

INFANT BAPTISM

a conversation with Vic Pentz

Why does the Presbyterian church not have “sponsors” or “godparents” who stand with the parents at baptism?

The emphasis in our Presbyterian baptismal covenant is upon the entire congregation as the people of God promising to *bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord* (Eph. 6:4). The entire community of faith present promises to participate in the Christian nurture of the child.

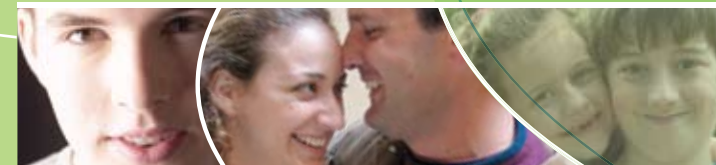
Parents may arrange to have friends or family members to stand in for them as Christian nurturers if, for whatever reasons, there comes a point where they are not able to fulfill this role.

How do I schedule a baptism?

Peachtree observes the sacrament of baptism on one scheduled Sunday per month in our three traditional services. To schedule an infant baptism, call the Administrative Assistant for Families, 404-842-2576.



Peachtree Presbyterian Church
3434 Roswell Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
404.842.5800
www.peachtreepres.org





What is the meaning of baptism?

- Baptism is a visible sign of membership in the family of God.
- Baptism is an act in which God claims us as His own. The moment our Lord's face broke the surface of the Jordan River, the heavens opened and the voice of the heavenly Father spoke: This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:16).

Is it Biblical to baptize infants?

In all of God's covenants with his professing people, from the earliest times, infants have been included. *Behold, I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you* (Gen. 17:4,7). When Moses was about to take leave of the people, he addressed them as *standing before the Lord their God, with their little ones, and their wives, to enter into covenant with the LORD their God* (Deut. 29:10-12).

When we come to the New Testament we find the same interesting feature. The promise, it is declared, is *to us and our children, even as many as the Lord our God shall call* (Acts 2:39).

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized (Acts 16:31-33).

Why is the baby taken from the parents' arms to be baptized?

The act of removing the baby from the arms of parents, along with the use of the child's given or "Christian" name without the surname shows the uniqueness of that child before God, acknowledging that he or she has a separate worth even apart from parents

Why do you ask the parents the name of the child?

In the rite of baptism, the child is introduced to his or her new family of faith. This is also a declaration that God knows the child by name and is "intimately acquainted" (Psalm 139) with the young one, holding his or her future in his hands.

To what is the parent agreeing by bringing the child for baptism at Peachtree?

Parents agree to make their home a training ground in the Christian faith, trusting that one day their child will make his or her own profession of faith in Jesus Christ, usually in the early teen years in the rite of confirmation. Further, by asking the congregation to stand and promise to teach their child, they are promising to bring their child to Sunday School and to other ministries at Peachtree which teach them about Christian faith.