

A Christian Prepares for Death



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1066 Washington Road
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228
412-531-7153
www.stpaulspgh.org

Name

If you should die tomorrow, would your family know how old you are? Where your important papers are? Whether you wish to be buried or cremated?

Often a family doesn't know, and part of the education of a Christian is the process of preparing for death. Death is a part of the gift of life. God has in store for us more graces than we can imagine after death.

We are offering you this booklet so that you will take the time to make some decisions about how and where you want your burial services conducted and so that your family, friends, and executor(s) will have an easier time carrying out those decisions and making other necessary arrangements with the assurance of your written word to guide them. You may wish to consult a clergyperson in the liturgical preparations. Please call the parish office to schedule a time.

Use this booklet in whatever way is helpful for you; if you don't want to fill out every line, there is no need to. But please keep this record up-to-date. Many changes occur in our lives each year, such as changes in marital status, births, deaths, address, etc. We suggest using pencil to fill out this booklet so that changes can be made easily. Perhaps on your birthday each year you could take a few minutes to make any changes or additions.

Let someone know where this record is kept. We are willing to keep a copy at St. Paul's Church. Do not keep it in your safe deposit box.

It should be kept with your important papers where it will be easily accessible to others. Be sure to provide instructions to key people about how to find it

This booklet has been prepared by

_____ , on _____
please print name *date*

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Christian attitude toward life, death and grief is aptly summed up in *The Book of Common Prayer* in its instructions for an Order for Burial.:

“The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

The Liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.’

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.” **The Book of Common Prayer, page 507***

It is suggested that you fill out your instructions in consultation with your clergy and provide a copy of these instructions for the church.

The death of a member of the church should be reported as soon as possible, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with the clergy of the congregation. (Book of Common Prayer)

Please notify the clergy or warden of:

Church: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

I am an organ donor

Yes_____ No_____

Restrictions _____

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangements for the care of my remains have been made with the following funeral home:

Funeral Home: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

I participate in the following funeral plan:

Plan Name: _____

Papers are located: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

I understand that a funeral is for the comfort of the living and not for the dead. Should my survivors want some sense of my preferences, they are included as follows, but any changes that would be helpful for them have my blessing.

I would like my remains to be buried () cremated ()

If cremated, I would like it to occur:

___As soon after death as possible

___After funeral services

The ashes should be interred or dispersed in the following manner (check state legalities.)

I own a cemetery plot: ____ yes ____ no

Cemetery Name: _____

City, State: _____

Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

The deed to the plot is located: _____

There is a provision for perpetual care: ____ yes ____ no

The following persons know about these arrangements:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship: _____

If you have no pre-arranged funeral plan

Casket specifications: _____

I prefer to be buried (where): _____

I prefer my grave to be: marked () unmarked ()

I would like for my grave marker to read:

(check cemetery policy):

Veterans may want to check with authorities because the government may provide a coffin and/or headstone for the grave.

I do () do not () wish calling hours at the funeral home.

I do () do not () wish the body at the church service.

Additional instructions:

Special clothing: _____

Jewelry: _____

Dentures/hearing aids/glasses: _____

Other: _____

Memorial gifts:

Please send memorial contributions to:

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present.

Circumstances permitting, I wish my Burial Services to take place at:

Church: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

And conducted by: _____

And/or a memorial service to be held at: _____

A funeral home service to be held:

Funeral Home: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Contact: _____

I would () would not () like a celebration of the Eucharist with the service.

I would like the church's Burial Rite without Communion. ()

I prefer: Burial of the Dead Rite I () Burial of the Dead Rite II ()

I would like the following psalms and scripture readings used as part of the service (*see p. 16 for suggestions*):

Old Testament: _____

New Testament: _____

Gospel: _____

Psalm: _____

If you have specific readers in mind, please indicate the person's name next to each reading.

I prefer there be no music. ()

I prefer the following type of music:

___ Organ ___ Piano ___ Guitar ___ Strings ___ Flute ___ Choir ___ Soloist

I especially like the following hymns (*see p. 17 for suggestions*):

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering.

I prefer that the casket be covered with:

___ A pall ___ National flag (*please specify which country*) ___ Flowers

Among the pall bearers, I hope that some of the following may be included.
(*There are usually six or eight.*)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Phone Number: _____

In lieu of flowers, I would prefer contributions be sent to:
(Information on including your church or other charity in your will and other financial planning is found on page 18.)

Organization Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____

In addition to the foregoing directions I would like:

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (*invaluable help for death certificates and in writing obituaries*)

Your Information

Full Legal Name: _____

Present Address: _____

City, State _____

Social Security Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Birthplace: _____

Father's Information

Full name: _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Mother's Information

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Parents' marriage date and place: _____

Information on Family Members—Include children, spouse, siblings, close friends to be notified

Your present marital status:

Single Married Partnered Widowed Divorced

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Full name (with unmarried name): _____

Relation _____

Place and Date of Birth _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Date and place of marriage: _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Birth date: _____

Birth place: _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Children's name(s) _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Birth date: _____

Birth place: _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Children's name(s) _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Birth date: _____

Birth place: _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Children's name(s) _____

Full name with unmarried name: _____

Relation _____

Birth date: _____

Birth place: _____

Deceased (if yes, include date). _____

If living, address: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Children's name(s) _____

Other Relatives and Friends

Please notify immediately (make a list and attach it here):

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship: _____

Please notify by letter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

My lawyer is:

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Phone Number: _____

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

I do () do not () have a will.

The original of my will is located: _____

It is dated: _____

The lawyer who drew up the will is: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone number: _____

My copy of it is located: _____

Other Information

Bank accounts, safe deposit boxes, insurance, life insurance, real estate, etc.

**Suggested Lessons from Holy Scripture from *The Book of Common Prayer*
for Funeral and Memorial Service Planning**

This is not an exclusive list.

If you would prefer a text not listed here, it may be used instead.

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah 61:1-3

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Job 19:21-27a

New Testament

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

1 John 3:1-2

Revelation 7:9-17

Revelation 21:2-7

Gospel

John 5:24-27

John 6:37-40

John 10:11-16

John 11:21-27

John 14:1-6

Psalms:

Take a moment to read over all of these psalms. Consider choosing one that has particular spiritual significance to you.

Selected verses from

Psalm 23

Psalm 27

Psalm 42

Psalm 46

Psalm 90

Psalm 106

Psalm 116

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

Psalm 139

HYMNS

The following hymns are suggested as being particularly appropriate for the Burial office. They are by no means the only possibilities, and many hymns of a more general nature may also be suitable. These listed are all from the *Hymnal 1982*. Music from other hymnals may also be used.

- 194 Jesus lives! thy terrors now
- 208 Alleluia! The strife is o'er
- 287 For all the saints
- 293 I sing a song of the saints of God
- 356 May choirs of angels lead you
- 388 O worship the king
- 447 The Christ who died but rose again
- 457 Thou art the Way
- 526 Let saints on earth in concert sing
- 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
- 620 Jerusalem my happy home
- 625 Ye holy angels bright
- 635 If thou but trust in God
- 637 How firm a foundation
- 645/6 The King of love my shepherd is
- 658 As long as the deer for cooling streams
- 663 The Lord my God my shepherd is
- 668 I to the hills will lift mine eyes
- 671 Amazing grace
- 680 O God, our help in ages past
- 687/8 A mighty fortress is our God
- 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Equally suitable, though perhaps less well known:

- 189 Love's redeeming work is done
- 338 Wherefore, O Father, we thy humble servants
- 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him
- 487 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life
- 492 Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness
- 517 How lovely is thy dwelling place
- 665 All my hope on God is founded
- 692 I heard the voice of Jesus say

MEMORIAL GIFTS

ST. PAUL'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The St. Paul's Endowment Fund is the cornerstone of a long-range program to provide future financial stability for the parish. It is created through bequests of money and property. Once invested, the bequests provide income grants for special programs and education.

If you would like to learn more about how you can make a commitment to the Endowment, and help St. Paul's assure its long-term future, please contact the parish office, or visit our Endowment page at www.stpaulspgh.org/endowment.

THE MEMORIAL FUND

You may wish to direct gifts to St. Paul's Memorial Fund. The Fund is directed to enhance worship space, add to the Episcopal liturgical services and traditions, and increase the growth and usage of St. Paul's. Requests for funding are received from the clergy, church staff and organizations, families of the deceased, and individuals with specific church interests.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Memorial gifts can directed to St. Paul's Friends of Music Fund. This fund supports the Music Ministry. Unrestricted gifts can be given to the Fund in remembrance of an individual or designated in thier memory to support a specific musical activity. For example, designated gifts can be made to fund a memorial concert. Please direct any questions to the Director of Music and Arts.

OTHER

If you have interest in designating your memorial gifts to a place not mentioned above, please speak to a clergy person about how to arrange this.

BURIAL OPTIONS AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE COLUMBARIUM

If you would like information about being buried inside the church, **the Columbarium** is an enduring place for ashes after cremation, located behind oak doors to the right side of the Altar in the Good Shepherd Chapel.

For more information about the Columbarium, contact the parish office, or visit www.stpaulspgh.org/columbarium.

ST. MARGARET'S GARDEN

St. Margaret's Garden is a portion of the church property designated for the interment of ashes following cremation. Ashes are poured in the ground, or buried in a biodegradable box. The names of those interred in the Garden are mounted on an exterior wall of the building facing the Garden. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at the Garden Altar in the summer months.

Notes:



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