

## **St. James's Episcopal Church Funeral Policy**

### **Arrangements**

The clergy and congregation of St. James's are glad to be able to provide support to anyone who has suffered a death among family or friends. Please call the church office, 617.547.4070, or 857.998.1777 to let the Rector and staff know of your loss.

In some cases, arrangements are made through a funeral director, who in turn will consult the Rector. Even though it is difficult and stressful, the Rector encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the options of burial, cremation or donation for medical purposes and to discuss some of the options for the memorial service, ie: hymns, eulogies, readings and participants, and whether or not to have communion as part of the service.

### **Guidelines**

In the Episcopal Church, a funeral may be held with the body present in a coffin or with the ashes present; or a memorial service may be held in the church after the remains, whether in a coffin, or ashes, have been committed to the final resting place. The Rector will be happy to support you as you make decisions, and discuss with you the theological and pastoral considerations for all of these approaches, as well as the timing of the service. The Rector will also be happy to provide or make referrals for grief counseling.

Following the guidelines of our Book of Common Prayer, baptized Christians are usually buried from the church and we encourage a service to be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present, although we can also hold graveside services if desired. You do not have to be a member of St. James's in order to have a funeral service with us.

### **Planning**

The Rector will meet with the family and friends to plan the service, including any music, in accordance with the liturgy provided in the Book of Common Prayer.

There is no set fee for a funeral service at the church; however the suggested donations to St. James's are as follows:

- Rector \$150 (non-members only), check made out to St. James's Episcopal Church Rector's Discretionary Fund

Normally, St. James's can provide space for a reception following a funeral, but at the moment, we are in the process of constructing a new parish hall, so the use of the Parish Hall or Garden or a catered reception is not possible.

### **Flowers**

Arrangements for flowers for the altar are also made and paid for by the family.

### **Sexton**

Our sexton, Hong Chin, assists with funerals. His fee is \$150, made out to him.

### **Music**

The regular organist, Pat Michaels, will assist with music if he is available at the desired time; a \$250 fee will be charged, check made out to him. The service of other organists or other musicians may be used only with permission of the regular organist. In such cases, the regular organist will receive the normal funeral fee. The regular organist's fee is payable before the service and includes:

- Consultation with the Rector to select the music requested by the family
- A short program of organ music preceding the service and a recessional

When additional services of a soloist or other musicians are required, then the fee is \$300 and will include the above items plus accompaniment and rehearsal. The fees quoted are the minimum and apply to services with modest music.