

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
Hillsborough, NC

**Instruction for Burial**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*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 un-Christian. 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.*

**The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 507**

*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.*

**BCP, p. 490**

**Circumstances permitting:**

I wish my burial Service to take place at \_\_\_\_\_ Church

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**BCP, p. 490**

I prefer for my body to receive full burial \_\_\_\_\_ or to be cremated \_\_\_\_\_

(If the preference is cremation, either before \_\_\_\_\_ or after \_\_\_\_\_ the funeral)

Location of cemetery lot deed, crypt deed, columbarium contract (or other directions for the disposal of ashes) \_\_\_\_\_

I have made arrangements to have certain parts or all of my body donated to \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home or Cremation Service to use: \_\_\_\_\_

Coffin specifications: Least expensive \_\_\_\_\_ Mid-range \_\_\_\_\_ Elaborate \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Pall Bearers: \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

**BCP, p. 490**

St. Matthew's only permits the use of a pall within the church building.

The service shall be "The Burial of the Dead" from **The Book of Common Prayer**

Rite I \_\_\_\_\_ or Rite II \_\_\_\_\_

I request the Burial Office only \_\_\_\_\_ or Burial Office and Eucharist \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have the following Psalms, Lessons, and Collects (see the Burial Offices in the Prayer Book for suggestions): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following hymns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following special musical offerings:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Visitation: Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Vigil Prayer Service: Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Reception following the Funeral: Church \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers in St. Matthew's are restricted to the two arrangements at the altar. Instead of sending flowers, many prefer to make a more lasting memorial. St. Matthew's has a general memorial fund, a churchyard fund, and an outreach fund. Other parishes and charities have appropriate funds also.

If you so desire, please indicate where you like to have such contributions made:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other information for my survivors: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions 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.* **BCP, p. 445**

This guide was prepared to encourage thoughtful estate planning and funeral preparation. St. Matthew's invites your consideration of the church and churchyard in your will.

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