

receive contributions for special projects of repair and maintenance of our facilities. These projects are those that ordinarily go beyond the capacity of the General Operating Fund.

**Pastor's Fund** – This fund was established by the session, in consultation with the Eidson family, with some of the memorials given for Scott Eidson. The money is to be used by the pastor to cover expenses when conducting pastoral business.

**Gibbs/Newberry Fund** - Interest from this fund is annually equally divided between the general operating fund and support for youth work.

### FORMS AVAILABLE

The church office has the following forms available for your convenience: The Texas Natural Death Act, Personal Burial Instructions, and Facts About Funeral (from the Texas Funeral Service Commission).

*Grace First Presbyterian Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all in need during this difficult time. It is our intent that the family is surrounded by our community of faith. In death, as in life, the promise of the gospel affirms our joy even at time of sorrow. Our belief revolves around the central doctrine of the certainty of the resurrection of Christ and our own life eternal.*

*“... he [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more...”*  
*Revelation 21:4*

(Approved and adopted by the session of  
Grace First Presbyterian Church, September 2001.)

# THE MEMORIAL/FUNERAL: A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION



*Jesus said ..., “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”*

*John 11:25-26*

... adapted from the Book of Order,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grace First Presbyterian Church  
606 Mockingbird Lane  
Weatherford, Texas 76086

817-594-2744

817-341-2258

1-800-429-7496

was established by Walter and Jo Worthington in honor of Mel Worthington. The income is to be used by the session for our church library and to provide for guest speakers and preachers.

**The Nell Dean Wilson/Miriam Byron Fund** – This fund was established by the Right Reverend Sam B. Hulsey, D.D. in honor of his aunt, Miriam Byron and her devoted friend, Nell Dean Wilson. The income to be used by the session for mission trips, the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth, and the educational ministry of the congregation.

**The Music Instrument Maintenance Fund** – This fund was established by the Worship and Music Ministry for unanticipated repairs and maintenance to the organ, piano, handbells, etc. above and beyond what the budget would handle.

**The Endowment Fund** – This fund was established from a contribution by Dot and Don Martin. Up to five percent of the three year rolling average of the market value of this fund is to be transferred annually. This will be divided equally between the Mission & Ministry Fund and the Capital Equipment & Facilities Fund.

**The Mission and Ministry Fund** – This fund was established with an initial contribution by Dot and Don Martin. This fund and its income will be used by the session for special programs of the congregation, extended missions, extraordinary benevolent programs, needs beyond the normal operating budget of the church, or other temporary funds established.

**The Capital Equipment and Facilities Fund** – This fund was established with an initial contribution by Dot and Don Martin. This fund and its income is to be used for the purchase of capital equipment and the maintenance and improvement of the physical and esthetic facilities of the church extending beyond the normal expenditures from the General Operating Fund.

**Maintenance Fund** – This fund was established by the session to

Care Ministry is encouraged when a meal for over 25 people is provided.

## MEMORIALS

The family often requests memorials to be made to specific charities or church funds. At Grace First Presbyterian Church, memorials may be made to the following funds:

**Memorial Fund** – This fund is set up specifically to honor the memory of loved ones who have died. Gifts to this fund may be designated for a particular purpose, upon approval of the session. Disposition of the undesignated money from this fund is made by the session, ordinarily upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. In the case of a large contribution, the family will be consulted. All undesignated money in this fund, will be distributed at the end of each calendar year to other permanent funds of Grace First Presbyterian Church.

**Kate Rieves Scholarship Fund** – This fund was established by the Philathea Sunday School class to honor their long-time teacher. The income is to be used by the Kate Rieves Scholarship Governing Board for deserving Christian students.

**Good Samaritan Fund** – This fund was established by Mel Worthington. The income goes to the Compassion Fund to be used for people in need.

**Moore Landscape Fund** – This fund was established by Sue Moore in honor of her husband, Leonard. The income is to be used for landscaping the church grounds.

**Elsie A. & Fred A. Ryle, Sr. Fund** – This fund was established by Dorothy Ryle Jackson. The income is to be used for particular projects as directed by the session.

**Mel Worthington Educational Resources Fund** – This fund

## THE MEMORIAL/FUNERAL: A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

*The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve. (W-6.3006)*

## PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

It is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely. The session encourages members to discuss and plan in advance when possible. The arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, include decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation, or donation for medical purposes. These plans should provide for arrangements that are simple, bear witness to resurrection hope, and are central to the Christian community.

## THE EVENT OF DEATH

When death occurs, the pastor and other officers of the congregation should be informed as soon as possible. They will provide appropriate consolation and support to the family and friends, and assist them in making arrangements for the funeral.

## SETTING OF THE SERVICE

The memorial/funeral service will ordinarily be held in the Grace First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. This worship service will offer witness to the community's continuing life and to the Resurrection. The memorial/funeral shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor. When there are important reasons not to hold the service in the sanctuary, it may be held in another suitable place such as a home, a funeral home, a

crematorium, or at the graveside. No memorials/funerals should take place on the Lord's Day except in cases of absolute necessity and with session approval. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately.

### **FORM AND ORDER**

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. A memorial service (without the casket present) is appropriate. Family, friends and fellow communicants will participate in affirming God's power over death, a belief in the resurrection to life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Thanksgiving should be given for the life of the one who has died and for their presence in the Church Triumphant. If a casket is to be present, it will remain closed at all times while in the church. The use of a pall, furnished by the church, is encouraged to cover the casket in order that attention in the service be directed to God.

### **MUSIC**

Music for the memorial/funeral service shall affirm our belief in the Resurrection and the Church Triumphant. Any music that is appropriate for a service for the Lord's Day, will be appropriate for a memorial/funeral at Grace First. The singing of hymns which declare belief in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting; express the common faith of those present. The selection of hymns will be taken from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 1990 (blue book), and *The Hymnbook*, 1955 (red book). Easter and Resurrection hymns are especially appropriate.

The music and text must be approved by the Director of Music/Organist, if the Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Handbells or a soloist is used. Musical texts taken from the scriptures are encouraged. The Director of Music maintains a list of appropriate selections.

The organ will be played by our Director of Music/Organist or an organist approved by the Director of Music/Organist for services held at Grace First Presbyterian Church. SECULAR MUSIC, RECORDED MUSIC AND RECORDED ACCOMPANIMENT TAPES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

### **FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

A memorial/funeral service is a service of worship and therefore the emphasis should be to the glory of God. One floral arrangement may be put in the sanctuary, providing it does not rest upon or obscure the baptismal font, the pulpit or the communion table. All other floral tributes, pictures, or memorabilia shall be placed in the narthex, parlor or Great Hall.

### **FAMILY MEAL**

The Pastoral Care Ministry is in charge of providing a meal for the family, usually served at the church immediately before or after the funeral/memorial service. Sandwich trays and other food may be taken to the home, if the family prefers. Contact will be made with the family as soon as possible to determine how many will be fed.

### **FAMILY VISITATION**

The family may use the church parlor or the great hall for a time of visitation either before or after the memorial/funeral service.

### **FEEES**

An honorarium of \$100 is required for our Director of Music/Organist. Soloists will receive \$50. A donation to the Music Maintenance Fund is appropriate, if the Sanctuary Choir or Handbells participate. There are no fees for the services of the office staff or use of the building. Honorariums for the pastor will be left to the decision of the family. Donations to the Pastoral