

Shiloh Baptist Church “Discover Shiloh” Class

Our Story, Vision, and Values

†

8 Statements of the Shiloh Family

Shiloh's Story

Shiloh Baptist Church exists to encourage all people to pursue a lifelong, fulfilled relationship with Jesus Christ. Our history dates back to 1860, when a small group of committed Christians decided to plant a church in western Johnston County. We are a Southern Baptist church; affiliated with the local, state and national associations/conventions. Being governed by our own autonomous congregation, these affiliations have no authority to direct this church. People of all ages worship at Shiloh each Sunday.

We desire to be a home for spiritually homeless people. We envision a place where people can begin and build a deep relationship with Jesus Christ and with fellow believers, where people live together in genuine community, and where people grow spiritually in an atmosphere where the grace of God is highly celebrated.

We desire to be a place where real problems are solved and real needs are met as people are drawn closer to God through Jesus Christ, and where we recover from that which prevents us from enjoying meaningful relationships with God and others.

We desire to be a church where God's Word is honored as our highest authority and as the source of genuinely abundant living.

We desire to be a church where people serve one another according to the way God has shaped them, where our spiritual gifts, passion, talents, and experiences are all part of how God meets the needs of those inside and outside the church.

We desire to be a church that matters to the community within which God has planted her, who makes a visible, noticeable, and tangible difference on behalf of Christ in the real problems that exist in the world today.

We desire to be a church that celebrates changed lives, who cultivate an atmosphere of freedom to worship, grow, and serve, and who empower people with the confidence to do so in Christ.

This class is all about what it means to **Discover** all that God is doing and how you can **join in** with what God is doing at Shiloh.

Shiloh's Vision and Values

Shiloh exists to **help flawed people know God, find freedom in Christ, discover God's purpose for them, and make a difference for His glory.**

We are a **Gospel driven** church, which means we're driven by the Gospel's message rather than by traditions, buildings, budgets, or personalities.

**FOUND PEOPLE
FIND PEOPLE**
(Evangelism)

**WE DO LIFE
BETTER TOGETHER**
(Fellowship)

**SAVED PEOPLE
SERVE PEOPLE**
(Ministry)

**GROWING PEOPLE
CHANGE**
(Discipleship)

**WORSHIP IS
A LIFESTYLE**
(Worship)

Our Core Values

Reaching people, Teaching, and Serving

1. Jesus first! We trust his Word, follow his lead, and honor him above all.
2. The most important thing we do is live for our Savior. We seek to put the Gospel on display in every area of our lives.
3. We are driven by the Gospel, not by programs, personalities, buildings, or budgets.
4. We are honest and open as we lead. We live and lead with authenticity.
5. We are genuine people discovering Christlikeness together. We embrace one another and the way God has created each one.
6. Everybody belongs. We care about the heart, not the skin, the clothes, or the body art.
7. We keep the message of the Gospel on display. We get creative in order to reach more people.
8. We discover our gifts and grow from consumers into contributors. We refuse to become stagnate in the Word of God.
9. We join our resources, partner with the community, and go to the ends of the earth.

Shiloh's Statement of Faith

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, but had no formal confession of faith until the first Baptist Faith & Message was drafted in 1925. The latest revision was adopted by Southern Baptists on June 14th 2000.

Shiloh has adopted the Baptist Faith & Message as our Church's Doctrinal Statement.

The preamble states:

"Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty, and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the priesthood of believers, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God. "

The BF&M covers:

- I. The Scriptures
- II. God
- III. Man
- IV. Salvation
- V. God's Purpose of Grace
- VI. The Church
- VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- VIII. The Lord's Day
- IX. The Kingdom
- X. Last Things
- XI. Evangelism and Missions
- XII. Education
- XIII. Stewardship
- XIV. Cooperation
- XV. The Christian and the Social Order
- XVI. Peace and War
- XVII. Religious Liberty
- XVIII. The Family

A full copy of the current Baptist Faith and Message may be found at: **bfm.sbc.net**

How Shiloh Baptist Works

1. We are a family, so we operate on the basis of relationships, not just rules.

2. We are a fellowship, so we focus on what unifies us.

3. We are a body, not a business, so we serve each other according to our gifts.

4. We are a flock, so we are led and fed by shepherds, called pastors.

Answers to common questions:

- Our Pastor casts the vision for where Shiloh is headed and work together with other staff, deacons, and volunteers to prayerfully make the vision a reality.
- Our Pastors oversee the administration and operations of the church.
- We have committees and teams that assist in doing the work of the ministry by focusing on specific issues and making recommendations to the church, the pastors and the congregation.
- We seek to empower people to serve according to their gifts, talents, and experience.
- We have deacons who assist the pastors in caring for our community of believers.
- We love to share what God is doing. We do our best keep the Shiloh family updated through regular quarterly business meetings and various forms of media such as bulletin articles, social media, and email.
- We are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), and the Johnston Baptist Association (JBA), and their missions entities.

8 Statements for membership at Shiloh Baptist Church

Statement #1: I will follow Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Most people live their whole lives without ever knowing **why**.

We believe God has made it clear what **His desire** is for our lives is.

- 1. God created you to love you!**
(Genesis 1:1, Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5)
- 2. God wants to have a personal relationship with you.** (John 10:10)
- 3. You have sinned and lived your life apart from God's rule.**
(Isaiah 53:6)
- 4. Jesus paid the price for your sins with his death and resurrection.** (Romans 5:8)

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (CSB)

For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

What does God expect me to do in response to what he has done for me?

- 1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life.**
- 2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again.**
(Romans 10:9)
- 3. Accept God's free gift of salvation.** (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

You can take these steps by calling out to God with a simple prayer like this:

"Dear God, thank you for loving me enough to send your Son for me. I am sorry for my sin and don't want to continue in that way. I know Jesus died for my sins on the cross so I may be forgiven because of His sacrifice. I believe you raised Him from the dead on the third day as proof of who He is. Forgive me of my sin and save me. From this day forward I commit myself to Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Please come into my life and make me new, change me from the inside out. I accept your free gift of salvation. Thank you for saving me." - Amen!

Statement #2:

I will be/have been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ

The first public step of obedience to Jesus Christ is to be baptized.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark 1:9)
2. Because Jesus commands it. (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer. (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3)

What does baptism mean?

1. It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. (Romans 6:4)

Why baptism by immersion?

1. Jesus was baptized that way. (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. (Acts 8:38-39)
3. The Greek word *baptizō* means to immerse (in water).
4. It best symbolizes a death, burial, and resurrection.

We believe that everyone who has personally received Christ should be baptized after trusting Him as Savior.

We speak honorably of the commitment parents take when they dedicate their children to the Lord. However, as baptism is something we as believers choose to do for ourselves, we ask all those seeking membership at Shiloh to be baptized as believers.

We baptize as an act of worship during any worship service.

When God moves in a person's life to the point of salvation, we invite people to be baptized. We also believe in the value of inviting loved ones to witness this spiritual milestone in a person's life.

If you are interested in being baptized, please contact one of our pastors for more information and to schedule the date of your baptism.

Special Topic:

The Lord's Supper

(aka: Communion)

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are: **Baptism** and **The Lord's Supper**.

The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Answers some questions for us...

What is the Lord's Supper?

1. It is a simple act. (v. 23)
2. It is a reminder. (v. 24)
3. It is a symbol. (v. 25)
4. It is a statement of faith. (v. 26)

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

All believers. (v. 29)

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1. Self-examination. (v. 27)
2. Recommitment. (Romans 12:1)
3. Confession of sin. (1 John 1:9)
4. Restoring relationships.
(Matthew 5:23-24)

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper.

At Shiloh, our desire is that the Lord's Supper be a teaching and learning moment in addition to being a worship moment. So, we observe communion once per quarter, as well as special occasions during the church year.

Also, at Shiloh the Lord's Supper is open to all baptized believers, regardless of their church membership.

Statement #3

I will join a small group Sunday School Class.

Our primary way of helping people find freedom in Christ, study His Word, and grow spiritually is through our **Small Group Sunday School Classes.**

At Shiloh, weekly small groups are met through our Sunday School Ministry, and there are other opportunities to join small group Bible Studies throughout the year.

Real life change happens through God's Word in the context of personal relationships. In the Bible, the early church did worship in the temple but ministry happened house-to-house.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20

Sunday School Classes Provide Three Things...

1. **A place to connect.**
(1 Corinthians 9:22)
2. **A place to protect.**
(1 John 3:16)
3. **A place to grow.**
(Proverbs 27:17)

How Small Groups Work

Our Sunday School classes meet weekly here at Shiloh on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM and 10:30AM to provide a place for you and your family to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life through the lens of God's Word.

Through our small groups we accomplish our mission to Reach People, Teach, and Serve others.

You could **START** a Group!

If you can't find just the right Sunday School class, we would love to equip you with everything you need to start one! This is how we grow as a church.

Statement #4

I will grow in grace and knowledge.

Attending worship services and being part of a Sunday School Class are a great start, but there are at some personal habits that can help you in your journey as well.

1. Developing a quiet time for Bible reading and prayer.

- Hearing God's Word.
(Romans 10:17)
- Reading God's Word.
(Revelation 1:3)
- Studying God's Word.
(Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing God's Word.
(Proverbs 7:2-3)
- Meditating on God's Word.
(Psalm 1:2-3)

In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God.
(2 Chronicles 31:21)
- Getting direction from God.
(Psalm 25:4-5)

2. Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your life.

The Holy Spirit isn't a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God - living inside each of us as believers. He's the third member of the Trinity, one we cannot discount.

The New Testament talks about believers being "filled with" the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under His control.

How do we live under the Spirit's influence?

- Remove all the barriers.
(Acts 2:38)
- Relate to Him daily.
(2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Remain under his influence.
(Ephesians 5:18)

Statement #5

I will develop my gifts and serve as part of the team.

Did you know that God **SHAPEd** you for significance? He has gifted you and made you uniquely *you* so that you can serve him according to his purposes.

In fact, we say that

saved people serve people.

And the greatest way to serve God on earth is to serve *people*, whom God loves.

SHAPE stands for...

- **S**piritual Gifts.
- **H**ear
- **A**bilities
- **P**ersonality
- **E**xperiences

God has given you a unique mix of these characteristics.

You have been given **spiritual gifts** to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your **heart** is passionate about certain things. You have some natural **abilities** - areas you're just good at. You have a unique **personality** that was given to you by God. And you've

been through a unique set of **experiences**.

God wants to use all of these characteristics to help you to serve him within the church body.

If you've never taken an inventory of your spiritual gifts, let us know. We will be glad to connect one on one to help.

There are many tools available for you to go through a spiritual gifts inventory, a personality test, and we will do our best to help you know where you can plug in more deeply.

What kinds of passions for ministry or serving Christ do you have? Take a look at the list below and see if any spark your interest:

- Hospitality ministry.
- Shiloh Kids: Babies and toddlers.
- Shiloh Kids: Preschoolers.
- Shiloh Kids: Elementary kids.
- Shiloh Students: Jr. & Sr. High
- Sound, video, audio tech.
- Music, instrumental, vocal, etc.
- Social media, communications.
- Special events.
- Building maintenance.
- Hosting a small group.
- Prayer ministry.
- Mentoring/counseling.

Statement #6

I will give regularly and practice generosity.

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 the top competitor for our commitment to God is money. Giving faithfully allows us to demonstrate that Jesus is more important to us than material things. Shiloh provides multiple ways to give through this church. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

GENEROSITY changes lives - ours and the people to whom we give. At Shiloh, taking action on your generosity is simple.

The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the **tithe** (a word that literally means a "tenth"). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

The tithe is "to the storehouse." Though there are many worthy ministries and special offerings to which we can give, the first 10% of our income should be given as a regular gift to the local church's general budget.

Above the tithe, God encourages us to give offerings to specific projects at our local church and to other causes that we personally believe in, such as missions, special love offerings, etc.

Whether you'd like to give a single gift, schedule recurring donations, or view your giving history, you can do it all online at **shilohgarner.org/giving**. You can also connect through our Church Community Builder (CCB) site.

What happens with your gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship and full accountability as we prayerfully use God's resources to accomplish His mission in this world.

We have a church bookkeeper (a non-member), whose records are reviewed by a third party annually. Shiloh is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service, and follows all generally accepted accounting practices to ensure full financial integrity.

Statement #7

I will own the mission, living out the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

Every one of us can be part of the mission set forth in the Gospel by following these four principles:

- 1. Accept personal responsibility.**
- 2. Build personal relationships.**
- 3. Share your personal story.**
- 4. Give a personal invitation.**

POINTS OF PASSION (Local/Regional, National, and Global Missions Outreach)

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

LOCAL/REGIONAL: Johnston County and the Triangle Area

- Shiloh Baptist Men
- JBA Projects
- Operation InAsMuch
- Connecting with other local ministries/partners

NATIONAL: North America

- NAMB: Annie Armstrong Offering
- NAMB: New York City Partners
- Clintwood, VA/Trammel Gap, VA
- Appalachian Outreach Backpack Ministry
- Disaster Relief/Recovery Missions
- MANY more to come!

Global: The Whole World

- IMB: Lottie Moon Offering
- IMB Partnerships through church mobilization
- International Partnership in Guatemala

WHAT CAN I DO?

- **Pray**. (Matthew 9:37-38)
- **Give**. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- **Go**. (Isaiah 6:8-9)

Start by **writing out your story** and sharing your faith when God gives you the opportunity. Put the Gospel on display in every way possible. Also, invite people to come to your church!

Statement #8

I agree with the membership covenant and commit to the vision, values, and beliefs.

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Jesus as my Lord and Savior and been baptized as a believer, and being in agreement with Shiloh Baptist's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Shiloh Baptist church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

- 1. I will protect the unity of my church** by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who hold positions of leadership in the church. (Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)
- 2. I will share the responsibility of my church** by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. (1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)
- 3. I will serve the ministry of my church** by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant's heart. (1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)
- 4. I will support the testimony of my church** by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly. (Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)
- 5. I will submit to the leadership of my church** by participating in the established processes of Shiloh as a pastorally led, congregationally governed, church. When I have an issue, I will bring it to the pastors or deacons for consideration, and will support the decisions made by my church in good faith. I will seek to live a godly Christian life and will submit to my fellow members for accountability in that effort. (Matt. 18:15-20, 1Cor. 5:1-6:11; 1Tim. 5:17-22, Heb. 13:17-18, 1Peter 5:1-3)

If you are ready to become a member of Shiloh Baptist, complete the MEMBERSHIP COVENANT and give it to one of our pastors, and come forward during the invitation time at any worship service to join our church family!

(If you're completing this online, you may use the form on the church website.)

The Church Covenant

Having received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, baptized as a believer, and being in agreement with Shiloh Baptist's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Shiloh Baptist Church family. In doing so, I agree with the following statements as spelled out in the Shiloh Baptist Church Covenant (Article 6 of the church constitution and by laws):

1. *Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.*

2. *We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of Shiloh Baptist Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.*

3. *We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the abuse of alcoholic beverages; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior."*

4. *We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior and to secure it without delay.*

5. *We moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Have you been saved? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? _____

Have you been baptized by immersion since becoming a follower of Jesus? _____

If you have not yet been immersed as a believer, are you willing to do so at Shiloh Baptist? _____

Do you need help finding a small group? _____

I'm interested in trying out at serving on one (or more) of the following teams:

_____ Hospitality

_____ Building Maintenance

_____ Prayer ministry

_____ Worship, music, sound, tech

_____ Shiloh Kids Ministry

_____ Shiloh Students: Jr. & Sr. High

_____ Leading in a Sunday School Class

_____ Missions ministry or support groups

If you have a relationship with Jesus, have been baptized or have indicated a desire to be above, and are ready to commit to membership at Shiloh Baptist, please sign below.

Signed

Date