a people. Our people have not been downtown for years.

RELOCATION

GOALS FOR NEW LOCATION

- Facilitate our vision and ministries
- Resolve the many hindrances posed by our current location and facility
- Visibility
- Accessibility
- Room for future growth

Perhaps it should be noted that we are not suggesting building a new campus in order to *cause* growth. A building does not cause growth. God does. He desires to grow His church here in New Braunfels. But a larger facility will *enable* growth. Our current facility cannot support growth.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Our need is now and will only become more pressing over time. While we need to seek wisdom and seriously consider our current economic climate, the longer we wait, the more critical our current issues will become. Thankfully, financial giving has been strong. We have also enjoyed a budget surplus that we've used to update our current facilities. Hopefully, these updates will make the facility more attractive to a buyer. Also, with the rate of population growth in our area, we might expect property costs to increase accordingly.

COST

We have no cost estimate at this time. Our goals are outlined above, and when cost estimates become known, they will be shared.

PAYMENT

We are very early on in the process, but our plan is to identify the piece of property God has for us and to secure it at a price that is fiscally wise and healthy for our church. We have considered paying for the land through the sale of our current campus, reserves we have on hand, and through a capital campaign. It is unknown at this time whether we would have to incur debt to purchase the land and new facility. This will depend on several variables, including the cost of the land, receipts from a capital campaign, and the sales price of our current facility. We place great value on being debt free. If we must incur debt, we will do so wisely, with great counsel, and with a clear plan to retire it quickly. We will not go so deep into debt that we are unable to fund future ministry projects.

CURRENT CAMPUS

We believe our current campus may be a good fit for another church, a non-profit, a school, a developer, or even for government offices. We have yet to conduct an official appraisal, but given the size and location of our property, Comal County Tax Rolls estimate a value of \$4.5 million.

TIME FRAME

Our needs are real, and the opportunity is right now. We would want to act as quickly as good counsel and a clear plan would allow. There are still many variables and much work to be done. It would be difficult to imagine being in new facility sooner than 5-7 years from now. However, this time frame also speaks to the urgency of being able to act now, before our existing challenges overwhelm our ability to continue reaching our community and growing our people. Given the growth rate of the region and our projected needs, we are facing scarcity of desirable property. If something becomes available, we need to be in a position to act quickly. We feel that in order to avoid land price escalation, we need to begin soon.

NEW BUILDING

It's too early in the process to discuss what the building would look like, as we are only in the preliminary stages. We have dreams of things we would like to see, but at this point it's simply a dream. At the proper time, we will thoroughly research architects, visit other churches, and select a design that truly facilitates our ministries and vision of Leading People To Jesus.

CHANGES

The leadership of FBCNB is making every effort to make this transition as smooth as possible. While this effort is on the forefront of our prayers, change is often difficult. It's natural to want to resist change, but change is easier when we believe in the reason for the change. This tends to place our comfort in perspective. We ask you to join us in prayer, that God would use this move as a way to glorify Himself through our obedience. We have been blessed by the faithful obedience of those who have gone before us.

WHAT'S NEXT? HOW CAN I HELP?

PRAY

Pray for wisdom and direction.

Pray that God would continue to grow His church through His body here at FBCNB.

Pray that we would be unified under the Lord's headship and cheerfully obedient to His will.

CONTINUE TO LEAD PEOPLE TO JESUS

We need to continue to minister and love people as we have been. God has blessed our faithfulness, and we must continue to be faithful.

GIVE

We must pay off our current debt before we purchase more property.

PARK AT GRANZIN'S

Because parking is limited, we ask all able members to park farther away to leave closer spaces available for guests. We are starting a second shuttle to and from Granzin's in order to minimize your wait time.

We will be forming a Relocation Team to advise, help make decisions, and keep the congregation informed.

RESPONSES FROM LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Pastor Brad has been prayerfully seeking God's will for the future of FBCNB. He shared this vision of relocation with the staff in the spring, and upon hearing and praying, both Ministerial and Support staff are excited about what God is doing. The staff has met regularly to carefully and prayerfully consider all options, to find the best solutions for now, and to seek God's vision for the future.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council comprises the chair people of all standing committees, including:

Jimmy Jowers, chairman of the Deacons

Terry Graham, chairman of the Finance Committee

Gib Watt, chairman of the Bylaws Committee

Carol Wallrath, chairwoman of the Personnel Committee, and

Marcia Dean, chairwoman of the Missions Committee

Pastor Brad shared this vision with the church council in the spring as well. After taking a month to pray, they reconvened and unanimously agreed that we would be wise in planning for the future and that Pastor Brad should indeed share the vision to relocate with the congregation.

DR. ROBBY PARTAIN

From Dr. Robby Partain, Executive Director of the Bluebonnet Baptist Association:

FBCNB is in a unique position and has the potential to become a truly regional Baptist church, reach many more lost people, and disciple many more followers of Christ for the following reasons:

- Centered in one of the highest growth areas in the nation.
- Medium-to-large size offers opportunity to scale up for which most churches are not ready.
- High-quality ministries that have great potential for reaching more lost and making more disciples.
- Strong expository Biblical preaching
- Strong pastoral leadership

If the space, parking, and commuter access limitation of the current location prevent the church from reaching her Great Commission potential, as appears to be the case, then relocation must be pursued. Churches that plateau and become satisfied inevitably decline. Healthy churches continue to create new capacity for growth in evangelism and discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST KIDS ACADEMY

Director Lesli Pearson feels a relocation would be welcomed by the majority of students and parents at First Baptist Kids Academy. Many already drive a fair distance to participate and would appreciate Kids Academy being more accessible. Since our current facilities have code requirements that hinder further growth, relocation would also enable us to expand enrollment.