Finishing Well
A Pastoral Care Ministry
# Finishing Well

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Dear Parish Family,

The writer William Saroyan, near the end of his life said, “Of course I have always known that every human being will die at some point but I always thought that an exception would be made in my case.” When it comes to this obvious fact of life—that every one of us will die one day—we are reluctant to face the truth.

The fact that you are holding this *Finishing Well* booklet in your hands, tells me that you are ready to consider some of the important practical, emotional, and spiritual issues related to the end of life. These pages are filled with resources to assist you. You will find herein, information about practical things like planning a funeral, financial matters, wills, advance directives and some of what our Christian faith has to say about death and and the promise of resurrection.

This booklet, prepared for us with love and care by members of the Christ Church family, is offered with the prayer that engaging with it will increase your sense of peace and hope as you consider how you can best “finish well” your course in this earthly life. As you are working your way through this booklet, be assured of Jesus’ promise that our destiny is a place prepared for us in heaven.

Together in Christ,

*The Rev. James P. Adams*

Rector
Why this booklet?

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. -Psalm 23:6

Dear Parish Family,

Christ Church is our spiritual home and the place we joyfully celebrate families, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and, at the end, where we celebrate lives well lived. At the time of death of a loved one there is much to be done. Pre-planning is a gift and a thoughtful way for us to make our wishes known to those about whom we care the most.

The pages of this booklet are designed to give us the opportunity to tell loved ones our stories, hopes and dreams; to give them clear and complete information about our wills, bank accounts, insurance policies, power of attorney, keys, passwords, and other pertinent documents; and to share with them desires for our funeral. It will let them know about the things that are most important to us and what we want passed down from generation to generation. We believe Finishing Well will help bring comfort and calm to us now and to our loved ones at the time of our deaths…truly making this a gift from our hearts.

Finishing Well is for you and for those you love, and we hope you will find it helpful. It is your personal information to share as you choose with your family and loved ones and to make changes as needed or desired. If you wish to do so, send a copy of just the funeral arrangements insert (copy on pages 22-24 of this booklet) to the church where it will be kept in a confidential file.

Blessings and peace,

-Christ Church Pastoral Care Commission
EASING THE BURDEN ON YOUR FAMILY

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

-Book of Common Prayer, page 445

You will greatly assist your family by completing the following while you are in good health and able to do so:

1. In consultation with your attorney, execute a Last Will and Testament, a Durable Power of Attorney, and an Advance Medical Directive.

2. In order to make certain that your end-of-life wishes will be followed, execute a Living Will, including a Health Care Power of Attorney to authorize someone whom you trust to decide healthcare matters for you if you are unable to do so for yourself. You may wish to consult with your attorney or clergy in this regard.

3. Assemble in one safe, accessible place, known to family members and/or your executor, the following documents: birth certificate, social security number, marriage certificate, record of military service, passport, passwords, PIN numbers, and life insurance policy information.

4. Consult a funeral director for information about services offered by the funeral home, cost, standard procedures, and options that may be available. Discuss this information and your wishes with family members, your executor or personal representative, or trusted friend before entering into any formal arrangements.

5. After you have decided where you wish your physical remains to be put to rest, make the necessary arrangements for a cemetery plot, memorial garden, columbarium, or other disposition. Leave instructions for your family in this document, or otherwise, as to where you wish your physical remains to be dispatched: a) burial (and where); b) cremation upon death, then interment (and where); c) scattering of cremation ashes (where, how and when); d) donation of your body or certain organs for medical research (written authorizations required).
Easing the burden on your family

6. If you wish, prepare your own obituary, freeing your survivors of this task and making certain that your wishes with regard as to its content will be honored.

7. When you have completed this booklet, it is strongly suggested that you place one copy in a secure location and provide your executor/personal representative with a letter that includes the location of this booklet. Alternatively, or in addition, you may wish to give your executor/personal representative a copy of this booklet. You may also wish to file a copy of the Funeral Arrangements with the Worship and Pastoral Care Coordinator at Christ Church, where it will be securely filed until needed. Please remember that if you make changes to these documents, you will need to provide new copies to these persons.
# General Information

**Full Name**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>(Maiden)</th>
<th>(Called By)</th>
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**Present Address**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
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**Date of Birth**

**Place of Birth**

**Organ Donor?**

**Advance Directive (Living Will)**

**Social Security Number**

**Present Marital Status**

**Name of Surviving Spouse**

(Include maiden name if wife)

**Spouse’s Address**

**Name of Deceased Spouse (if any)**

**Names of Children**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Living?</th>
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# General Information

**Names of Grandchildren**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Living?</th>
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**Names of Great Grandchildren**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Living?</th>
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**Father’s Full Name**

Birth Place/Date __________________________ Living? __________________

**Mother’s Full Name**

Birth Place/Date __________________________ Living? __________________

**Siblings**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Spouse</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Living?</th>
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Living?</th>
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GENERAL INFORMATION

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Living?</th>
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EDUCATION (Include degrees obtained)

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

OCCUPATIONS

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

PREVIOUS PLACES OF RESIDENCE (city and state)

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

MILITARY SERVICE

DATES __________________________________________________________________
BRANCH OF SERVICE __________________________________________________________________
RANK __________________________________________________________________
MEDALS AND HONORS __________________________________________________________________
GENERAL INFORMATION

CURRENT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

PREVIOUS CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(INCLUDE past and present affiliations, offices and positions held, and honors)

CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

POLITICAL OFFICES HELD
# Notifications

When death occurs, those who survive often do not know whom to notify immediately and personally. Use the following pages to list those who should be notified immediately, and those who may be notified later.

**Please Notify Immediately**

**Relatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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**Friends**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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# Notifications

## Friends

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## Please Also Notify

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
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13
INFORMATION FOR THOSE WHO SETTLE MY AFFAIRS

MY EXECUTOR

Name ________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email __________________________________

MY ATTORNEY

Name ________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email __________________________________

MY PHYSICIAN

Name ________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email __________________________________

MY FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Name ________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email __________________________________
My Accountant
Name ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email ____________________________________

My Insurance Agent
Name ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Telephone & Email ____________________________________

Banking, Savings and Investment Accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Account Type</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
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### Additional Banking Information

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### Safe Deposit Boxes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Box Number</th>
<th>Location of Key</th>
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LOCATION OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

(H) HOME ~ (B) SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ~ (O) OFFICE ~ (A) ATTORNEY ~ (N/A) NOT APPLICABLE

____ Last Will and Testament
____ Marriage License
____ Birth Certificate or Other Legal Proof of Age
____ Divorce Decree
____ Passport or Citizen Papers; Passport # ____________________________
____ Vehicle Title, Registration, Bill of Sale
____ Bank Records and Statements
____ Deeds and Leases to Property
____ Tax Returns, Receipts, and Cancelled Checks
____ Survivor’s Pension Information
____ Life Insurance Policies
____ Stock Certificates
____ Armed Forces Discharge Certificate
____ Power of Attorney
____ Healthcare Power of Attorney
____ Advance Medical Directive (Living Will)
____ Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid Cards
____ Social Security Card
____ Short and Long Term Disability Policies
____ Long Term Care Facility Contract
____ Trust Documents
____ Homeowners, Auto, and Other Insurance Policies
LOCATION OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

(H) HOME ~ (B) SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ~ (O) OFFICE ~ (A) ATTORNEY ~ (N/A) NOT APPLICABLE

___ Adoption Papers
___ List of Passwords and PIN Numbers
___ Contractual documents, if any, concerning payment of expenses following death
___ Other (Describe) ________________________________

OTHER NOTES, INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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Bequest and Legacy Gifts

As you make plans, please consider a bequest or other legacy gift to Christ Church. A planned gift is a form of ministry, securing the future of Christ Church by providing resources to sustain its mission.

You may designate a purpose or specific ministry that your bequest will support, or you may leave its use up to the Vestry. Many choose to leave a gift to the Memorial and Endowment Fund, which was created for investing the undesignated gifts and bequests received by the church.

When you make a bequest of any size to Christ Church, you become a member of the Christ Church Legacy Guild, which was founded in 1998. With your permission, the Legacy Guild recognizes all parishioners who have made a provision for the church as part of their estate plan. The amount is always confidential.

For more information about end of life planning and/or charitable giving, please contact:

Director of Finance and Administration
Christ Church
120 E. Edenton Street
Raleigh NC 27601
(919) 834-6259
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.”

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

It is proper for a Christian to be buried from the church, so what follows is assumed to take place at Christ Church, unless otherwise specified.

1. I prefer the following treatment of my mortal remains
   ___ Body present at funeral
   ___ Cremation preferred: ashes present at funeral or ashes absent (Circle one)
   ___ Body/Ashes to be interred at (specify)
   ___ I would prefer that my burial/interment occur before/after my service (Circle one)
2. I would like the service in the ___ Church ___ Chapel

3. I prefer the following service
   ___ Burial Office I (See Book of Common Prayer, page 469)
   ___ Burial Office II (See Book of Common Prayer, page 491)
   ___ with Holy Eucharist, if so, Eucharist Prayer ______
   ___ with homily by the Rev. ____________________________

4. I would like the following music
   ___ Organ plus sung hymns
   ___ Hymns preferred (list number or title)
     1. _______________ (After the collect)
     2. _______________ (Before the Homily)
     3. _______________ (Recessional)
       Other ____________________________
   ___ Organ prelude and postlude only

5. I would like the following readings (see Book of Common Prayer, page 470, or contact the Worship and Pastoral Care Coordinator for suggested reading list)
   Old Testament ____________________________
   Psalm ____________________________
   New Testament ____________________________
   Psalm ____________________________
   Gospel ____________________________

6. I would like the following specific prayer(s) included
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
7. I would like the following people to participate as readers


8. My choice of funeral home or cremation service is


9. My choice of flowers on the Altar ________________________________
   (Specify colors and types)

10. Memorial Donations
    ____ Christ Church  ____ Other (specify)__________________________

11. Other

    ___________________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________
    ___________________________________________________________
A PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED

O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: Give, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth thy light and thy peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

-Book of Common Prayer, page 202