

Church and Community Profile

First Baptist Church

132 Spring Street

Millburn, NJ 07041

Our church is searching for a Bible-teaching Baptist pastor because our pastor died from lymphoma after serving our church for 45 years. Since his death on March 21, 2021, we have had guest speakers, but we need a full-time pastor. We have a paid custodian and yard caretaker, but no other paid staff members. The pastor must be willing to live in the parsonage next to the church as part of his pay package.

List of names/phone numbers/emails of 3 contact people from our Search Committee:

Marilyn Hines, wife of deceased pastor, 973-376-4327 and email at pastorhines@verizon.net

Mark Ferrante, chairman of the deacons, 862-400-8555 and email at markf1560@yahoo.com

Keith Hines, trustee and no relation to pastor, 862-444-1411 and email at keithhinez@gmail.com

Our church was established in 1858 and the building was completed in 1861 just as the Civil War was beginning. We have a beautiful sanctuary with white pews, red cushions and seating for 180 people. Behind the sanctuary we have a classroom for 15 people and a kitchen area. Above that room we have an upper room with tables and chairs for about 35 people to eat together after the morning services. In the basement we have a classroom for about 15 children, teens or adults. Two bathrooms are available.

Our average attendance is 25 and our predominate age group is 60 and over, but we do have a few children and teens that attend. We used to have a children's church during the morning sermon, but the children are now old enough to sit with their parents. If young children come, we have a lady assigned to care for and teach them Bible stories. Once a month we have started planning a youth activity.

List of active ministries focused on the people in the church:

Sunday School Class that is currently only attended by adults

Morning Worship Service, followed by lunch provided by a different group of members each week

Discipleship Class at 1 pm that is currently studying a Survey of the Old Testament

Sunday night ladies Bible study in a member's home and an evening Bible Study at the church

Wednesday supper at 6pm followed by 7pm Prayer and Bible Study

Monthly support to Radio Bible Class so we can provide Our Daily Bread booklets for us and others

Each summer we sponsor our young people and their friends to attend New Life Island Christian Camp

List of active ministries focused on the community outside the church:

Send a welcome card and invitation to newcomers to the Millburn/Short Hills community

Monthly support missionaries in Haiti, Brazil, and Thailand (Plus special offerings for others)

In the past 13 years we have packed 900 shoe boxes of toys/school supplies for Samaritan's Purse

Host the annual Day of Prayer the 1st Thursday of May for the community

Invited visitors to our 14 dramatizations of DaVinci's Last Supper Painting with soliloquies and music

Have a table at the town street fairs to give away goodies, tracks, tours and invitations to our church

On occasions we have distributed tracks and invitations at the park, parades and our yard sales

Have a biannual yard sale to share what we don't need with those who can use the low-priced items

What we have left from our yard sale we donate to the Philippines, Honduras and local missions

We have given goodies to the police and fire departments with thank you notes for their services

When our downtown stores were flooded, we took homemade cookies to the clean-up workers

The size and composition of our community is detailed on the internet, but here are a few statistics:

Millburn has 21,700 people, 66% white, 25% Asian, 5% Latino and 3% black. 83% have a college degree

Median income is \$225,000 and median house value is over \$1 million

Most of our members are from towns around Millburn in Essex and Union Counties

Essex County has 863,700 people, 40% black, 30% White, 24% Latino, 6% Asian. 35.5% have a college degree

Median income is \$61,500 and median house value is \$386,000

Our 100 year old spacious parsonage is located next to the church and is part of the pastor's pay package.

The main floor has a living room, dining room, office, kitchen and bathroom. The front has a porch on 2 sides.

The 2nd floor has 4 bedrooms and a bathroom. There is also a basement, attic, two car garage and large yard.

The church and house are on a corner lot, one block from the center of town and a park with playground/lake

Millburn train station offers a ½ hour ride to New York City. A 2,000 acre wooded reserve borders Millburn.

Millburn is rated #1 Best School District in NJ with a high school, middle school and 6 elementary schools.

Our 5 year average weekly attendance prior to the pandemic shut down has plateaued at about 25 and when we resumed in-person services 99% of our congregation returned.

Even during the pandemic our people have given generously and we are meeting our budget. In 2004 Sprint (now T-Mobile) began renting our 90 foot steeple for their cell antennas and pay us about \$2,888 a month.

Our church does not have a web site, but we are on Facebook at FBC Millburn

One of our trustees and a deaconess manage the Facebook page, but we need help in utilizing social media

During the shut down we taped some of our services, but we are not doing it now.

We have a church group email that we use to inform the congregation about upcoming events

Our current style of worship music is an opening and closing chorus with three traditional hymns, using the piano and organ. Those who provide special music often use taped accompaniment. We need help with music

Our strengths are that we are a loving, loyal congregation that have been well taught in Biblical truth. Our buildings and property are all paid for and we have no debt. Our location is on one of the main streets in town and has been a well-known landmark for the past 163 years. Across from the church the town plans to build an apartment complex, so that will give us new prospects for members.

Our needs are for a pastor who feels called to a small church with limited facilities and finances. Our buildings need constant upkeep and can't be expanded. We have 10 parking spaces on the property and limited parking on the street. We need to attract more families and upgrade our social media outreach. We prefer a pastor who is a Baptist with some experience and if married, one who has a family that is supportive of the ministry.

Pastor's Job Description:

Plans and conducts worship services and effectively preaches the Bible (Preferably Book by Book studies)

Oversees or teaches himself: Sunday School, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services

Plans, types and prints weekly bulletins and handouts

Does mailings to newcomers and visits the visitors, shut-ins and the sick

Available for phone and in person counseling

Teaches members to evangelize, disciple and mentor others

Monitors buildings and grounds and notifies people when work needs to be done

Helps with church and community projects and encourages other Bible based churches

Performs weddings, funerals, baptisms and other special events

