

## Baptismal Request Form

We ask you to fill out the baptismal request form so that we know your name and something about you. Of particular importance to us is that you know with all assurance that you have been “born again” through faith in Jesus Christ. During the baptismal service you will be asked to share your story of how and when you came to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. In so doing you are encouraging others to surrender their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This testimony should not be longer than 3 minutes.

Please fill out this Baptismal Request and turn it in to the Church Office as soon as possible.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City and State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write out your personal testimony of how and when you came to know Jesus as your Savior, and what that means to you. Use the back of the sheet if needed.

Return this form to:

Grove City Alliance Church  
845 North Liberty Road  
Grove City, PA 16127  
Phone (724) 458-8497

# Baptismal Service Preparations

This is just a reminder that the Baptismal Service will be held on \_\_\_\_\_, during the \_\_\_\_\_ worship service. You will need to arrive early so as to meet and arrange your clothes for after the baptism. Here is a short list of things to bring with you. The pastor would like to meet with you briefly, about 15 minutes, during the Sunday School Hour on \_\_\_\_\_.

## MEN

- To wear - long slacks or jeans and a dress shirt, preferably white. Check your pockets to be sure you don't dunk your wallet, cash or other water-soluble items.
- To bring - A TOWEL, a fresh change of clothes, including underwear.
- Optional - footwear: sneakers or go barefoot (no thongs as they tend to create suction and may trip you).

## WOMEN

- To wear - long slacks or jeans (no dresses or skirts or shorts) One piece bathing suit as under garments. A white or light colored blouse.
- To bring - A TOWEL! A fresh change of clothes including underwear.
- Optional - Footwear: sneakers or go barefoot (no thongs as they tend to create suction and may trip you. Handkerchief to cover you nose if you wish.

## DO NOT TOUCH THE MICROPHONE!

### Your Testimony

Remember that you will be asked to give a brief testimony of your conversion experience when and how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior. This is always an important part of the service and is a real testimony to family and friends who may be attending. No need to be long winded. Just 1 to 3 minutes will do. WHEN, WHERE, and HOW it came about is enough. Write it out and carry it on a note card if you wish.

### Baptismal Questions

The pastor will ask you two questions about your faith in Christ. For instance: "Are you sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that you have been born again?" or "If you were to die today, are you sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that you would go to heaven?" and "Is it your desire to follow Jesus all the days of your life?" Just answer with the appropriate "YES."

### Dunking

It is important that you relax (You will not drown!) The pastor will say,

"I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,  
AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST."

At that moment you will be holding your right wrist with your left hand. He will grasp your arm with his right hand, and with his other arm behind you and gently lower you backward into the water. (You may hold or cover your nose) DO NOT STIFFEN - RELAX! Let the pastor do the work. It only takes two seconds - hold your breath.

# Baptismal Service Explanation

We believe in baptism by immersion. Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan River. He commanded his followers to be baptized as well. The Greek word “Baptizo” means “to dip,” never to sprinkle or pour. The Lord’s first work and last command was to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is an act of personal obedience to Jesus Christ and one example of following in his steps. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to “fulfill all righteousness.” It does not wash away sins, nor make us new creatures, nor fill us with the Holy Spirit. Paul explained the symbolic meaning of baptism in Romans 6:3-4.

- 3 *Do you not know, that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*
- 4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
- 5 *If we have been united together in the likeness of his death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of his resurrection:*
- 6 *Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer serve sin.*
- 7 *For he that is dead has been freed from sin.*
- 8 *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*
- 9 *Knowing that Christ having been raised from the dead dies no more; death no longer has dominion over him.*
- 10 *For the death that he died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that he lives, He lives to God.*
- 11 *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work that has already taken place. Baptizing is done by laying the person under the water backward, to symbolize death of our old lives. It is like a burial of the past. Then being lifted out of the water is like being raised from the dead and made alive in newness of life.

All of those being baptized will share a brief word of testimony of their experience in receiving Christ as Savior. Then they will answer two baptismal questions, as has been the custom of the church throughout the centuries. Then they will be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost according to the instructions of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19.

*“Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.. Amen”*