

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Preparing for Your Funeral

We have gathered this material to help you prepare for your funeral and indicate your wishes and preferences to your family and to the clergy. Both before and after your death, the clergy will help plan the service and will be prepared to support you and your family in any way we can.

A member of the clergy should always be notified when death is imminent so that the prayers and rites of the church may be offered.

Beliefs about Death and Burial

From Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults

We are an Easter people. The Christian liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we too shall be raised. "I am Resurrection and I am life," says Christ.

Therefore, in the Church's burial service the principal theme is of joyous expectation 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 all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nonetheless, we also grieve for our dead because the love we have for one another in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted. Jesus wept at the grave of his friend, Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Savior, our tears are shed in sympathy with those who mourn. Funerals provide opportunities to express the mixture of these feelings...

Because of our Christian belief in Christ's incarnation and the bodily resurrection of the dead, it is most appropriate that the body (or cremated remains) be present during all rites for the dead, except in cases where the corporal remains have been lost at sea or in similar accidents. In cases where the body (or cremated remains) cannot be present, prayers for the committal rite should be part of the burial liturgy. The proper locus for all public rites is the parish church except in unusual circumstances.

Through both the burial rite and the pastoral rituals surrounding death and burial, we acknowledge that the living are on this same journey toward the heart of the holy and undivided Trinity. As the ancient Eastern Orthodox memorial service proclaims, *Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Personal and Family Information

Please file this information where it will be found easily upon your death. It is suggested that you file a copy of your instructions with St. Paul's, your attorney, and notify your family that this booklet has been completed for their information.

Full Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Spouse's Full Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/E-Mail _____

Father's Full Name _____

Date/Place of Birth _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Date/Place of Birth _____

Names, Addresses, and Phone Numbers of Living Siblings _____

Names, Addresses, and Phone Numbers of Persons to Notify upon Death _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

Date of Last Executed Will _____

Location of Will _____

Representative's Name/Address _____

Location(s) Where Additional Information Regarding Assets or Funeral Plans Can Be Found

Additional Information to Share with Family or Clergy

Funeral Information

Scheduling the Funeral

A member of the clergy should always be notified when death is imminent so that the prayers and rites of the church may be offered. When death has occurred, a member of the clergy should be notified immediately so that prayers may be offered and service arrangements may be made.

In every case, the parish clergy must be consulted before a service can be scheduled. Do not make arrangements with a funeral home before speaking to the clergy. Services are not scheduled on major holidays (e.g. Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day) or important observances in the life of the church (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or Easter Day). While the pastoral needs of the family are of highest importance, a funeral or memorial service is also a worship service within the life of the church and must be scheduled accordingly.

Although circumstances may require several days (or even longer) between a death and a funeral, we encourage families to make arrangements in a timely fashion so that those who mourn may continue in the long process of healing. Under no circumstances will a funeral or memorial service be scheduled before the time of death.

Music during the Service

If you and your family desire it, St. Paul's will provide organ music, including hymns, during the service. Also, if you desire it, we will ask the choir to sing. Additional instrumental and choral music must be cleared through the music director and clergy and must be appropriate for a service of worship at St. Paul's.

Funeral Flowers

The Flower Guild of St. Paul's is willing to provide altar flowers for funerals, and we ask you to indicate what sorts of flowers or colors you prefer. Although we cannot guarantee it, the Flower Guild seeks to honor your requests when possible. If you prefer, you may make arrangements for altar flowers with an outside florist as long as that florist will comply with parish policies. Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and may not be kept by the family but will be used on Sunday morning in memory of the one who has died and/or distributed to home-bound parishioners.

Additional flowers other than those on the altar are not allowed in the church, and they will be placed in the Library or Parish Hall for the reception and may be taken by the family. If a floral spray is placed on top of the coffin, it will be removed and the coffin covered with a pall before the coffin is taken into the church, and it will be replaced as the pall is removed before the coffin is carried out of the church.

Funeral Bulletin

After the clergy have met with the family to confirm details, St. Paul's will provide a bulletin for the service. We do not print obituaries, biographical information, or photographs in the bulletin, nor are they permitted to be distributed in the church.

Funeral Reception

When a member of St. Paul's dies, the St. Spatula's Guild offers to host a reception for the friends and family of the one who has died. The clergy will work with you to make arrangements and will communicate on your behalf with St. Spat's. Receptions may take place before or after the funeral. In any case, receptions may last no more than two hours.

Funeral Sermons

Clergy may offer a homily during a funeral or memorial service, but eulogies or remembrances by family are not allowed. This is because the focus of a funeral is on the promise of resurrection through the grace of our savior Jesus Christ and not on the life of the person who has died. The preacher will articulate the hope of new life in a way that is grounded in the life and witness of the one who has died and that brings comfort to those who knew and loved that person. If family members or friends would like to offer a remembrance, one or two may speak during the reception or at the conclusion of the graveside liturgy with the prior approval of the clergy.

Funeral Liturgies

Funerals and memorial services held at St. Paul's are part of the worship life of the congregation and The Episcopal Church. Because of that, the readings, prayers, music, and other elements of the service must conform to the *Book of Common Prayer* or other liturgical resources officially authorized by The Episcopal Church. If someone who is not a member of the parish dies and the family would like to hold a non-liturgical gathering at St. Paul's, it may be possible for us to host that in the Parish Hall after consultation with the Rector.

Funeral Costs

Caring for someone at the end of life is very expensive, and there are substantial costs associated with preparing a body for burial and committing remains to the earth. Funerals and receptions at St. Paul's are provided without cost to the family of the one who has died. We consider this part of our mission as a church. Honoraria to the clergy or musicians are unnecessary, but donations to St. Paul's in memory of your loved one, while unnecessary, are welcome.

Funeral Instructions

Please note that, while we anticipate that the wishes you outline in this booklet will be observed, there may be unforeseen changes in circumstances that make it impossible for the church or your loved ones to fulfill all of them. The Rector is responsible for all of the services that take place in or in the name of the church.

Preferred Location for Service:	<input type="checkbox"/> St. Paul's Church	<input type="checkbox"/> St. Paul's Parish Hall
	<input type="checkbox"/> Graveside Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Preferred Rite:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite I (traditional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite II (contemporary)
Holy Communion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Preferred Eucharistic Prayer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite I, Prayer I	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite I, Prayer II
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite II, Prayer A	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite II, Prayer B
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite II, Prayer C	<input type="checkbox"/> Rite II, Prayer D
Preferred Lessons:	Old Testament	New Testament
<i>Chose two or three lessons plus a psalm, selecting one from each section. If there is to be Communion, one Gospel lesson must be chosen.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 25:6-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Rom. 8:14-19,34-35,37-39
	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61:1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lam. 3:22-26, 31-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 4:16-5:9
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom 3:1-5, 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:1-2
	<input type="checkbox"/> Job 19:21-27a	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 7:9-17
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 21:2-7
	Gospel	Psalm
	<input type="checkbox"/> John 5:24-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 27:1, 5-12, 17-18
	<input type="checkbox"/> John 6:37-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 42:1-7 <input type="checkbox"/> 46
	<input type="checkbox"/> John 10:11-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 90:1-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 106:1-5
	<input type="checkbox"/> John 11:11-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 116:1-8,12-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 121
	<input type="checkbox"/> John 14:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 130 <input type="checkbox"/> 139:9-11

Music: Yes No
Choir: Yes No
Additional Instrumentals: _____

Hymns: Open: _____ Communion: _____
If desired, choose one hymn to open the service, one before the gospel, and one to close. Choose up to two hymns to be sung during Communion.
Gospel: _____
Close: _____

Funeral Flowers: St. Paul's Flower Guild Outside Florist

Preferred Flowers/Colors: _____

Requested Lectors: _____

Requested Pallbearers: _____

Burial Instructions

Funeral Home/Crematorium: _____

Disposition of the Body: Traditional Burial Cremation

Location for Committal: Cemetery _____

St. Paul's Columbarium (*niches may be purchased in advance*)