



Ministry Wives

Serving Alongside Their Husbands

The SBC of Virginia is excited to share a new initiative for ministering to pastors' wives. Our Ministry Wives Team will be led by Elisabeth Fiordelise, wife of Pastor Pat Fiordelise of **Kingsland Baptist Church** in North Chesterfield. SBCV Women's Ministry Team leader Donna Paulk recently interviewed Elisabeth, who shared her heart for this ministry and her passion to see God use it to bless pastors' wives.

DONNA PAULK:

Elisabeth, tell us a little bit about yourself.

ELISABETH FIORDELISE:

I have been a pastor's wife for 21 years. I spend my days teaching classes, giving private piano lessons, and homeschooling my children. I serve as the children's ministry director and play piano for the worship band at my church. I am an avid runner and reader, and I also enjoy biking, kayaking, hiking in the mountains, and sitting at the beach. My husband, Pat, and I have been married for almost 23 years and are the proud parents of three wonderful teenaged children.

DONNA:

Why do you feel it is important to have a ministry to pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

I am concerned that many ministry wives feel isolated and alone, and those who don't [feel this way] struggle in carrying the heavy burden of serving alongside their husbands.

I believe pastors' wives are uniquely equipped to provide insight and encouragement to each other. No one can relate to a pastor's wife like another one.

DONNA:

What do you feel is essential in a ministry focused on pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

It is essential that a ministry wife receive the support she needs to assist her husband in the daily pursuit of his calling. The Ministry Wives Team is endeavoring to provide some of that support by connecting pastors' wives with each other and offering an avenue for them to give and receive encouragement.

DONNA:

How do you feel COVID-19 has affected pastors' wives?

ELISABETH:

The increase in cases of depression and the willingness of people to admit to a higher level of discouragement just reinforces the need for us to be intentional about connecting with each other.

DONNA:

What do you want the pastor's wife reading this article to know?

ELISABETH:

I want her to know that she is not alone. There are hundreds of pastors' wives in the SBC of Virginia just like her who are doing the best they can. I'd love for us to come together on a statewide level for occasional events but also on a regional, up-close level so that organic friendships can form and people can share burdens and blessings.

RESOURCE:

If you would like to know more about our new Ministry Wives Team, contact Elisabeth at:

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or Donna, SBCV's Women's Ministry Team Leader:

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