

## Preparing for a Funeral

### Meeting with the Family

- Meet with the family as soon as convenient for them.
- Confirm visitation times, date of funeral (and date of committal, if separate), times of services, and confirm that the church is available, if required.
- Ask for the name of the Funeral home and contact name and call them to confirm the date, time and location. Do this even if you think you know already!
- Have the liturgy, hymnal, and Bible or copies of the lessons ready.
- If possible, have a service template available to write down notes.
- Ask for a brief biography of the deceased and names of immediate family members
- Help them to choose the lessons, and readers.
- Discuss if there will be a eulogy; it's not an Anglican tradition. Eulogies are best if short and to the point. I like to call them family memories. Encourage them to write what they want to say in advance Offer to read the eulogy that they prepare, or to include aspects of the life of the deceased if that makes it easier for them.
- If the family asks for something for which you do not have an answer, tell them you do not know and you will call them back with more information.
- Get phone numbers and e-mails, so that you can clarify ongoing arrangements and questions. Make sure they have your contact information, also.
- Pray with them before and after the meeting, and ask how the church might help.

### Things to Remember

- The funeral home normally prepares the service outline and prints it.
- When the family makes arrangements with the funeral home first it is often difficult to make subsequent changes. Take a pastoral approach in this situation.
- Funerals are more than a celebration of a life lived; funerals are times to remember God's promise of salvation and eternal life. Your reflection should speak to that hope.