First Baptist Church

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First Baptist Church
by Mariano Hernandez

On Sunday, October 4th 2015, I visited First Baptist Church. It is located on 1905 Lebanon rd, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. The service began at 5:00 and it was about an hour long. Pastor Hernandez conducted the service, however volunteers read the first two readings.

The building is built similar to many other churches seen around Richmond Virginia. What makes it stand out is the beautiful garden that stretches around the front of the Building. The inside is beautiful very similar to small catholic churches. The main difference is the type of images, this Baptist church seems to not have many images. Just a few small crosses here and there. There is no altar, just a podium on the right side and there are many pews for people to sit.

The inside is very large and it did not get fully packed. There was plenty of space in the back and there were no kids under 10. Right in the beginning of the service they introduce the people visiting so they introduced me during this time. The service was mostly families, though I was very surprised at the amount of young adults who attended. This service was in Spanish so all of the people were of Hispanic background. Everyone in the service was dressed business formal. I didn’t wear a tie but I also dressed with a suit. It is about 50/50 women and men in the service.

For the most part I felt comfortable during the service. During the beginning I was a little nervous when I had to introduce myself because I wasn’t aware that I had to. My uncle is part of the community so they announced my name and I had to give a couple facts and mention the place where I was visiting from. When they said my name I stood up and everyone turned to look at me and I felt a little intimidated during this moment. After this moment I didn’t have to speak again.

The service had a simple opening with a small choir. There wasn’t a formal opening, they simply did the introductions of visitors and they began the preaching. I was a little disappointed in the beginning since I was expecting something similar to what the Catholic cathedral did. The choir was mostly young people, three guitar players and one piano player with about five young people singing. For the size of the church they filed up the whole place with sound and the singers were actually very impressive. I think that the opening song made up for the lack of introduction to present the beginning of the service. The music was up-beat and the voices of the women were angelic.

I arrived early for mass so I am not sure if they had a greeter in the entrance but it seemed that most people who were at the service were a community and not many outsiders come in. For every song all of the people in the church participated in the singing and they all seemed to know exactly what to do. There was a lot of preaching done by the pastor and other people who are part of the leading board. They
The service was simple and it seemed more like a bible study with no rituals going on. I was expecting to see more going on but there wasn't. I would really like to try Baptist churches around the Richmond area and compare the differences. Perhaps I just went to a not so traditional church.

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