## PLANNING A FUNERAL

### At St. John’s Episcopal Church we understand the services for burial of the dead as a solemn moment in the life of the church reminding us all of our physical mortality. But we also see this time as one in which we are reminded to give thanks to God for caring about us enough to send his Son that we might have the gift of eternal life.

### WHEN A DEATH OCCURS

Contact the church. Not only can the clergy share with you the strength of the Christian faith in the face of death, they can help with the many details which attend the planning of the funeral. You should make this call before calling a funeral director. Please do not make any calendar commitments without consulting your clergy.

### BURIAL FROM THE CHURCH

A Christian is baptized, confirmed, married, and should, except under extraordinary circumstances, have the burial service in the church which is the common home of the Christian fellowship to which he/she truly belongs.

### DETAILS OF THE SERVICE

The order of service is found in our Book of Common Prayer. We have taken your different options and created an easy to use template that also includes your liturgical and scriptural choices. There are circumstances when we might consult our Book of Occasional Services and along with the selection of hymns and scriptures are done in consultation with your clergy. Arrangements for soloists or instrumentalists, if any, will be made with the clergy. A celebration of the Eucharist may be a part of the burial office. When used, all Baptized Christians will be invited to receive. Let the clergy know if Holy Communion is desired.

### THE CASKET AND THE PALL

The casket should be closed before the burial service and not be opened again. When it arrives at the Church, it will be covered with a white pall, which symbolizes the equality of all before God. In a military funeral, the pall is replaced with the American flag as the casket leaves the church. Photographs or other memorabilia may be displayed in the Parish Hall or Narthex, but not within the Nave of the Church.

### FLOWERS

Flowers are not used on the coffin when it is in the Church. The minimum use of flowers in the Church is in keeping with the simple tone of the burial office. Two arrangements of flowers, as are used on Sunday morning, are arranged by our Flower Guild. White flowers are traditional, but other colors, may be requested. There is no charge for this ministry, however costs associated with special requests may be required.

### FUNERAL RECEPTION

Our Parish House may be used for a reception following the funeral. St. John’s has a ministry that will provide light refreshments or you may use an outside caterer.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Throughout our history, people have wished to remember loved ones and friends with suitable memorials and thanksgivings to the Church. Gifts are greatly appreciated and may be made in consultation with the clergy to the St. John’s Memorial Fund.

### SERVICE AND COMMITTAL FEES

Altar Flowers are lovingly provided by our flower guild. Please keep in mind that any special requests may require compensation. Compensation for musicians are paid by the family. We are often asked about honorariums for our clergy. Please know that it is welcome but not expected.

### CEMETERY

For many generations, when a “body was laid into the earth,” the “earth” has been that of a churchyard. We are blessed with a historic Cemetery and Columbarium for this purpose. There are costs associated with our cemetery. Please contact our Cemetery Chair for further information.

### My Wishes and Information for St. John’s Episcopal Church

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Subsequent updates:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**My Name**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone and email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The person responsible for making plans for my funeral and burial:**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE FUNERAL SERVICE**

**(please check)** I would like the following type of funeral service:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rite I or Rite II |
|  | Burial Office only to be read |
|  | Burial Office and Eucharist |
|  | Church service with burial immediately following for family and friends |
|  | Church service for family and friends with private burial later for family only |
|  | Memorial service in church with burial either public or private as my family prefers |
|  | Graveside service only |