



Please return this form by mail to:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Planning with the End in View
917 Lamar Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

You may also return by hand to the front office of St. Andrew's.

We will scan it and put it in our data base. If at any time you wish to change or revise your information, that will be an easy matter.

Contact Information: Please give us your contact information in case we have any questions. Thank you.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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- I am submitting this form for myself
- I am submitting this form for someone else.
Relationship to person submitting the form _____

Would you like to have a visit from one of the clergy to talk about these matters?

- Yes, I would like to receive a visit from one of the clergy.

We would love to visit with you if you would find that helpful. But if you feel that your answers are self-explanatory and you have said all you want to say, that is fine, too.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect upon these matters.
May we all live our lives with the end in view!

Living with the End in View: Some Guidelines for Planning and Planning *For* One's Own Funeral

It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of all men, and the living will lay it to heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:2)

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

For good reason the liturgical color of every Christian funeral is white. For every Christian funeral is always a re-celebration of Easter. We enter into that "house of mourning" with the triumphant certainty that death does not have the last word. No, the risen Lord does. And He has pronounced and demonstrated his utter victory over death. And in his triumph over death in his resurrection, Christian people see a foretaste of their own ultimate victory.

The purpose of these funeral planning guidelines is twofold: a) to urge us all to give these matters some thought now so that we might better learn to live with the end in view and b) to provide some helpful suggestions to those who will plan and preside at our funerals. It is understood that we will offer these suggestions not as binding instructions to those who will actually design and conduct our services, but rather as pointers or reminders of some of the things which were dear to us throughout our lives.

I. Music – Not all of us, but many of us have been deeply and profoundly moved by music during our lives and have received that beautiful experience as a gift from heaven. As such, there might have been instruments, composers, hymns and anthems which have been particularly important to us.

a. Are there pieces of music so dear to us that we would love to know that they were considered as possibilities for the music at the beginning (prelude) or at the end (postlude) of the service?

b. Are there particular instruments which were always dear to us throughout our life? Some people can't imagine not having at their funeral service in addition to the organ perhaps a harp, violins, brass, whatever (bagpipe?). Is there a particular instrumental sound which has always deeply stirred your soul and which might reflect something of your particular joy of being a child of God to those gathered at your funeral? Would you like there to be soloists at your service? If so, male or female? Would you like there to be a full choir?

c. A huge component of most Christian funerals is that which is also a huge component of most joyous Christian lives – hymnody. Do you have particular favorite hymns in general? Do you have some particular favorites to be sung at your funeral? It would be good to identify three favorites. If you don't own your own 1940 hymnal you are very welcomed to borrow one from the church. Please look through it carefully and mark down three which are great favorites.

II. The Psalms play a special role in the burial service of an Anglican. These are the prayers which have guided and shaped our own prayer lives throughout our lives, so it is certain that over the years we will have come to have favorites. Please identify between one and three Psalms which mean a great deal to you and which seem appropriate for your funeral service. Many Anglicans have found some of these to be particular favorites:

- 21 – The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord...
- 23 – The Lord is my shepherd...
- 27 – The Lord is my light and my salvation...
- 42 – Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul...
- 46 – God is our hope and strength...
- 90 – Lord, thou hast been our refuge...
- 106 – O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious...
- 116 – My delight is in the Lord...
- 121 – I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills...
- 130 – Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord...
- 139 – Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me...

III. Besides the Psalms, the Anglican burial service is replete with Holy Scripture. Do you have particular passages which have been dear to you throughout your life? Would you like to say a few words about why certain passages have been particularly meaningful to you? It is good to pick two or three passages which you would like to be read at your funeral. Many have found some of these passages to be favorites:

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory.)

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth.)

New Testament

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)

I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (Raised in incorruption)

II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal.)

I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him.)

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (At His coming the dead in Christ are raised first.)

Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away all tears.)

Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new.)

Gospels

John 5:24-27 (He that believeth hath everlasting life.)

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father giveth me shall come to me)

John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd.)

John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life.)

John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many mansions.)

Please say a few words about why the passages you have chosen are particularly important to you. (attach another page if required)

IV. At your funeral a minister will no doubt deliver a homily. We trust that God will direct him in his prayers and reflections upon the chosen texts toward some appropriate thoughts. But I feel quite certain that preacher would benefit from having you answer this question -- *What themes of your life, of your experience of God's grace and love would you like to see accentuated in the funeral homily?* (attach another page if required)

V. It is a universal aspect of the dying process that we have some concerns about some of those we will be leaving behind (for now). Do you have any particular pastoral concerns about some of your loved ones who might survive you and actually be in attendance at your funeral service? Would you like to mention those concerns here, now? Or would you like to visit with one of the clergy about these concerns?