

Burial of the Dead at St.Peters

Ministration at the Time of Death

When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, whenever possible, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided: anointing and prayers at the time of death.

Prayers for a Vigil

It is appropriate that the family and friends come together for prayers prior to the funeral. Suitable Psalms, Lessons and Collects may be used. It can be arranged to have the Visitation and Vigil in the Church the day or evening before the funeral. Or, the Prayers may be said in the home or in a funeral home.

Planning

All arrangements for the Burial of the Dead are made in consultation with the Minister of the Congregation and in accordance with the rites and customs of this church as outlined in the Book of Common Prayer. This includes choosing the date and time, lessons to be read, readers, other liturgical assistants, design and printing of the bulletin, and music when it is desired.

Funeral Director

The choice of a funeral director is often a personal family choice, but Saint Peter's enjoys a special affiliation with Joseph L. Canby, Funeral Director, associated with Marzullo Funeral Home. A long time member of Saint Peter's, Joseph can significantly reduce the costs involved while giving the personalized attention one hopes for when planning for the funeral of a loved one. Joseph may be reached at 410-552-5543, or Mike Marzullo at 410-254-5201.

Visitation

Members of Saint Peter's who work with Joseph Canby and the rector often choose to have the Visitation the day and night before the funeral in the church. People visit with the family in the Sanctuary, and our parish hall, Starr Hall, is open for greeting people, refreshments, etc. Prayers are offered with the family before the visiting hours begin, and at the conclusion of the Visitation hours with all who are present at that time.

Holy Communion

The Burial of the Dead being a liturgy of the resurrection, it is customary in this church, though not necessary, to celebrate the rite with Holy Communion. As the Paschal Candle stands burning at the head of the casket or urn as a sign of Christ's Easter light shining in the darkness, so our

participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion is a sign of our ongoing participation in the lives of all the saints who have gone on before us to join in the life of God's Kingdom through the resurrection of Christ's Body.

Readings

Lessons are read from the Old Testament, the New Testament and one of the four Gospels. It is customary to read or sing a psalm or hymn between these three readings. These may be chosen from the suggestions in the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 470-480), or special requests from the family, in consultation with the Minister in charge. If there are requests to read from sources other than the Bible or the Book of Common Prayer, such arrangements must be made with the Minister in charge. It is desirable that the readings from the Old and New Testaments and the psalms be read by Lay Persons.

Music

Music, though not a necessary part of the service, is quite often capable of expressing thoughts and feelings that might otherwise escape us in times of loss and grief. Instrumental music, congregational singing, and music for solo voices are all appropriate. The Minister in charge and the Director of Music stand ready to assist in the selection of music. The Director of Music ordinarily plays for all Burial services in this parish, or arranges for a substitute. Any special requests of the family or the deceased (by prior written instruction) must be determined by the Minister in charge and the Director of Music to be consistent with the music authorized by the Book of Common Prayer (p. 14) and in the current working repertoire of whoever is to provide instrumental accompaniment. Given the fact that Burial services often come at unexpected times, we appreciate the fact that there usually is not time to learn and rehearse unfamiliar music.

Flowers

Aside from the usual seasonal decoration of the church, there are to be only the two (2) arrangements usually on the altar. These arrangements are ordered by the family either from a local florist. Containers that fit on the shelf behind the altar are available from the church. These flowers are ordinarily left in the church after the Burial office. No other flowers are to be brought into the church. These arrangements are ordered by the family either from our Floral Director, Deena Cate Bryant (410-747-7073), or from a local florist.

Arrival at the church

It is customary that the people arrive at the church and are seated before the service begins. Seats may be reserved for the family of the deceased in the front of the church.

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. This pertains whether the service is in the church or in a funeral home. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering. It is customary that the celebrant meet the body and go before it into the church or towards the grave. The anthems at the beginning of the service are sung or said as the body is borne into the church, or during the entrance of the ministers, or by the celebrant standing in the accustomed place.

In cases of cremation, the urn may be placed on a table at the front of the church with a veil covering it.

A priest normally presides at the service. It is appropriate that the bishop, when present, preside at Holy Communion and pronounce the Commendation. When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, a deacon or lay reader may preside at the service.

Interment

Interment of the body is usually done immediately following the service in the church. Cemetery arrangements are ordinarily the responsibility of the family. The Minister in charge requests that some loose dirt be made available by the grave site for the Committal Service. Cremains to be placed in the St. Peter's Repository may be interred there before the service or after, or at any other time convenient to the family.

Cremains must be in the "standard black plastic box", container supplied by crematory.

Reception

Arrangements may be made with Saint Peter's to have a reception and /or meal in the Starr Hall.

Arrangements on File

Specific arrangements and important information may be kept on file in the parish office.

Fees

There is no fee for the use of the church, although many people make a contribution to the Saint Peter's Discretionary Fund or to the Endowed or Memorial Funds of the parish.

For the services of organist, there is a fee of \$150.00. If there is to be rehearsal time with a soloist or other in-

strumentalist, there is an additional fee of \$25.00/hour of rehearsal time.

The services of the Minister of the Congregation are a courtesy of the parish. Some families make a contribution to the Saint Peter's Discretionary Fund, or make a gift to the Minister in charge directly. If, however, the Minister in charge is someone other than the regular parish clergy, there is a fee of \$100.00. All fees may be adjusted as circumstances may require.

If after reading these guidelines you have some questions, please do not hesitate to call:

Priest-in-charge - 410.465.2273

Brenda Brewington, Administrative Assistant - 410.465.2273

Greg Fraser - Organist - 410.730.0567

Joseph L. Canby, Funeral Director, - 410.552.5543

We at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church are ready to serve you and your family at the time of a death. Our hope is to offer you the comfort and care that was central to our Lord's ministry on earth, and the certainty that the Peace of the Lord shall always be with us, even in the moments of our greatest sorrows.