

From the Pastor Search Committee

It is with a great sense of peace and much excitement that the Pastor Search Committee unanimously recommends our candidate for Pastor, Rev. Will Dyer, Jr.

This journey has taken a year to complete after the church approved us as a committee last February. We began by seeking God's guidance, God's wisdom, and God's will for First Baptist, Augusta. Many of you gave of your time at church conversations to help us discern the type of minister we need for our church. From that beginning, you have clearly been with us every step of the way. There are no words to express our sincere thanks for your prayers and your words of encouragement over these many months.

We followed a process that was thoughtful, thorough, and spirit-led. It required many hours of reviewing resumes, listening to sermon archives, visiting churches, checking references, and conducting pointed interviews. That often seemed agonizingly slow for we were as anxious as you to reach the goal and set our church firmly on its path into the future. Will Dyer stood out at each level of decision. His engaging pulpit style, approachable personality, and devotion to his calling were evident at every stage. More importantly, we felt his strong commitment to the message of Jesus Christ through Christian discipleship and Christian evangelism. He easily embraces traditional as well as contemporary worship styles. We are certain he can be effective and successful in both. He brings a special interest in young adults and young families. His experience with faith development for this age group will serve our church well.



We are grateful for this opportunity to serve and humbled by your trust in us as a committee. It is an honor to bring this recommendation to you, and we look forward to the future God has planned for our church. We pray you will join us in affirming Will's call to be our next Pastor. It is the beginning of an exciting spiritual journey we can all take together.

On behalf of the
Pastor Search Committee,

Wade Blount
Chairman

From the Pastor Candidate

Dear First Baptist Church of Augusta,

As I write this letter, I find that words don't quite express the excitement that Sara and I feel about our future in Augusta. From the first time I received a phone call from Wade, I have felt that God was leading this process to where we find ourselves today. I told him, only half kidding, that Sara began packing her bags in anticipation after my first conversation with Bob and Alan that took place over five months ago! I write this letter with great joy, knowing that the relationships we have formed with the Pastor Search Committee are just a preview of the new friendships that will build as we begin our life together. So while it is true that words are not adequate, I believe the closest phrase I can find to give voice is simply this, "Thanks".

Most importantly, "thanks" be to God, who has guided this process and given us all a sense of positivity and assurance that His hand has been guiding us all the entire way. It is also most appropriate to say "thanks" to Wade Blount and the entire Pastor Search Committee. A little more than a week ago, we all sat at Wade's home and shared a meal along with a conversation that will live on in my mind for the rest of my life. There was a moment during dinner when I took a deep breath and I sat quietly. What I heard all around were the sounds of laughter and the voices of friendship. But more than that, I felt the hope and love of God in the room that evening. It is fitting that sitting around a table with friends, as Christians are called to do, I knew, deep down in my soul, that God had called my family to be in Augusta. If the committee is a microcosm of the Body of Christ at FBC Augusta, then I am convinced that Sara and I have found a home for many years to come.

Finally, I need to say "thanks" to you as members of the church. I know that you have been ardent in your prayers, not only for a new senior pastor, but also for the entire range of ministry at FBC Augusta. It is because of you, faithful men and women who follow Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, that this church has remained a beacon of hope for 200 years. It is a wonderful feeling to know that I am coming to a place where the Gospel is shared not only with words but also in the way we live our lives.

In many ways, this is a homecoming for our family. Sara and I spent the first few years of our married life in

Augusta. I was the pastor of a small church while Sara finished her final two years of dental school. I thought that it was a place where we could have spent the rest of our lives. However, God had other plans. We left with a fondness for the city that we loved so well. In the years that followed, we would often talk about how much we missed our first home and all of the friends and places we loved while we were there. How amazing is it, as we find ourselves at the start of a new chapter, that God would bring us back to the city where we began our family. This time our family is much larger, not only because we have two energetic young girls, but it is much larger because now we have you. Sara and I, along with Miriam and Evie, believe that God is beginning a new season in all of our lives. It will be filled with the blessings of God, of that I am certain, because it will be filled with people like you.

Grace and Peace, Will



Education

Doctor of Ministry, Christianity and Culture, McAfee School of Theology. 2015-present

Master of Divinity, Candler School of Theology. 2008

Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Magna Cum Laude, University of Georgia. 2005

Experience

Associate Pastor for First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Georgia. 2016-present

Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Young Adults. FBC, Gainesville, Georgia. 2012-2015

Lead Pastor for Greene Charge United Methodist Church. Ruckersville, Virginia. 2010-2012

Lead Pastor for Grovetown United Methodist Church. Grovetown, Georgia. 2008-2010

Pastoral Intern for FBC, Gainesville, Georgia. 2007-2008

Ordained 2008. FBC, Gainesville, Georgia

Community and Professional

Board, Habitat for Humanity of Hall County. Present

Board of Advisors for Baptist Studies. Candler School of Theology. Present

Board for "Religion for the 21st Century." Joint sponsored by Brenau University and local churches. Present

Lecturer for Adult Ministry Class. McAfee School of Theology. 2014-2016

Lilly Foundation Grant for "Innovative Discipleship Ideas." 2014

Leadership Hall County. Chosen as emerging leader in Hall County by Chamber of Commerce. 2013

New Church Leadership Academy. "Effective Church Planting."

North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. 2009

Augusta Chronicle column writer for "Your Faith" section. 2009-2010

Morris Scholarship, Candler School of Theology. 2006-2008

Sara Dyer

Sara was born in Raleigh, North Carolina although she has called Georgia home since the age of thirteen. She is happiest when she is spending time with her family and friends. Her two girls, Miriam and Evie, keep her busy, but when she has spare time she enjoys running, reading good historical fiction, and the occasional fun do-it-yourself project. Sara works as a dentist and she is a proud graduate of the Medical College of Georgia. She is excited to get back to the city where she and Will began their married life.



First Baptist Church of Augusta

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WHY WE CHOSE WILL...

I first heard Will in person October, 2016, and sensed then and there, God had lead us to the right person to be our next Senior pastor. God works through this man in the sincerity of his thoughts and words ...his genuine enthusiasm, either up close or from the pulpit. Brenna Brand

I felt Will was the best match for our church because he was engaging in the pulpit, has gained experience at a church similar to ours, oozed energy and enthusiasm for the kingdom's work, and appeared to match up well with our congregation's desires. Bob Scaggs

In searching for our new Pastor, I wanted to identify someone who has a passionate love for Jesus Christ. I firmly believe Will Dyer is the right choice for our Church. My hope and prayer is for Will to lead our Church in showing the same passionate love for Jesus Christ. I respectfully ask all Church members to welcome Will, Sara and their daughters with open arms into the First Baptist family. Alan K. Griffin

Will has gained excellent experience in an Associate Pastor's role at First Baptist Gainesville (GA), which is a church similar in size and structure to First Baptist Augusta. I believe he is ready for this next phase in his calling to be our senior pastor. His work with young adults will be very beneficial to us. His preaching is Bible based, relevant & applicable. I found both Will and Sara to be a young, delightful couple and I look forward to partnering with them to serve Christ's church, First Baptist Augusta. Roger Tom

In watching many sermons online and in person, I found Will to be an energetic, scripture based preacher. He has years of experience in a similar size church. He is mature well beyond his years. His personality and style will be a benefit to help us grow FBC Augusta, particularly with young families. David Giles

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT WILL...

Will Dyer has a real passion -- and gift -- for preaching. Combine this with his relational skills, and you get a good, well-rounded minister of the gospel. He is one of the leading figures in Baptist life today, and this will become more evident as he steps onto a larger stage. He is clearly prepared for the future and understands what it means for the church! Bill Coates - Senior Pastor - FBC, Gainesville, Georgia

Before I ever met Will Dyer, I had already heard about his outstanding ministry with young adults in Gainesville. This experience will serve him well to lead First Baptist Augusta to reach out to young families. I am impressed with Will's love of Jesus and love for people through his love for the church. I am excited about the possibilities of First Baptist and Will Dyer in ministry together. David Hull - Interim Pastor - FBC, Augusta

Will Dyer is an extremely gifted pastor. He is an outstanding preacher, a natural leader who possesses a strong faith in Christ, a love for people, and incredible capacity for leading a church toward a faithful vision for its present and future. I am praying for him, his family and for your great congregation as you consider a future in ministry together.

Dr. Paul Baxley - Senior Pastor - First Baptist Church, Athens, GA

For the 18 years I was at Emory/Candler, Will Dyer was one of the most outstanding students that I had the privilege to teach. He has a deep intellect, a strong discipline and a big heart to serve God. Since his graduation, he has become one of the outstanding young Baptist ministers in the country. Combining Will Dyer and First Baptist Augusta is the right recipe for a bright future of leadership for the CSRA.

David Key - Founding Pastor - Lake Oconee Community Church

Will Dyer brings a superb theological education and a distinguished apprenticeship in ministry. He embodies both a youthful vitality and a wise maturity. I am confident this young minister will reward every confidence placed in him.

Dr. Bruce M Morgan, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Griffin, Georgia

Call Weekend February 25 - 26

Saturday, February 25

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Greet the Candidate and his family
Drop-in reception in the Fellowship Hall
(No child care for the reception)

Sunday, February 26

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Candidate preaching
in both worship services

4:00 p.m.

Called Deacons Meeting (Choir Suite)

5:00 p.m.

Called Church Conference
in the Sanctuary
(Child care provided)