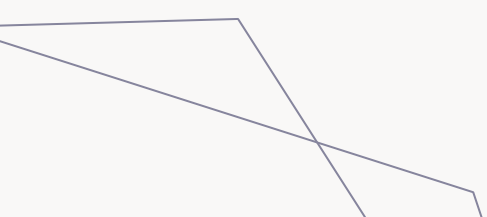





COFFEE, CAKE, & CONVERSATION

Stand in the Gap For Widows Program Event



*Learn something
new about someone
at your table!*

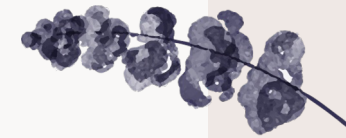




How can we, the Body of Christ, do more for the widows in our community?

The Bible commands us to “plead for the widow”. Too often, the perception is that once a funeral is over and a widow appears to have regained normality in her life, no need exists for her care. Nothing can be further from the truth.





"The most loving thing you can do for me is to remember my husband and share your memories of him."

"It is difficult to cook for one."

"The cards, the calls, the visits all stopped after a few months. No one said it to my face, but they had moved on with their lives."

The following quotes come from Stand in the Gap Widows.

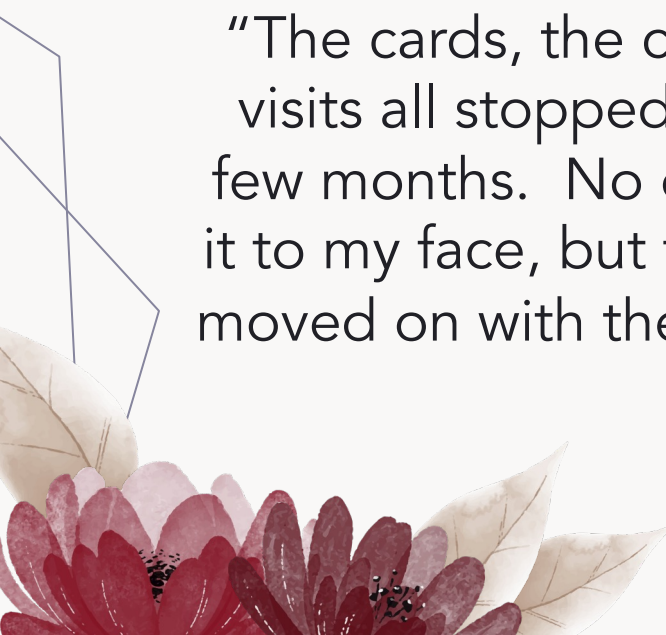
"The worst days of my year are:"

- My husband's Heavenly Birthday
- Our Anniversary
- Valentine's Day
- Christmas

"Unless you are a widow, you can not understand the depth of this pain."

"I will not go to a movie or out to dinner by myself."

"I would love to have other widow friends to walk along side with through our grief journey."



WHY A WIDOW MINISTRY

- The Bible implores us!
 - * Your church cares
 - *You are seen
 - *You are loved
- Many widows feel like they are in a “fog” after their husband’s death. They often lose friendships, experience financial hardships and struggle with the tasks that were done by their husbands. The realities of life as a widow can be a daily reminder of the loss and bring long-term struggles.
- Being a widow does not have to mean being alone. You can find community and support from your church and other widows on a similar journey.
- Your church and volunteers can help by hosting social gatherings, providing home and car care maintenance, a freezer meal ministry, or facilitating small groups for widows.

Stand in the Gap for Widows research suggests that widows may have the following needs:



- **Social** interactions with other widows.
- **Small Groups** of widows to walk their grief journey.
- **Practical Help** with freezer meals, home maintenance and car care needs.
- To be remembered and ministered to through a **Card & Book Ministry**.

****Note: not all will be done immediately.
We want to know what you need!****



Social Ministry



- Many widows feel alone and that no one understands. These events provide a time for community and meeting others that understand.
- Having a strong network of support and a community bond fosters both emotional and physical health.
- A social ministry can consist of special dinners designed specifically for widows, group projects, frozen meal parties or events.
- Every church does the social ministry a bit differently, but each time is an important opportunity to build community.
- If you are a volunteer, this is a great way to get involved!

Small Groups

- Small groups allows widows a place to process through emotions with others who understand.
- These groups are not simply a time of crying (though tears will come sometimes), but most importantly they are a time to build community and provide an opportunity for spiritual growth.
- Stand In The Gap Ministries has also created a small group curriculum that was written for widows by widows. It is designed for widows at many different stages in their journey.
- Many churches start with Small Groups and then move forward into the other areas of the ministry.



Practical Needs

- Practical needs are an area that we have heard again and again widows need support in. From help with taking care of their car to home projects to freezer meals, Stand In The Gap Ministries recommends many different practical needs to help support your widow's ministry.
- Widows often find it hard to cook for one person and find themselves eating out and not getting the nutrition they may need. The desire for homemade food spurred the formation of a freezer meal ministry. It is practical, kind, and meets a large need.
- Widows need information and assistance on issues concerning their home and car maintenance, they often need help finding quality products and qualified service providers, and they need advice and guidance from a trusted and knowledgeable church family member.



Home Maintenance

Car Care

- A Car Care Ministry is designed to help the widowed women of your church and community with basic car care needs such as: washing, vacuuming, oil checks, fluid checks, belts and hose inspection, tire pressure and checking the car for any needed repairs.
- The widow can receive free, proper care and valuable advice concerning her car's condition.
- This ministry can be a huge benefit to the widows in your church and community.

- One of our practical needs ministries is a Home Maintenance Ministry. It is constructed to help widows with minor repair projects around the house.
- Widows tell us they often feel vulnerable when it comes to getting work done in their homes. Having a trusted church volunteer provide helpful advice and repair work means a great deal to widows.
- Some of these tasks can be small and easy to do, but the impact made is immeasurable!



Card & Book

- This ministry is a simple, but impactful ministry for widows.
- Remembering a widow on her birthday, Valentine's Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, the day of her husband's heavenly birthday, etc., will express love and show we have not forgotten them.
- There is also a book series that can be helpful for new widows in your church and community as they walk through the first year.



thoughts...

questions?

Call to Action:

What now?

- Remember you are seen
- Remember you are loved
- Your church cares!



Fill out:

- Your widow or volunteer response forms on your table (we will go over them on the next page)
- If you are a volunteer, pray about getting involved.

COFFEE, CAKE, & CONVERSATION

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Car care ministry | <input type="radio"/> Home maintenance ministry |
| <input type="radio"/> Social ministry | <input type="radio"/> Card & book ministry |
| <input type="radio"/> Small group ministry | <input type="radio"/> Freezer meal ministry |

Please share your thoughts on each ministry. Would you be interested in participating? Do you have any specific requests or ideas?

Social: _____

Small group: _____

Practical: _____

Card & book ministry: _____

Freezer meal ministry: _____

VOLUNTEER COMMENT CARD



COFFEE, CAKE, & CONVERSATION

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
ADDRESS: _____

I would like to join...

- Small group Ministry
- Social ministry



please rank your widows ministry needs in order of importance from 1-6, with 1 being the most important.

- Car care ministry
- Home maintenance ministry
- Social ministry
- Card & book ministry
- Small group ministry
- Freezer meal ministry

WHAT IS YOUR HOME CHURCH?

DO YOU WORK?

- YES
- NO

IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WIDOWED?

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE A WIDOWS PROGRAM?

WIDOW COMMENT CARD



Final Reminders:

Please Remember:

- Fill out form(s)
- Pray for the ministry
- Your church will be reaching out to get you plugged in as a widow or volunteer

*“Religion that God our Father finds pure and faultless, is this: take care of HIS widows.”
James 1:27*