

While the Christian grieves at the death of a loved one, the extent of that sorrow is based upon knowledge of whether or not the individual has Salvation through Jesus Christ.

Based upon the scripture we “believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.”

(II Thessalonians 4:14)



Memorial Gifts

Expressions of Love

It will be appropriate for family and friends to consider appropriate memorial gifts to the church as an expression of their love and appreciation of the deceased.

The Church Business Director can inform the family and friends of appropriate needs they might fulfill through such memorials.

This policy was ratified by the Executive Board of Good Shepherd Baptist Church on May 24, 2009 effective June 15, 2009.

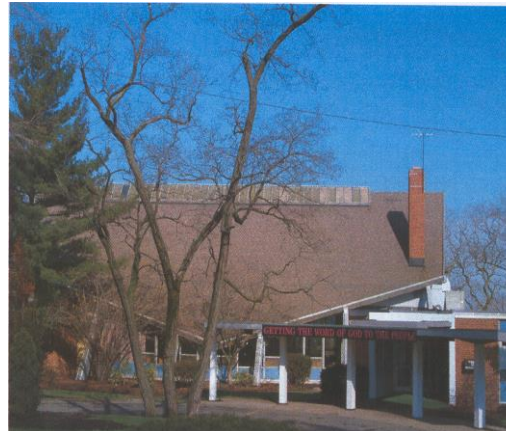
Amended: September 9, 2013

Amended: July 20, 2014

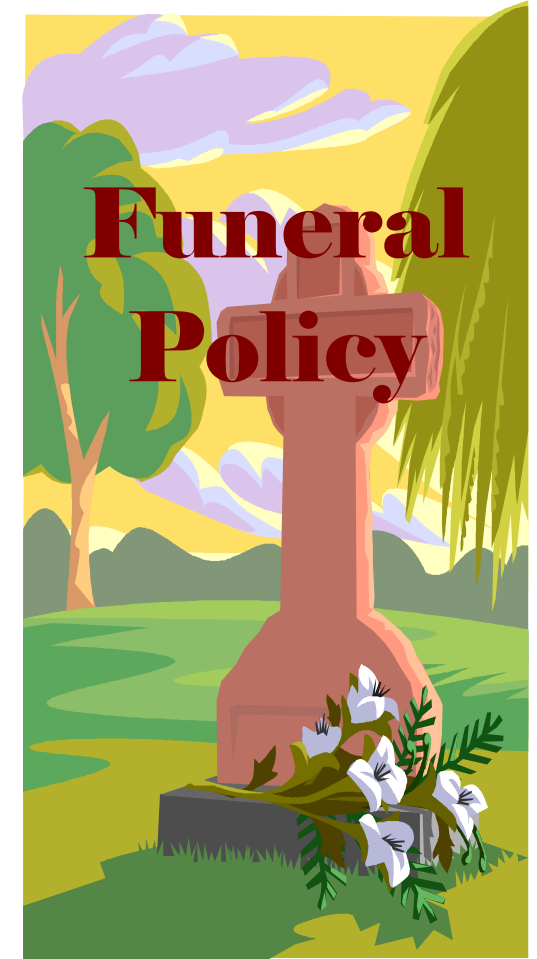
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
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Church Office
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Walter L. Ratcliffe, Senior Pastor
“Getting The Word of God To The People”



**GOOD SHEPHERD
BAPTIST CHURCH**



Psalm 30:5

Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.



FUNERAL POLICY

At Good Shepherd Baptist Church our primary spiritual responsibility is to its members. Good Shepherd Baptist Church is not obligated to offer the same privileges to non-members that are offered to church members who support the ministry of this church spiritually and financially. Good Shepherd Baptist Church will give special consideration to non-members who are the immediate family members of a member in good standing solely based on our love for our member. Please be advised that our Benevolent program may not be used to offset any funeral expenses. Immediate family members are defined as:

Parent; Spouses; Siblings/Children

A member in good standing is a person who has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who has completed the new member's requirements and has been fellowshiped in, who attends the worship services regularly, and who contributes to the financial support of the church.



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.

Good Shepherd Baptist Church does not allow Fraternity, Sorority or Masonic rituals before, during, or after funeral services conducted here. These activities must be performed elsewhere.

In addition, during the service, only 2 resolutions in honor of loved ones will be read, and a maximum of 4 people will be allowed to give remarks. The names of those individuals will be listed in the program. As a service of worship, the funeral will be an affirmation to our witness of eternal hope.

MEMBERS

1. When death occurs in the church family, the church office should be immediately notified. If death occurs outside of normal office hours, the church secretary or assigned Deacon should be called directly. The Pastor and church secretary will assist the family in preparation and offer Christian solace.
2. Funerals at Good Shepherd Baptist Church will be considered worship services. It is recommended that the funeral service of members be held in the church. The funeral director or family member should notify the church office in order to schedule the service.
3. The Senior Pastor will conduct the funeral services and offer words of comfort that God gives through the promises found in His Holy Word. If the Senior Pastor for any reason is not available to conduct the service, the Senior Pastor will appoint a minister from the pastoral staff. The Senior Pastor must authorize and approve a minister who is not a member of Good Shepherd Baptist Church to do the eulogy of the church member at the service.
4. When the funeral service is held at the church, for members as well as nonmembers, viewing of the physical remains will occur only during the family visitation period prior to the actual funeral service. The order of service will include the singing of hymns of victory and praise and church resolutions in honor of loved ones will be read.
5. To show our love and esteem for the deceased member, the church will provide a musician, flowers for the funeral service and a fellowship meal for 50 for family and friends. Details will be handled by the church secretary.
6. Since the funeral service of a member is regarded as a worship experience of Good Shepherd Baptist Church, no fees of any kind will be charged for the use of the church's facilities or its personnel for funeral services of members.



NON MEMBERS

1. The fee for the use of the church for a funeral of an individual who is **Not a member** of Good Shepherd Baptist Church but the immediate relative of a member in good standing is: \$500.00. This includes the use of the main Church Building. An additional \$100.00 is required for the Fellowship Hall. **(All services and fellowship activities must conclude by 3:00 pm.)**
2. The church is not responsible to provide a musician, soloist, or fellowship meal for a funeral service for a non member. This must be arranged by the Good Shepherd Baptist Church member.
3. The Senior Pastor is not required to eulogize the funeral of a non member of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church. However, the Senior Pastor or a minister of the pastoral staff will be appointed to officiate the service. As in the case of church "members" any other minister must be approved and authorized by the Senior Pastor to officiate or conduct a funeral service at the church.
4. To show our sympathy for the loss of an immediate family member, the surviving Good Shepherd Baptist Church family member may choose one of the following:
 - A. Deli Tray or Fruit Basket
 - B. A \$100.00 deduction from the funeral fee if the service is held at Good Shepherd Baptist Church.

Please note: Our Benevolent program may not be used to offset any funeral expenses.
5. A church resolution will be written and given to members in good standing for the death of any family member.
6. It is the responsibility of the member to notify the church of the death of the immediate family non member in a timely matter.

