

PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICES

Members of the pastoral staff consider it a privilege to serve God by ministering to you, our members and friends. Each pastor has been called by God and by this congregation to serve in various capacities of spiritual and personal care. As a team, the pastors share the responsibility of caring for the entire congregation in partnership with the elders of the church.

The staff prays together each week for the congregation as a whole. When requested, individual special needs are brought before the Lord. It is the purpose of the pastors to minister to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of as many as possible while also reaching out to the surrounding community. The following services are also provided.

Counseling

Personal and Spiritual Counseling can be arranged with any of the pastoral staff. Times can be arranged by calling the church office (407.869.0680) to make an appointment with the pastor of your choice. In addition, Sanford Graves, Psy. D., a member of the pastoral staff, is a licensed counselor.

Crisis Counseling – One of the pastors is always on call to respond to crises. Please use your judgment when making late night calls. During weekday office hours, call the church office – 407.869.0680. After hours, call a pastor or elder directly.

Pre-marriage Counseling is available with any of the pastors, as well as with the licensed counselor on the staff. Each pastor uses various instruments to assist the couple in their preparation for the life-long commitment of marriage. Four one-hour sessions of Christian pre-marriage counseling are required for a wedding to be performed at the Forest Lake SDA Church.

Visitation

Homebound and Elderly Visitation is the primary task of Pastor Floyd Powell. He is assisted in this ministry by a trained support team of volunteers.

Hospital Visitation is shared by all members of the pastoral staff. Please report hospitalizations to the church office (407.869.0680). **Do not assume that the pastors know that you or a loved one is in need. Call to let them know, as information cannot be given out by hospitals.**

Services

Anointing Services, as taught in the Scriptures, are for strengthening the faith of believers who are experiencing illness. (See James 5:14, 15 NIV)

Anointing services are performed with great care and preparation by the staff as well as the candidate. Anointing services should NOT be thought of as “last rites” but rather as an experience of faith that God will save the sick. As such, healing is promised from God. Healing may come immediately or in the future at the resurrection. Either way, the promise of God is sure.

Anyone desiring anointing should call the church office (**407.869.0680**) or a pastor to make arrangements.

Baby Dedication – A baby dedication is an important event for your family that will be remembered with delight in the years to come.

Two dates will be set aside each year as dedication Sabbaths, and all who want to participate will need to register for one of the two dates. All dedications will be held at third service, and will be followed by a prepared luncheon for the immediate families of the children being dedicated. This luncheon will give the families time to connect with each other and celebrate their little ones together, as well as give the pastoral staff more time to interact with the families.

It is important that each family participating note that there will be a required pre-meeting before the dedication date, which the parents will need to attend with their child. This will allow the pastors to meet everyone before the morning of the dedication and will give opportunity to go over details. In addition, parents will be given a chance to record a DVD of their hopes and blessings for their child—a keepsake their child will one day treasure.

(For a Baby dedication registration form, go to www.kingdomkidsflc.org)

Baptism is the public testimony of a conversion from self-directed living to Christ-centered living. The person choosing to be baptized should seek pastoral guidance to determine what preparations are needed. All of the pastors are able to assist candidates for baptism. **Pastor Sabine Vatel and members of the Bible Instructors Team are available for personal and small group Bible studies** upon request. Call the church office to make arrangements. Special classes are also offered for both youth and adults.

Church Conflict Resolution – The pastoral staff wishes to uphold the teaching of Jesus regarding times of conflict and disagreement within the church family. Members are asked to first take their concern to the one who has offended or, when they know they have offended others, to follow Jesus’ counsel and go to the person offended to make things right with him or her. Pastors are available to assist with this process when needed. (See Matthew 5:23-24; 7:1-5; 18:15-20; Proverbs 11:13; 16:28.)

Funerals Services are a Christian witness of faith. The church staff is ready to assist the bereaved family with arrangements and the planning of a meaningful service for a loved one as well as with counseling and prayer. Use of the church facilities for services can be arranged by calling the church office (**407.869.0680**).

Wedding Services – Our pastors are happy to preside at and assist in the planning of wedding ceremonies. Call the church office (**407.869.0680**) to request an appointment with the pastor of your choice.