**Preparing for the loss of a loved one**

Whether because of a lingering illness or a sudden catastrophic event, or old age**,** death touches us all at some point. We can each make things easier on those we leave behind by making our wishes for end of life matters clear in advance, and in writing. And we can encourage those we care for to also make decisions that best fit their beliefs and desires.

This Q and A is designed to help:

**Q: When may I call for the priest?**

A: Any time pastoral care is desired.

 It may be just for the comfort of a prayer and blessing or it may be to request

 Last Rites because the end seems near.

**Q: Whom do I call first when someone dies?** The priest? 911? ??

**Q: Should I make sure the body is blessed before it is removed from the home?**

**Q. Do I need to make arrangements with a funeral home or mortuary before a death occurs?**

**Q. What are the options for mortuary services?**

**Q. Visitation before the burial/cremation? Yes or No?**

**Q. Does the individual qualify for veteran’s access to certain services** eg. Punchbowl Cemetery?

**Q. If burial, what are the options for cemetery plots?**

**Q. If cremation, what are the options for inurnment? List of columbariums?**

**Q. What are the church-related costs of a funeral/memorial service?**

**Q. Will a priest preside over a formal scattering of ashes and are there designated spots where this can take place? Or is this a private family responsibility?**

**Q. Will a priest join family services at home in accordance with cultural customs?** (eg 7 Day nightly vigil, 30th Day family prayers/refreshments after the death)

**Q. Documents that will be needed for the recording of the death and funeral service.**

-Birth certificate, marriage certificate, military papers, photograph, etc

-Talk to your loved one about preparing a will, if one has not been made.

**Q. What are the reporting requirements associated with a death?**

**Q. Memorial gifts**

Direct memorial gifts in lieu of/in addition to flowers to :

 St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church

 Other institutions/nonprofits

**Q; Funeral or memorial service**

Should one plan it in advance? Choose scripture readings? Hymns?

**Q. In this age of COVID19, what can one expect in terms of a “funeral” or “memorial” service?**