



# FUNERAL PREPLANNING GUIDE

*"Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints."*

*- Psalm 116:15*

## THE GOAL OF A FUNERAL SERVICE:

A Christian funeral service actually has three distinct goals: remembrance and honor for the deceased, comfort for the family and friends, and proclamation of the gospel of Christ. All three of these goals aid us in processing our grief. Because every human bears the image of God (Genesis 1:27) every human life is worth remembering. A good funeral service will highlight the life and accomplishments of the deceased. A good funeral service will also give the family and friends of the deceased a dedicated time to begin the grieving process and find closure for the end of their loved one's physical life in this age. Finally, because Christ was raised from the grave, a good funeral service calls us to hope in the return of Christ, at which point, those who are asleep in Christ will be raised to immortality. This hope should also include an explanation of the gospel and a call for unbelievers to repent of their sin and place their faith in Christ. When these three goals are met God is honored and families are encouraged.

This booklet will aid you as you make funeral plans either for yourself or a loved-one.

# **FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE**

Guide for the Funeral of:

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Print Full name above: First, Middle (Maiden), Last

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Date completed

## **FOR THE PERSON MAKING THE ADVANCED PLANS**

When you have completed the funeral planning handbook, please inform family members (or close friends) of the handbook and where it can be found. It will be used in consultation with your family or whomever you have directed to carry out these wishes upon your death.

Also, after completing the handbook, you may wish to discuss with your family members (or close friends) what you have written to be certain that it is clear. Consider providing an additional copy:

1. To your family.
2. To your pastor.
3. To your funeral director.

You may wish to write a note to someone you trust that says: *I have recorded my desires regarding my death and burial. I keep this information in the following place:*

\_\_\_\_\_. *At the time of my death, I ask that you use this information to provide guidance for my family and my church in making arrangements for the funeral I desire. Although this information is being left for safekeeping, I understand that it is not legally binding or enforceable. This handbook that expresses my desires does not make the church or anyone obligated or responsible for the execution of these instructions.*

*With gratitude, Signature and Date*

## **FOR THOSE MAKING PLANS FOR A LOVED ONE**

Please use this handbook to assist with the plans that will honor your loved one's expressed wishes or desires and will reflect his/her values. If you haven't contacted a funeral director, please consider doing so now. The professional services, compassionate care, and guidance they provide will greatly assist you in the days ahead.

### **VISITATION**

A visitation is an informal gathering for friends and family to express sympathy. You are invited to consider Lake Wylie Baptist Church for the visitation when you work with a professional funeral director.

#### **Will a visitation be held?**

- Yes
- No

#### **Where is the desired location of the visitation?**

- Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_
- Lake Wylie Baptist Church
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Will the remains be present at the visitation?**

- Yes, open casket
- Yes, closed casket
- Yes, urn with photograph next to it
- No remains will be present

#### **What time will the visitation be?**

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening

Details: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Will the family provide any displays?**

- Photographic displays (Digital or Physical?)
- Mementos (awards; certificates, etc.)
- Bible of the deceased

## CHRISTIAN FUNERAL SERVICE PLANS

### Where is the desired location of the service?

- Lake Wylie Baptist Church
- Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cemetery (Committal/Graveside Only)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### What time will the service be?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Will the remains be present at the service?

- Yes (circle one: casket or urn)
- No

### What display items will be on/near/the casket/urn?

- Floral Spray
- Bible
- Photograph
- United States Flag (for military veterans)

### What Scripture passages would you like read? (We recommend one Old Testament and one New Testament passage)

- The pastor may choose the Scripture
- My family will choose the Scripture
- My preferences are indicated below.

#### Old Testament:

- Job 19:23-27
- Isaiah 40:28-31
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 139

#### New Testament

- Matthew 5:1-12
- John 14:1-6, 25-27
- Romans 8:14-23, 31-39
- Romans 14:7-12
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Revelation 21:1-4
- Revelation 22:1-5

**Other Scripture Passages:**

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**Will any family members or friends be speaking?**

Speakers should be aware that a typical eulogy by a family member or friend should not exceed three minutes. It is recommended not to have more than 2 speakers share a eulogy.

- No
- Yes, Name of Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, Name of Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

**What hymns would you like played or sung?**

- The pastor may choose the hymns.
- My family will choose the hymns.
- My preferences are indicated below. (Typically 2 hymns)

**Suggested Hymns**

- Amazing Grace
- Blessed Assurance
- How Great Thou Art
- It is Well
- Rock of Ages
- Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor
- He Will Hold Me Fast
- Doxology

## COMMITTAL SERVICE

The Committal Service (also known as a graveside service) is typically a brief prayer, scripture reading, and committal of the physical remains to the earth and the soul to the Lord. Military personnel often have a more involved committal with honors.

### Names of Pallbearers

(Six pallbearers are needed when there is a casket)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## RECEPTION

The reception typically follows the committal service and allows for a time of more relaxed conversation and consolation for the family and friends.

### Would you like a reception?

- Yes
- No

### Location for the reception

- Lake Wylie Baptist Church
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attendees for the reception

- Open to all family and friends
- We would prefer this time for family only

### Menu for the reception

- Dessert and coffee/beverages
- Full Meal

## FUNERAL HOME RECOMMENDATIONS

### **M L Ford & Sons**

4820 Charlotte Hwy, Lake Wylie, SC 29710  
mlfordsons.com  
+18038311909

### **McLean Funeral Services**

700 S New Hope Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054  
mcleanfuneral.com  
(704) 865-3451

## DESIRED EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

- Flowers
  - I desire memorial gifts in lieu of flowers
- Organization of memorial gifts:

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Full Name:

First: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_

Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address:

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Information:

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth City: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth State: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Information:

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Father Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child (3): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child (4): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child (5): \_\_\_\_\_

Child Living: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

(or highest level of education received)

College/University:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:**

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed or Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

**MILITARY INFORMATION:**

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Enlistment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Discharge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Recognition: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wars Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIVES & FRIENDS TO NOTIFY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS:**

Will / Living Trust: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Will: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery Deeds: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Policy(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Deposit Box

& Keys: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

Real Estate Deeds: \_\_\_\_\_

Mortgage Loans: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

Divorce Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

Stocks & Bonds: \_\_\_\_\_

Negotiable Papers: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractual

Agreements: \_\_\_\_\_

Promissory Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVISORS

Attorney/

Will Preparer: \_\_\_\_\_

Power of Attorney

(Financial): \_\_\_\_\_

Power of Attorney

(Health Care): \_\_\_\_\_

Executor of Will/

Estate: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian for

minor children: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## CEMETERY & DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

- I have made arrangements for my burial.

Name of Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Spaces: \_\_\_\_\_

Which Space: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Spaces Reserved for:

\_\_\_\_\_

- I do not have arrangements for my burial. I suggest the following arrangements:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**LAKE WYLIE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

16105 Grand Palisades Parkway  
Charlotte, NC 28278  
[lwbaptist.com](http://lwbaptist.com)