

# AN ACT OF LOVE

*A guide to help communicate final wishes*



**Front Street United Methodist Church**

**P. O. Box 2597**

**136 South Fisher Street**

**Burlington, NC 27216**

**336-227-6263**

**[www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org)**

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## **Introduction**

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Have you ever been to a funeral or memorial service and noted as you left that it was a worshipful and memorable service? What made that experience meaningful to you? Was it the meditation, prayers, hymns, special music or witness that touched your heart?

Because it can be difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, pre-planning your funeral or memorial service is a gift you can give your loved-ones, family and friends. An Act of Love contains a guide to inform your loved ones of your final wishes respecting music, scriptures, readings, etc., to be included in your service.

The rest of this booklet is meant to provide the opportunity to communicate essential life information to those who will need it after your passing.

***This booklet will not answer all of your questions, but will give you a good place to start. The completed booklet should be given to whoever will be in charge of your final arrangements.***

### **Notification**

- At the time of death, please notify one of our clergy or the church's office administrative assistant at 336-227-6263.
- Notify the funeral home that you have chosen.
- The funeral home and the clergy will work together with the family on the schedule and location of the service.

### **Type of Religious Service**

What type of religious service do you wish to have?

- Memorial service without the casket or cremains present;
- Funeral service with the casket or cremains present
- Committal service at the burial site

Caskets are closed during the service, and will be covered with a pall.

The service is planned by the church's pastor in consultation with the family. It is hoped that the service will give comfort and strength to the mourners, honor the memory of the deceased, and bears witness to the hope of the Christian faith.

### **Visitations and Wakes**

The schedule and location are determined by the family, in conjunction with the funeral home, clergy and church office.

## General Information

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Residence phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (County) (Country)

Marital status: Married \_\_\_\_\_ Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)  
Single  Widowed  Divorced

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of business/Industry: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Education: (highest grade completed): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of college/university: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of surviving children and locations:

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Healthcare Power of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Phone)

Pre-Paid Funeral Expenses: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Phone)

Medical Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Phone)

## Notification of Death

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Father's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate / Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Living? Yes  No

Mother's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate / Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Living? Yes  No

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I am an organ donor: Yes  No

I have chosen to donate my body tissue or organs for research: Yes  No

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a Living Will (Advanced Directive): Yes  No  Where kept? \_\_\_\_\_

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Person to notify in case of illness or death:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)

Contact Person who will complete arrangements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)

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Location of house keys and car keys: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of current address book: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of wallet/purse: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address and password: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of passwords for computers, special accounts, online accounts, voice mail, etc.:

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

## Social Security Information

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My Soc. Security # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Soc. Security # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

OR the location/person where the information may be found:

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Address & Phone # of the nearest Social Security Office: \_\_\_\_\_

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FYI: As of 2017 the Social Security website (ssa.gov) lists the closest office for Burlington as:

Address: 6005 LANDMARK CTR BLVD  
GREENSBORO, NC 27407

Phone: 1-877-319-3075

*The following information may be helpful, but should not be considered authoritative.  
For official information, please contact the Social Security Administration.*

A lump sum payment may be made when an eligible person dies. This payment can only be made if there is an eligible widow, widower, or entitled child. Also, survivor's checks may go to certain members of a worker's family.

To facilitate receiving Social Security benefits, you will need the following when you contact the Social Security Office:

- Social Security Number
- Marriage license
- Children's birth certificate(s)
- W-2 for the previous 2 years
- Proof of widow(er)'s age, if 62 or older
- Certified copy of death certificate

An application for the lump sum death payments usually must be made within two (2) years after the worker's death. Don't delay applying because you don't have all of the proof of information. The people at the Social Security Office will tell you about other proof of information that can be used when you apply.

It is good to check your record every three (3) years and make sure your earnings are being reported correctly.

**Social Security Administration**

**800-772-1213**

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

## Government or Foreign Service

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Branch or Government or Foreign Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered service: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement/discharge from service: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of separation/discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Location(s) of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information (Medals, Honors, Citations, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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## Armed Forces / Veterans

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Branch of service: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered service: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of separation/discharge from service: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of separation/discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of military discharge papers (DD214): \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Grade, Rank, or Rating received: \_\_\_\_\_

Wars/Conflicts served: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information (Medals, Honors, Citations, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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## **VETERAN'S BURIAL ALLOWANCE**

*The following information may be helpful, but should not be considered authoritative.  
For official information, please contact the Veteran's Administration.*

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs furnishes a partial reimbursement of an eligible veteran's funeral and burial costs. When the cause of death is service-related, the reimbursement is generally described as two (2) payments: (1.) Burial and funeral allowance, and (2.) a plot interment allowance. You may be entitled to a VA burial allowance if:

- You paid for a veteran's funeral or burial, AND
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer, AND
- The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- The veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- The veteran was getting VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- The veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation but decided not to reduce their military retirement or disability pay, OR
- The veteran died in a VA hospital, or in a nursing home under VA contract.

**Service-related death:** If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under contracted nursing care, the cost of moving the deceased may also be reimbursed.

**Non service-related death:** The VA will pay an allowance toward burial expenses.

## **HEADSTONES AND MARKERS**

- The VA furnishes, upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world.
- Flat bronze, granite or marble markers, and upright granite or marble headstone are available.
- The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. The cemetery must certify that the type chosen is permitted on the grave of the deceased.
- Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremains.

## **BURIAL FLAGS**

Most veterans are eligible for a burial flag. Reservists entitled to retired pay are also eligible to receive a burial flag.

To facilitate receiving veteran's benefits for which you may be eligible, you will need the following when you contact the Veterans Administration Office:

- Proof of military service (DD214)
- Service serial #
- Marriage license (if applicable)
- Children's birth certificate(s) (if applicable)
- Certified copy of death certificate

**Veteran's Administration**

**800-827-1000**

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

## Anatomical Gift to Science

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You or your loved one may have chosen to donate your body, tissue, or organs for anatomical research. There are a wide variety of universities, medical schools, and research facilities that will receive this gift with dignity and gratitude for the future legacy of hope. Accredited organizations can be found through the *American Association of Tissue Banks*, [www.aatb.org](http://www.aatb.org), which sets the ethical guidelines for the recovery of body cells and tissue in a way that respects the donor's and family's wishes.

In preparation for the donation, one needs to contact the agency or institution and register. They may send a card to verify the registration. Each recipient institution has its own protocol. For example, some will pay for transportation of the body and others may charge a transportation fee. Next of kin needs to be informed of wishes and the institution name and contact information. The institution will file all necessary authorizations and documentation.

Following the completion of the study of the donated body, normally the institution will have the body cremated and returned to the family for interment. In some cases this may take up to a year; in other cases it may be only three to four weeks.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Please note that information in this booklet regarding Social Security benefits, Veteran's benefits and Anatomical Gifts are correct, to the best of our knowledge, as of the revision date on the cover.**

**However, using the contact information provided in each section will ensure that you receive benefit of any updated information from each agency.**





## Location of Important Documents

The following documents may be necessary for establishing rights to insurance, pensions, Social Security, ownership, etc.

	(H) Home	(SD) Safe Deposit Box	(O) Office	(A) Attorney
	Location and Number of Safe Deposit Box & key location			
	Attorney's name and contact info			
	Marriage License			
	Divorce Decree			
	Passport or Citizenship Papers			
	Registration & Title (automobiles, boats, etc.)			
	Deeds for Property			
	Tax Return copies			
	Birth Certificate			
	Survivor's Pension Information			
	Life Insurance Policies			
	Stock/Bond Certificates			
	Armed Forces Discharge Paperwork			
	Burial Plot or Columbarium Niche			
	Planned Funeral Contract & Proof of Payment			
	Adoption Paperwork			
	Other			



## My Funeral Service Plans

Name of Funeral Home handling arrangements.	
Funeral to be held at Funeral Home or Church?	
Burial/Interment location	
Preferred Scripture(s)	
Preferred Congregational Hymn(s)	
Any Special Music	
Specific person(s) to speak at eulogy	
Special Reading (poem, etc.)	
I would like for memorials to be made to the church, or to the following organization(s). Please share addresses and contact info.	
If memorials are made to the church, I prefer they benefit the following ministry/fund area. (If not specified, they benefit the Endowment Fund. For information on ministry/fund areas, please contact the church Finance Manager.)	
Special Details or Instructions:	

**HYMNS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNERALS**  
**THE UNITED METHODIST HYMNAL**

57	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	378	Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
64	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty	381	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
77	How Great Thou Art	383	This Is a Day of New Beginnings
89	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	384	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Tunes: BEECHER or HYFRYDOL)
102	Now Thank We All Our God	159	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
103	Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise	474	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
110	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	504	The Old Rugged Cross
139	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	528	Nearer, My God, To Thee
140	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	557	Blest Be the Tie That Binds
143	On Eagle's Wings	577	God of Grace and God of Glory
144	This Is My Father's World	606	Come, Let Use the Grace Divine
154	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	663	Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word
158	Come, Christians, Join to Sing	664	Sent Forth by God's Blessing
159	Lift High the Cross	700	Abide with Me
173	Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies	701	When We All Get to Heaven
303	The Day of Resurrection	702	Sing With All the Saints of Glory
304	Easter People, Raise Your Voices	707	Hymn of Promise
314	In the Garden	708	Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above
327	Crown Him with Many Crowns	710	Faith of Our Fathers
361	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	711	For All the Saints
364	Because He Lives	715	Rejoice, the Lord Is King
367	He Touched Me	729	O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines
368	My Hope Is Built	733	Marching to Zion
369	Blessed Assurance		
377	It Is Well with My Soul		

## SCRIPTURES RECOMMENDED FOR FUNERALS

### Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 14:5-14, 19-31  
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7, 13, 15, 18-19, 25, 44:6, 8a  
Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-30  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Isaiah 40:1-8  
Isaiah 40:28-31  
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13  
Psalm 23  
Psalm 121  
Psalm 130

### New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-2a, 12, 16-18, 20, 35-58a, 42b-44, 54-55, 57  
2 Corinthians 4:5-18  
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18  
Colossians 3:1-17  
Romans 8:35-39  
Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:1-10  
Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17  
Revelation 21:1-7  
Hebrews 13:5b-6  
1 Peter 1:3-9, 13, 21-25

### Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-35  
John 11:1-4, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44  
John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27  
John 14:1-6  
John 14:1-7

### Act of Praise

Psalm 23