



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church Funeral Planning Guide

Dear friend in Jesus,

Planning funerals is often seen as a frightening business, something to be avoided at all costs. This unfortunate view is not the view of the gospel. Because of God's grace, through the resurrection of Jesus, death is not something to be avoided—it is something to be defeated. We are people of the resurrection, people who know that “neither death, nor life, 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” (Romans 8:38-39).

Because of this knowledge, we can plan our funerals with confidence...not expectantly, but with a spirit of acceptance. And in planning, we are doing a mercy for members of our family and friends, those who will be left behind to grieve and to celebrate our lives. The more details that are planned, the less variables there will be for family members to worry over when our time comes. Additionally, as a priest, I am “directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of...all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods...” One of my responsibilities is to help people think beforehand about the things pertaining to our departure from this life.

This booklet has been prepared as an aid for you in making some of your final arrangements. Please complete it prayerfully and with care, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus: “I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we are

Yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Whitaker" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Reverend Bradford G. Whitaker  
Rector

***Remember thy servant, O Lord, according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people; and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, s/he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 488)***

## Personal and Contact Information

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Familiar Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City ZIP

Phones: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surviving? Yes No

Family Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City ZIP

Contact's Phones: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work Cell

Contact's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Step-Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family and Friends: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a veteran eligible for military honors? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what branch? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you desire a military graveside service? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you made a will? Yes No Where may it be found? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you considered a planned gift for St. Paul's? Yes No

Are you an organ donor? Yes No

What will be the disposition of your body? Burial Cremation Body present at funeral, cremation after

Do you planned to be buried in the memorial garden at St. Paul's? Yes No

If yes, have you made those arrangements? Yes No

If no, my ashes are to be disposed of as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

If burial, my burial plot is located at: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Order for Burial** (Note: final decisions for the liturgy are made by the Rector.)

Rite I or II?: \_\_\_\_\_ Incense? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Music? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

First Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm/Hymn/Anthem: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm/Hymn/Anthem: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Which Eucharistic prayer would you like offered? \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn or Organ Music: \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Processional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Musical Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Other liturgy requests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reception/Visitation**

Do you wish to have a reception? Yes No Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests for the reception: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Memorials**

In addition to St. Paul's, what other organizations would you like to list for memorials? (list below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Liturgy Participants (Note: final decisions for clergy involvement are made by the Rector.)

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Preacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Clergy Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide contact information at the bottom of this page for clergy outside the Diocese of TN or members of the clergy other than Episcopal priests.*

Lectors: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acolytes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Minister(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Pallbearers (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Funeral Director

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City ZIP

Have you prepaid for funeral arrangements? \_\_\_\_\_

Other

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Quotations from the Book of Common Prayer:

When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided (BCP 462).

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation (BCP 462).

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present (BCP 468).