

Experiencing LIFE Together

As a community of believers, we are committed to experiencing life together in Christ. This means sharing each other's joys and sorrows, giving and receiving the support we all need at times.

The Counseling Ministry at Gateway offers personal counseling and support groups for individuals and families who are struggling with relational, situational, and/or spiritual crises. For engaged couples, counseling services include the PREPARE Inventory and follow-up sessions with a counselor.

The Counseling Ministry also provides support and training for those who want to become better equipped to help. *We take seriously the command of Jesus to love as we've been loved (John 15:12). This kind of love draws us close to the God who is near to the broken-hearted and saves those crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). Our prayer is to receive an instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary (Isaiah 50:4).*

It is our desire that Gateway be known as a place where people are welcomed into fellowship, regardless of where they are in their journey. One way we show our acceptance is by offering help when they face struggles.

Personal Counseling:

To set up an appointment for counseling, call Lori Gaines at 461-4811. She will direct you to one of our counselors, who will get back to you as soon as possible.

There is a fee of \$30.00 for each counseling session. Adjustments to this fee will be made in cases where there is financial hardship. If financial concerns are an issue, please discuss this with your counselor. It is our desire that everyone who needs counseling be served.

Pre-Marital Counseling:

Often times, engaged couples spend a great deal of time planning their wedding, but too little time preparing for their marriage. With the help of a questionnaire called the PREPARE Inventory, (cost: \$29.95) you and your partner will be guided through discussions that focus on your unique relationship. You will benefit from:

- Becoming aware of both your strengths and potential growth areas
- Discussing issues that are vital to your relationship
- Learning valuable communication and conflict resolution skills
- Considering marriage from God's view point

Couple/Family Counseling:

Couples with serious struggles often let many years go by before they get help. Why is this so? Some couples don't want others to know. Others think that eventually they will fix it themselves. Many of us don't want to admit failure.

Here's some refreshing news: God plans to use your struggles to help you grow! Marriage is His workshop where He engages us in a process of learning and change, if we will let Him. What determines the health and longevity of your marriage isn't whether you *have* struggles, but how you *respond* to them.

Our approach to marriage and family counseling is to embrace the challenges as means for growth. Let's move past trying to fix the symptoms that so easily entangle us, and join the Spirit in focusing on the work that needs to be done in our hearts.

Because so many marriages and families are struggling, the Counseling Ministry is actively recruiting and training couples to come alongside those who are struggling and to serve as mentors for the newly married.

To set up an appointment, or to find out more information about any of the counseling ministries, call Lori Gaines at 461-4811.

Groups:

For some life struggles, a group format is helpful in providing education and support. Currently we are offering the following groups:

DIVORCE CARE FOR WOMEN

Meeting Time: Sundays, 6:30-8:00

Leaders: Debbie Dellinger &
Gaye Branham

Please contact Sue Wagner at 461-4943 to see if this group is right for you. Childcare will be provided.

PRE-MARITAL CLASS

Periodically classes are held for couples who are engaged or considering engagement.

Leaders: Larry & Sue Wagner
Cost per couple \$29.95.

Contact Larry or Sue at 461-4943 for more information.

BOUNDARIES STUDY FOR WOMEN

Learn what to take responsibility for, and when it's most loving to let others make their own choices and live with the outcome. In this group you will discover biblical truths that help you set healthy boundaries with your parents, spouses, children, friends, coworkers, and even yourself.

Leader: Sue Wagner

Book: Boundaries, by Claud and Townsend

Contact Sue at 461-4943 for more info.



1651 Dutch Fork Road
Irmo, SC 29063

Counselors:

Larry and Sue Wagner

Contact:

Lori Gaines (lorig@gatewaybc.com)

Phone (803) 732-0590

Counseling Ministry

- Personal Counseling
- Couple/Family Counseling
- Pre-Marital Counseling
- Groups
- Training

