

FUNERALS AND/OR MEMORIAL SERVICES

While the Christian grieves at the death of a loved one, the extent of that sorrow is based upon one's knowledge of whether or not the individual has salvation through Jesus Christ. Based upon scripture we "believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep," (I Thessalonians 4:14). It is the policy of this church to so assemble as the desires of the family dictate, not to mourn the dead, but to praise eternal life brought about by a living Lord. As a service of worship, the funeral will be a statement of the church family of the love to the departed one's family and an affirmation of our witness of eternal hope.

To implement this policy, the following procedures will apply:

- A. When death occurs in the church family, the church office should be immediately notified. If death occurs outside normal office hours, the pastor should be called directly. A pastoral minister will be assigned to assist the family in preparations and to offer Christian solace.
- B. The scheduling and use of church facilities for the funeral will be the responsibility of the Ministry Coordinator.
- C. Funerals at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH will be considered worship services. It is recommended that the funeral service of members be held in the church. The order of service will include the singing of hymns of victory and praise. The pastor's comments will focus on the comfort that God gives through the promises found in His Holy Word.
- D. When the funeral service is held in the church, viewing of the physical remains would best be accomplished during a period prior to the service or at the funeral home.
- E. In the event that a family wishes to consider a memorial gift to the church, the Administrative Coordinator can inform the family and friends of appropriate needs that might be fulfilled through such memorials.
- F. All funeral services are regarded as worship experiences of FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. The funeral of an individual who is not a member or immediate relative of a member will not be approved except when specific authorization is granted upon review by the pastor.
- G. When appropriate, a fellowship meal may be provided for concerned family and friends. This meal, when served at the church in association with the funeral, will be planned and carried out under the auspices of one of the church program groups. There will be no charge for use of facilities or custodial services.