

*At All Saints Church, we view 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 DEATH OCCURS**

Contact the church, 288-7811, or call the Rector, Brent Melton 972-1689 or Associate Rector, Judy Davis, 909-9122, of All Saints immediately. Not only can the clergy share with you the strength of the Christian faith in the face of death, but also they can help with the many details which attend the planning of the funeral. You should make this call before calling a funeral director.

#### **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. Your clergy will review the liturgical and scriptural choices. The selection of hymns and scriptures are done in consultation with your clergy. Music is appropriate for a burial service in the Church. Hymns may be sung by the congregation. Arrangements for soloists or instrumentalists, if any, will be made through the Director of Music.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

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. If the family wishes, they may make arrangements for flowers for the altar through the Flower Guild. 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 appropriate. White flowers are traditional, but other colors, may be requested.

#### **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

For many generations, when a “body was laid into the earth,” the “earth” was that of a churchyard. Recently, increasing interest in the cremation of bodily remains and the disposition of them has resulted in changes in statutes, regulations, and procedures. The resulting changes have made possible a return to the old tradition of having one’s final resting place near one’s place of worship. A Memorial Garden has been established at All Saints Church for this purpose. For further information regarding our Memorial Garden, please contact the parish administrator.

#### **YOUR OWN WISHES**

Now is the time to leave a copy of your own wishes about burial arrangements on file at All Saints Church and in your home. Forms for this purpose are available in the Church office.

#### **FUNERAL RECEPTION**

If it has not been previously scheduled, the Parish Hall may be used for a reception following the funeral. The parish’s funeral reception committee may be used, or an outside caterer. All arrangements regarding outside caterers must be cleared through the Building & Grounds Coordinator. The funeral reception committee will gladly accept a donation to help defray the cost of food.

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Throughout the years people have wished to remember loved ones and friends with suitable memorials and thanksgivings to the Church. At All Saints these have been received with the approval of the Rector and Vestry. Gifts may be made in consultation with the Rector to the All Saints Memorial Fund. What better way to honor the memory of loved ones than to add their name to the list of those who are contributing to the future of All Saints Church?

#### **SERVICE AND COMMITTAL FEES**

Please make an appointment with our Building & Grounds Coordinator, to take care of the financial obligations. Possible fees include:

Altar Flowers	\$150
Reception Flowers	\$75
Organist	\$150
Sexton (for reception)	\$100
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Memorial Garden	\$400
Brass Plaque	\$375
Rosette	\$95

Fees must be paid to the Office prior to the burial service. An honorarium to the clergy is appropriate. If the family has not been a recent contributor to All Saints, it is appropriate to make a gift to the church in support of its mission and ministries.

**CLERGY AND STAFF OF  
ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The Rev. Dr. Brent A. Melton  
Cell: 804-972-1689  
bmelton@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**RECTOR**

The Rev. Judy Davis  
Cell: 804-909-9122  
jdavis@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**ASSISTANT RECTOR**

Scott Hayes  
shayes@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Reginald J. Long III  
rlong@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**ORGANIST**

Winston Hazlegrove  
whazlegrove@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

Natallia Chyhryna  
ncyhryna@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Mike Harris  
info@allsaintsrichmond.org  
**SEXTON**



**ALL SAINTS**  
*Equipping the Saints*

8787 River Road • Henrico, VA • 23233  
804-288-7811

*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 all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the  
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

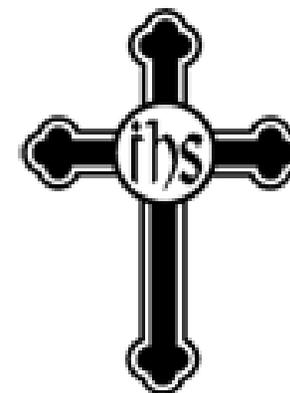
*(Romans 8:38-39)*

*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.*

*-Book of Common Prayer, page 507*

# **PLANNING A FUNERAL**

**AT ALL SAINTS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



***All Saints Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia***