

and to walk in commitment of faith, truth, justice and righteousness so that this child will learn to seek You. Grant them patience and wisdom, good judgment and balance, for this demanding task which is still ahead of them. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Pastor Takes the Child)

This is _____ born _____ . Today you have been lifted up before God by your parents (and sponsors). May you find the Lord in their lessons and some day stand before others and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, Amen.

The Congregation

We also unite in our recognition that we must live before all children as living examples of God's love. May we not cause any to stumble by word or deed and may we never leave unspoken words of affirmation, love and instruction of God. Amen.



**West Bowdoin Baptist Church
Bowdoin, Maine**

Rev. James L. Lufkin, Pastor
PO Box 1
Bowdoin, ME 04287
207-353-6030
Email: jlufkin@suscom-maine.net

West Bowdoin Baptist Church
PO Box 56
Bowdoin, ME 04287

***Dedication of
Children***

*A Family and Church Occasion of
Celebration*



*West Bowdoin
Baptist Church
Bowdoin, Maine*

Dedication of Children



The dedication of children is a special occasion in the life of the church and the family. It is important when we understand the lesson and witness of the dedication.

What is Dedication?

- 1.) Dedication is an opportunity to express worship of God by the parents and by the gathered church. The dedication of children generally takes place during a regular church service.
- 2.) Dedication is an opportunity for parents to publicly present their child to God. Many events are recorded in scripture when a child is presented to God, sometimes with great ceremony. The occasion becomes a time of marking, which we do not do physically but spiritually.
- 3.) The service of dedication includes an affirmation of the Christian home as the primary place of spiritual instruction.
- 4.) Dedication is an opportunity to remind parents of their obligations to raise and to instruct their children in the Word of God. It is encouraged that both parents be present but on many occasions it is one parent who seeks to present the child to God and to affirm those obligations of raising and instructing in the Word of God.

5.) Dedication is also a church celebration and the congregation is invited to join with the parents in a recommitment to live before all children as examples and lessons of living Christian faith.

Dedication is not baptism. We as Baptists believe in baptism at the age of understanding for those who have personally accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. (Believer's Baptism) The child is not saved nor does he (she) receive a mystical relationship with God because of dedication. All children are special and loved by God. Salvation is through grace and personal belief and the child may have a head start because the parents have made a covenant with God to do the best job possible in leading that child to Christ.

Sample Service of a Dedication Service (As part of a regular service of worship.)

_____, you have brought this child _____, into this sacred place of worship for God's blessing and the dedication of yourselves to lead (him/her) in the Christian way of life.

It has scriptural precedent, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus, as a baby, to the Temple, where the prophet Simeon, took Him in his arms, blessed Him according to their custom. Mary and Joseph dedicated themselves to the sacred responsibility of parenthood.

This is a service of thanksgiving to God for the joy and hope that has come into your lives by the presence of this child. We recognize God as the Giver of Life and we

affirm that all children are His. This is a time of rededication of yourselves and your home.

The love of a home will help determine (his/her) future characteristics. God will enrich (his/her) life, if you will keep the doors of your own lives open to His presence and will.

Do you now dedicate your child to God?
ANSWER: **We do.**

Do you promise to give to your child the lessons of faith that you have learned? Will you show (him/her) the ways and love of your Heavenly Father, so that (he/she) may grow in the love, nurture, and admonition of the Lord?
ANSWER: **We do.**

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You, who has given to these parents the privilege of parenthood. You have blessed their home with life.

Bless this child, O Lord, with strength of body, soundness of mind, and health of soul.

Help these parents to keep Christian values, to develop Christian priorities,

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