



Dear Friends in Christ,

In my role as pastor I have the privilege of entering into the lives of parishioners and others as they come seeking guidance, consolation and hope in light of a loved one's death. While a full range of emotion often accompanies these times, they are, on the whole, occasions when God's grace is often present. What can help facilitate the healing in families as they mourn the death of the beloved are directives that come from careful pre-planning by the loved one during the time in which he or she was alive.

In this packet are resources for you and your family to review and complete that will assist in such pre-planning. Included are tools to help with the way in which you wish to be remembered, and how you would wish to care for those who come after you.

Included are the following:

- ∂ A Five Wishes booklet. As one comes to the end of one's life, there are ways for us to give advance direction to the family, medical and legal communities.
- ∂ Memorial Service Planning sheets. These forms, along with a list of suggested music selections and appropriate scripture recommendations, go a long way to aiding your surviving family members in their task of assembling a celebration of your life through the offices (services) and pastoral resources of the Episcopal Church.
- ∂ A brochure that introduces the Legacy Journey, a way to further extend your loving relationship with your church family.

A recommendation that we would offer is that you complete the materials – as much or as little as you wish (you may always return and revisit previous decisions) – and return a copy of the service planning material to Saint Gabriel's church office. Keep the entire packet in a safe place in your home along with your other important records, such as your Will, estate documents, computer passwords, etc. And, finally, let a trust family member or friend know of your actions and where they can locate the material in the event of your death.

Each family, and members within families, have their own ways of grieving. Pre-planning does not lessen the grief that one experiences, but it does allow loved ones the opportunity to have peace of mind around end-of-life issues and all the myriad decisions that have to be made at the time of someone's death. Completing all, or even *some*, of the materials in this packet will be received as a gift by your family members and friends. It is out of love that you can bless your loved ones with this gift of your thoughtfulness and intentions.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this material, please do not hesitate to contact me through the church office at 303. 771. 1063.

Faithfully, in Christ Jesus,

The Episcopal Church of St. Gabriel the Archangel