LIVING... PLANNING... DYING... *Well*

Getting Your Affairs in Order

When The Time Comes

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
610-525-2821

PREFACE

Christians recognize with all people the inevitability of death, but Christians affirm that "neither death, nor life, ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Yet trust in the love and power of God does not eliminate the grief that accompanies a loved one's death. Recognizing that it is often difficult to plan wisely under emotional stress, the Session of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church encourages its members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death. Without such planning, surviving members of the family may have to make decisions during a time when they are shocked and confused.

When preparations are made and discussed with others, survivors are relieved of difficult questions as to what is right and have the satisfaction of knowing they are doing what the deceased would have wanted. Planning ahead also means that the arrangements and service will express the comfort and hope of the Christian faith fully and without compromise.

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

(W.4.10000) PC(USA) Book of Order

This guide is intended to assist Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church members in such preparation. The ministers are more than willing to discuss these matters with anyone who wishes to do so.

This booklet is available on the church website: www.bmpc.org. For more information, call the church office, 610-525-2821, and ask for the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults or their assistant.

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Suggested Outline for a Funeral or Memorial Service

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn

Prayer of Invocation

Old Testament Lesson(s)

The Psalter

Remarks (by 1 or 2 family members or friends, if desired)*

New Testament Lesson(s)

Meditation

Hymn

Prayer of Thanksgiving (for the deceased)

Affirmation of Faith

Hymn

Commendation

Benediction

Postlude

Not everyone will wish to include all the elements listed here.

Following the service the family may receive friends in Congregational Hall. A Memorial Reception can be provided through the church at a nominal cost, subject to availability.

*A limit of 2 speakers is preferable.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27	I know that my redeemer lives
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31	Comfort my people
Isaiah 40:28-31	Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
Isaiah 65:17-25	I create a new heaven and a new earth
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything there is a season

Psalms

Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11	A very present help in trouble
Psalm 90: 1-10, 12	Teach us to number our days
Psalm 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 139:1-12	Whether shall I go from your Spirit?

Epistles

Romans 8:31-34, 37-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
I Corinthians 15:42-44	Death is swallowed in victory
II Corinthians 4:16, 5:1	Visible things are transitory, Invisible things are permanent
I Thessalonians 4:13-18	The comfort of Christ's coming
Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5	A new heaven and a new earth

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12a	The Beatitudes
Matthew 18:1-5, 10	The greatest in the kingdom of heaven
Mark 10:13-16	Let the children come to me
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Today you will be with me in Paradise
John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:1-6, 25-27	Let not your hearts be troubled

SUGGESTIONS FOR MUSIC

Hymns

(*Page numbers are from Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
836 Abide With Me
649 Amazing Grace
819 Be Still, My Soul
450 Be Thou My Vision
326 For all the Saints
14 For the Beauty of the Earth
686 God of Our Life
65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
1 Holy, Holy, Holy
624 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art
12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
269 Lead On, O King Eternal
826 Lift High the Cross
643 Now Thank We All Our God
687 Our God, Our Help In Ages Past
620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
375 Shall We Gather at the River
802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
801 The Lord's My Shepherd
236 The Strife Is O'er

The Presbyterian Hymnal also has metrical settings to many psalms.
Several of these are appropriate for use in a funeral or memorial service.

Solos

"Pie Jesu," from Requiem, Maurice Duruflé
"Psalm 23," Antonin Dvorak
"Panis Angelicus," César Franck
"Pie Jesu," from Requiem, Gabriel Fauré
"I Know that my Redeemer Liveth," from Messiah, George Frederick Handel

ORGAN MUSIC

Bach, Johann Sebastian (Concordia)
"Sheep May Safely Graze"
"Air on a G-String"
"Come, Sweet Death"
Orgelbüchlein chorales:
"I Call to Thee" (Ich ruf zu dir)
"In Thee I Give My Trust" (In dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr)
"When We are in Deepest Need" (Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein)
"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" (Wer nur den lieben Gott)
"All Men Must Die" (Alle Menschen müssen sterben)
"Ah How Empty! Ah How Fleeting" (Ach wie nichtig, ach wie flüchtig)

Great 18 chorales:
"When We are in Deepest Need" (Wenn wir in höchsten nöten sein)
"From God I Will Never Leave" (Von Gott will ich nicht lassen)

Brahms, Johannes
Eleven Chorale Preludes, op. 122
"Deck Thyself with Gladness" (Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele)
"O God Thou Faithful God" (O Gott, du frommer Gott)
"O World I Must Now Leave" (O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, #11)

Buxtehude, Dietrich
24 Chorale Preludes for Organ (Breitkopf or Henle)
"We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit" (Nun bitten wir)
"A Mighty Fortress is our God" (Ein Feste Burg)
"From God I Will Not Leave" (Von Gott will ich nich lassen)
"Our Father in Heaven" (Vater Unser im Himmelreich)

Mendelssohn, Felix
Six Sonatas (Adagio movements)

Vierne, Louis
"Carillon" (postlude)
Widor, Charles Marie
Symphony V "Adagio" (prelude); "Toccata" (postlude)

Other possibilities include the playing of hymns.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

When death occurs, who are the appropriate persons to be called initially?

One of your pastors, who will provide support and guidance, can be reached through the church's telephone number, 610-525-2821, which is answered 24 hours a day. The physician or emergency medical personnel of the deceased, who will arrange for a death certificate, should be called as well.

What services are supplied by the funeral director?

As many or as few as a family wishes. In addition to various matters having to do with the transportation and disposition of the body, the director will provide the family with copies of the death certificate, the use of the funeral home, car rentals, the placing of death notices in local newspapers, and support during the memorial or funeral service and interment.

The funeral director also will need certain information:

Vital statistics of the deceased, full name, date and place of birth, parents' full names, names of survivors, Social Security number, location of cemetery plot (if relevant) and discharge papers in the case of a veteran of the armed forces.

Is it possible to make funeral arrangements before one's death?

Yes. Such "pre-planning" with your pastor and/or a funeral director of one's choice is now quite common. In many cases, one may even "pre-pay" all the costs of the services desired. The Pastor or Assistant for Pastoral Care can recommend a funeral director if needed.

What information is contained in the death notice?

The name of the deceased, age, date of death, names of survivors, date, time and place of religious service and designation of memorial gifts.

What information is contained in an obituary?

It contains more biographical information and a death notice. A newspaper can charge a fee for running an obituary, and it is usually the responsibility of the family to submit it.

What about memorial gifts?

Many families request that in lieu of flowers friends make a contribution to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church or to a favorite charity of the deceased. In the case of the former, such gifts are normally assigned to the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Foundation.

What about an autopsy?

Presbyterian doctrine would support an autopsy if it leads to the advancement of medical knowledge or peace of mind for the family.

What procedures are followed in donating one's body (or certain body parts) for medical purposes?

In case of certain organs, consult the Delaware Valley Transplant Program, 610-543-6391. For total body donation to a local medical school, call the Humanity Gifts Registry, 215-922-4440.

What choices are there in the disposition of a body?

Apart from donating it for medical purposes, there are two choices: 1. body burial (or entombment in a mausoleum) and 2. cremation. Once this decision has been made, the funeral director will make all arrangements.

Does state law require that a body be embalmed?

No. It is not necessary in the case of cremation or immediate burial. Embalming is required in Pennsylvania, and in most states, for a body held more than 24 hours after death.

In the case of cremation, must a casket be purchased?

No. The body can be transported to the crematory in a pine box or other simple container.

What about viewing the body?

Often it is helpful for family members to view the body at least once to assist in the process of accepting the fact that death has occurred.

What happens to the cremated remains?

The urn containing them may be placed in a niche in a columbarium/ mausoleum of a local cemetery or buried in the family plot of a cemetery. More and more, church families are making use of our own Chapel Garden.

Who may use the Chapel Garden?

The Chapel Garden is intended for members of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and their immediate family members.

What are the costs of using the Chapel Garden?

A unit for one urn may be purchased for $300. This includes a charge of $50 for opening the unit and the engraving of a brass memorial plaque. Arrangements for purchasing a unit or units are made through the church office. Urns must be no larger than 11" inches length and 7 1/2" inches in height. Urns must be labeled or engraved with name, birth and death dates.

What resources are there for coping with grief?

Members of the pastoral staff are available to counsel family and friends in times of death. In addition, the Middleton Counseling Center offers individual and family counseling and a support group which helps individuals cope with grief.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

"The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor."

(W.4.10003) PC(USA) Book of Order

Timing

In most cases a service takes place within a few days of the death. The main service may precede or follow a brief committal service at the burial site. Typically, the committal service is attended by family members and close friends.

Location

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is fortunate to have both a Chapel, which seats 150, and the Sanctuary, which seats 1,000, excluding balconies and choir loft.

Type of Service

The service may be either a memorial service without the presence of a casket or urn, or a funeral service where the casket or urn is present.

Costs

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church intends that costs for a funeral or memorial service on its premises be only what are necessary and minimal. There are necessary charges to cover custodial services, the organist/soloist fees (if music is a part of the service), and a reception, if desired. Exact details are available from the church office or the officiating pastor. An honorarium for pastors may be offered at the discretion of each family.

Flowers

Flowers add color and beauty to the service, and remind worshipers of the goodness of God's creation. Ordinarily, the family directs a florist to fill two vases for either the Sanctuary or Chapel.

Content of Service

The service is planned by the pastor in consultation with the family. The purpose is to provide comfort and strength to mourners, to give thanks to God for the life of the deceased, and above all, to bear witness to the hope of Christian faith.

It is appropriate for hymns and other sacred music to be part of the service. Music should serve to direct the attention of those attending to the presence and power of God, and enable worshipers to voice their confidence in God's sovereign love. A list of suggested hymns is appended.

Scripture should be read and prayers offered. A homily may be preached and words of appreciation may be spoken by the pastor, family members or friends.

AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(From A Brief Statement of Faith)

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
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. Amen.

Romans 8

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

FEES FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE, CHAPEL GARDEN AND MEMORIAL RECEPTION

Memorial Service

Suggested honorarium to Officiating Pastor	$500.00
Organist	$300.00
Soloist	$200.00
Livestreamed Service	$120.00

Interment in the Chapel Garden

Suggested honorarium to Officiating Pastor *Note that when the pastor officiates both a memorial service and a graveside service, only the memorial service honorarium is suggested.*	$300.00
Plot (includes name plaque and plot opening and closing)	$300.00

**BMPC does not turn away any memorial service request based on ability to pay. If the honoraria and fees present a financial hardship, please notify the Administrative Coordinator for Congregational Care and Church Administration.*

**Depending on circumstances, additional fees not listed may be necessary.*

Based on availability, Congregational Hall may be used to receive friends and family after the memorial service.

The church can provide a list of local caterers.

GUIDANCE FOR MY FAMILY
UPON THE OCCASION OF MY DEATH

Name: _____

I would like to have the following relative or friend oversee the arrangements at the time of my death:

First Choice _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Second Choice _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

My preference (if any) for a funeral director:

( ) I have arranged for the gift of my body to a medical school through the Humanity Gifts Registry, 215-922-4440.

( ) I have arranged for the gift of certain organs through the Delaware Valley Transplant Program, 610-543-6391.

( ) I prefer immediate cremation, with the remains disposed of as follows:

( ) I prefer burial in a modest casket in the following cemetery:

( ) I prefer other arrangements as follows:

9. I wish to have ( ) a funeral, ( ) a memorial service at:

_____

10. In lieu of flowers, I request that memorial gifts be made to:

_____

11. I give the following information, which may be required on a death certificate:

Date of birth:_____

Place of birth:_____
Citizenship:_____
Full name of spouse: _____
Father's full name:_____
Mother's full name:_____
Social Security Number:_____
Veteran ( ) yes ( ) no
Serial Number:_____
Date:_____

Signature: _____

12. My preferences for a service include the following:
Hymns: _____
Scripture Reading: _____
Special Music:_____

Retain the original of this document, informing at least two members of your family or close friends where it is kept. One copy should be given to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church and another copy to the funeral director, if one has been named. If you need further information or assistance, please contact one of the pastors.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Dr. John M. Willingham
Interim Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

The Rev. Andy Greenhow
Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families

The Rev. Melanie Hardison
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Associate Pastor for Adult Education & Mission

The Rev. Rachel Pedersen
Associate Pastor for Children & Family Ministry

James Kealey
Director of Music & Fine Arts

Mitchell Miller
Assistant Director of Music & Fine Arts