

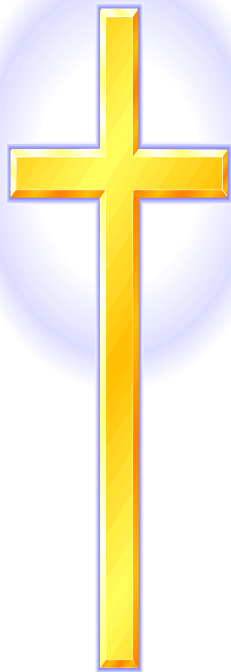


BAPTIST CHURCH

"A Place Where Heaven Visits Earth"

A PREPARED PLACE

HOMEGOING SERVICES AT
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH



*"I am going there to
prepare a place for you.
And if I go and
prepare a place for you,
I will come back and
take you to be with me
that you also may be
where I am."*

John 14:2-3

HOWARD C. EARLE, JR., D.MIN.
SENIOR PASTOR

130 Delaware SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 452-4278

HOMEGOING SERVICES AT NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH CONTACT

Please refer all questions or concerns to the Church Administrator at (616) 452-4278.

CHURCH PROCEDURES

New Hope Baptist Church provides homegoing services in the event of death of **an active member of our church fellowship**. Family members are encouraged to notify the church office immediately so that the Pastor and the church fellowship may share in the hour of bereavement.

FACILITIES

Officiant

Homegoing services will be conducted by the Senior Pastor or appointee.

Music

The Director of Music, or designee provides two soloist selections for homegoing services. However, the family may elect to have outside musicians and soloists for the service. A list of outside persons should be provided to the New Hope Baptist Church Office. We respectfully ask that music selections be kept to a maximum of two.

FAMILY CARE

A light meal for up to 100 persons is available by request and will be served in the Multi-purpose Room at New Hope Baptist Church. Our local health department prevents us from allowing food from outside sources to be served at this time.

Note: See 'NHBC Funeral Standards' for more details.

PROGRAMS FOR SERVICE

The family may chose to have an outside source prepare homegoing programs*, however, in the event the family is unable to provide programs New Hope Baptist Church will provide a standard homegoing program. New Hope Baptist Church can provide the following:

Quantity and Type

New Hope Baptist Church will prepare and provide up to 200 programs.

Format

The program is a 4-page booklet that includes a cover with a color photo of your loved one, the obituary, the order of service, and an acknowledgement page.

Cover page

- † The cover includes the loved one's name, sunrise and sunset and homegoing service date.

Obituary

- † The family is responsible for providing the New Hope Baptist Church Office with the obituary.

Order of Service

- † The order of service will be provided by New Hope Baptist Church. Please limit the number of individuals presenting special remarks to two. The family hour may be used as a time for additional speakers, musical selections, etc.

Acknowledgement Page

- † The acknowledgement page includes the names of the active and honorary pallbearers, a note of thanks from the family, and the interment information. The family is responsible for providing New Hope Baptist Church with the names of the pallbearers and the interment information.

** Please note - any programs created by outside sources are subject to review and approval by the Senior Pastor. Also, programs produced by an outside source will also need to be printed externally.*

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH FUNERAL STANDARDS

Overview

- † The purpose of a funeral is to minister to the living by honoring the deceased and pointing to God who is eternal.
- † Funerals held in the church's facility are a privilege for **currently active members** of New Hope.
- † Currently active members are defined as:
 - Having officially joined the church (not just regularly attending) – with current record of membership in the church's database.
 - Having contributed financially to the church within the last 12 months.

Funerals for Members

- † Funerals will be held on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday of the week. Saturday is also acceptable; however, families should be aware that they will incur additional costs from the cemetery for a Saturday burial.
- † The set time for funerals are as follows:
 - Family hour at 10:00am (or 10:30am)
 - Funeral at 11:00am
- † A standard meal for a maximum of 100 people at the New Hope facility will be provided. If the family requests repast at their home, a meal for a maximum of 50 will be supplied.
- † Up to 200 printed programs (100 color photo, 100 b& w photo)

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH FUNERAL STANDARDS (CONT'D)

Exceptions

- † A Wednesday funeral will only be considered if an announcement can be made on the Sunday preceding the scheduled funeral in order to cancel noon Bible study.
- † In most circumstances, New Hope will also host a funeral:
 - For a mentally-challenged adult who lived in the same household as a current member.
 - For a child under the age of 16 (not including those who are 16) living in the same household as a current member.
 - As a courtesy to another church at the request of that church's pastor when their building will not accommodate the anticipated attendees for the services of one of their members New Hope will provide space for the funeral service only (does not include repast).
 - In the unlikely event that these printed standards do not address a particular circumstance, the decision about the church hosting a funeral and the scope of the funeral will be decided by the Pastor and a representation of other church leaders.

How shall I respond?

- † Share the gospel with loved ones while they are living.
- † Encourage saved loved ones to unite with the body of Christ officially.
- † Don't look for the loophole. Let's be more concerned about our loved one's eternal dwelling place than we are about the location of their funeral.
- † Remember that a church-hosted funeral has no saving power for the deceased.
- † **Be sure about your membership status and that of your loved ones.**

Frequently Asked Questions

If my loved one was not a member, would New Hope host the funeral if the family is willing to pay a fee?

No. Please also note, the church would not be willing to adjust these standards for monetary consideration.

If my loved one joined New Hope many years ago but has not been currently active as defined in this document, would New Hope host the funeral?

No, funerals are a privilege for currently active members.

If my loved one officially joined New Hope but does not attend regularly because s/he is physically unable to do so due to illness, would New Hope host the funeral?

Yes, a member is still considered a member if they are sick or shut-in.

What if my loved one regularly gave financial contributions but never officially joined New Hope - would New Hope host the funeral?

No, s/he would need to be in our database as a member – not as a regular attendee or giver.

What about the order of service? Who determines that?

New Hope utilizes a standard order of service. There is limited flexibility within that order. For example, instead of 2 solos, a family may wish to have 1 solo and 1 poem.

Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

Will the church honor my loved one's dying wishes concerning their funeral service?

Not automatically. New Hope will seek consistency wherever possible by maintaining these standards.

...but, I know that New Hope has hosted funerals for non-members in the past.

Some of those funerals have motivated us to make these changes which are effective Wed., Oct. 29, 2008.

How should I proceed if my loved one was not a member? Where should his/her funeral be held?

A local funeral home would be the best consideration. Pastor Earle or his appointee is willing to preach based upon availability.



**HOMEGOING SERVICES AT
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH**

“A Place Where Heaven Visits Earth”

Mission Statement:

“The New Hope Baptist Church is a worshipping community
committed to
**educating,
equipping, and
empowering**
believers for Christian living
in the 21st century.”

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Howard C. Earle, Jr., D.Min.
Executive Pastor	Rev. Dallas Lenear, M.Div.
Church Administrator	Tarra Davis
Church Administrative Assistant	Michele Higgins
Director of Music	Lamar James



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