

G R E A T E R

S A I N T S T E P H E N
F U L L G O S P E L B A P T I S T C H U R C H

fgbc

HEALING & VISITATION

SICK & SHUT-IN | DEATH | FUNERALS | GRIEF





Elder Tracey Ruffin
DIRECTOR OF HEALING & VISITATION

The Healing & Visitation Ministry exists to assist in meeting the spiritual needs of the sick and shut-in. We provide this service on behalf of the Pastor and the membership of Greater St. Stephen (GSS). Our duties include, but are not limited to, home and hospital visits to those who are seriously ill or otherwise unable to physically attend church. We visit convalescent centers and behavior centers. We maintain follow-up phone calls to the homebound, leaving the member or family relative a Get Well Card from the GSS family.

When we are informed of member illness by a member or their family representative, we speak with them directly to determine what information they would like to be shared and with whom. We typically notify the Pastor and the Heads of Ministry of the situation, and provide any approved contact information at that time so that they may intercede for and/or reach out to the sick member for prayer and/or visitation. If the member or their family asks for privacy, then the information will not be shared via email, from the pulpit or any other means of communication. This information will only be given to the Pastor. Healing & Visitation respects the rights of privacy at all times.

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

- * Prayer and Fellowship
- * Phone calls
- * Hospital and private home visits
- * Convalescent visitation
- * Emergency visits to the critically or terminally ill
- * Communion options via the Deacons

After the member has recovered and returned to church, we ask them to go to the altar and allow the Pastor to pray over him or her and be declared healed.





James 5:13-14

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

Tips For Your Visit pt.1

sick | hospitalized | shut-in

DO's A checklist for the visiting member

- * Make an appointment and be on time.
 - * If you cannot make it, contact the member as soon as possible.
 - * REMEMBER: You represent God and the Church (GSS).
 - * Listening is more important than speaking.
 - * REMEMBER: It's not about you, but the person you are visiting.
 - * ASK: **"How are you feeling today?"**
 - * Watch as well as listen: body language and tone of voice.
 - * ASK: **"Is there something you specifically want me to pray for?"**
 - * Let your prayer be spontaneous and reflect Christ's healing power.
 - * After prayer, allow for a period of reflection.
 - * ASK: **"Will you need a Deacon to come and serve Communion?"**
- If so, please make the Deacons aware.
- * Leave a GSS Get Well Card with the member.
 - * Within 3 days after your visit, please submit brief email of your experience to the Director of Healing & Visitation.

Tips For Your Visit pt.2

sick | hospitalized | shut-in

DONT's

- * Do not be a "no show."
- * Do not go unannounced
- * Do not bring children to the visit
- * Do not bring food to members
- * Do not stay too long
- * Do not awaken the member if they are resting
- * Do not gossip or compare illnesses with member
- * Do not act as a Physician or Psychiatrist
- * Do not discuss the member's private information with anyone
- * Do not force prayer
- * Do not sit on the bed of the member
- * Do not enter a room without knocking
- * If there is a complaint about a leader of the church, do not engage, argue or try to explain. If needed, an optional response would be:
"Please feel free to call the church at (504) 244-6800 and make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Office of Ministries or the 1st Assistant Pastor."
- * Do not talk or pray *loudly*.



Acts 28:8-9

As it happened, Publius' father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him.

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

DEATH FUNERALS GRIEF

FOR THE
BEREAVED MEMBER



When a member dies...

During your time of loss, we are here to support you. If any of our supporting members experience the death of an immediate family member (father, mother, husband, wife, child, sister or brother), the Healing & Visitation Team will share love and show compassion.

Immediately upon the death of your loved one, please call the church office at (504) 244-6800 to report your loss. If you don't immediately connect with someone, then please leave a message with your contact information. The Director of Healing & Visitation will contact you immediately upon receiving your message.

After receiving a death announcement, the Director will notify the Senior Pastor, who will then contact the designated family member to offer prayer and comforting words.

A meeting with the Director of Healing & Visitation will be arranged to discuss the specific details, such as the funeral date and time, church availability. A picture of the deceased (if a GSS member) will be requested to be used making the service arrangements.

An email will be sent to all Heads of Ministry to announce the death or loss of the member, as well as to give the funeral date, time and any approved contact information for the family. It is customary for the ministries to reach out to express condolences and offer prayer to the family. During our services, the picture of the deceased GSS member will be placed on the screens to make the congregation aware of the church's loss.

Following the funeral of a loved one, we invite you to contact the church office, at the number listed above, for access to resources pertaining to grief support within our church.

DEATH FUNERALS GRIEF

OUR PROGRAM GUIDELINES



The GSS Funeral Program

Greater St. Stephen offers complimentary standard programs for all GSS members. The Director of Healing & Visitation will work in conjunction with Greater Design & Print to produce the programs, unless the family chooses to make their own programs. Please send the following information via email to visitation@gssmin.org:

- Cover picture - preferably of a high resolution
- The spelling the Full Name of the Deceased
- Birth and Death Dates
- Service Start Time
- Obituary
- Poems, Tributes and/or Pictures (up to 30)
- Acknowledgements
- Active and Honorary Pallbearers
- The Name and Address of the Funeral Home
- The Name and Address of the Cemetery (if open to visitors)
- Location of the Repast (if applicable)
- Program Participants - singers, musicians, expressions (up to 3 people with 2 minutes each), and the reading of the obituary
- Any preferred colors, images, themes and scriptures
- Final Viewing or not

In the event that the family chooses to make their own programs, we ask that an electronic copy of the Order of Service be sent via email to the Director for approval before the final programs are printed. Please include the name and contact number of the person preparing the program. If the family fails to get approval of the Order of Service before printing, GSS reserves the right to make any necessary changes on the day of the funeral.

DEATH FUNERALS GRIEF

ON THE DAY OF
THE FUNERAL



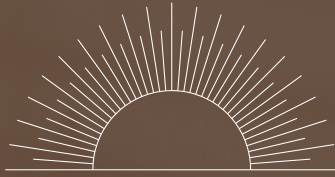
The GSS Order of Service

The Funeral Service at Greater St. Stephen is 75 minutes in length (1 hour and 15 minutes). The service may begin at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. with a Viewing Period thirty (30) minutes prior to the service. The casket will be closed 3 minutes prior to the onset of the service.

Here is a guideline for you to follow when preparing the program:

Family Processional
(Scripture Reading | GSS Elder)
Prayer | GSS Elder in Charge
Servant of Service | GSS Elder in Charge
Musical Selection | GSS Music Ministry (or Family Designee)
Church Condolences | GSS Deacons
Expressions
(Up to 3 people/slots with 2 minutes each)
Reading of the Obituary | Family Designee (or Servant of Service)
Musical Selection | GSS Music Ministry (or Family Designee)
Eulogy | Senior Pastor (or Designee)
Visiting Senior Pastors (2 Minutes each)
Final Viewing
Benediction
Recessional

Family members and program participants should arrive 15-20 minutes prior to the service time and meet in the Church Lobby. Any other questions will be answered by the Director.



GREATER *fgbc*
saint stephen



*Search for the Lord and for his strength;
continually seek him.*

- 1 Chronicles 16:11



(504) 244-6800



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visitation@gssmin.org



www.houseofgreater.org

DR. T. DELBERT ROBINSON SENIOR PASTOR
ELDER JASMINE M. ROBINSON FIRST LADY
BISHOP PAUL S. MORTON OVERSEER
DR. DEBRA B. MORTON OVERSEER/PASTOR EMERITUS

