

BURIAL CUSTOMARY FOR ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH

From The Book of Common Prayer:

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.

BCP: Concerning the Service

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering.

If necessary, or if desired, all or part of the service of Committal may be said in the church. If preferred, the Committal service may take place before the service in the church. It may also be used prior to cremation.

A priest normally presides at the service. It is appropriate that the bishop, when present, preside at the Eucharist and pronounce the Commendation.

It is desirable that the Lesson from the Old Testament, and the Epistle, be read by lay persons.

When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, a deacon or lay reader may preside at the service.

At the burial of a child, the passages from Lamentations, 1 John, and John 6, together with Psalm 23, are recommended.

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.

Specifics for St. Peter's Parish Church

1. Members of the Altar Guild will place the pall on the casket when it enters the church, and will remove it as it leaves the church. Flowers, flags, and so forth are not allowed on the pall.
2. Flowers are the responsibility of the family, and may be ordered from either A Wild Bunch in Providence Forge (804.966.1588) or Margeaux's Florist in Quinton (804.932.8878).
3. No flowers are permitted in the church other than those placed in the window above the altar similar to a Sunday service.
4. Any additional flowers received from the funeral home or a florist will be placed in the Mullins Room or Richardson Hall, or outside the church until the Service is completed, at which time they may be taken to the gravesite.
5. If the deceased is a parishioner of St. Peter's, a reception, if requested, will be given by the church as a gift to the deceased. If the deceased is not a parishioner of St. Peter's, the family may use Richardson Hall for a reception but is responsible for whatever is served and for clean up afterwards. The services of the sexton may be **requested** for this for \$150.00.
6. Suggestions from the family are recommended for Crucifer, Lector, Intercessor, Pall Bearers, and, if Eucharist is requested, Chalice.
7. Sidesmen will be appointed to hand out leaflets and assist with seating of those attending as they enter the church. Suggestions from the family are recommended for this task.
8. The Pastoral Care Commission will have a member present at all visitations, services, and receptions at St. Peter's. If there is a visitation at St. Peter's on the day of the Service, coffee and cookies will be available to guests and family of the deceased.
9. "Reserved" signs are available for the use of the family.
10. There is no charge for the services of the Rector, but a contribution to his Discretionary Fund or an honorarium is appropriate.
11. In the event a large crowd is expected, the Building & Grounds commission will be contacted to provide parking assistance.