

**"...from dying suddenly and unprepared,
Good Lord, deliver us"**

(The Great Litany, BCP)

We hope this isn't a spoiler for any one: But, we are all going to die.

If the church doesn't have anything to say about the preparation for death and dying, we should just close the shop. Helping individuals and families face the end of life is one of the most profound and sacred responsibilities of the Christian community. Many of us have witnessed with our own families and friends how lack of preparation for the end of life causes undue suffering. Advanced planning on end of life issues can save untold anguish, pain, money, and stress on ourselves and our families. As part of a comprehensive spiritual care, people need practical help navigating complex end of life issues, such as medical directives, elder law, Medicare, long term care options, funeral purchasing, liturgical choices, and estate planning.



Wal-Mart, Amazon, and Home Depot can't do this for you. This is our job. We are the Church.

It can be difficult to start conversations about preparing for the end of life. As a function of our ministry to the community, St. Thomas' will host a **Final Affairs Fair** on **Saturday, September 6, 2014**, from 10am – 2pm. Think of it like a Home Fair, or a Wedding Fair, but with a little more significance. Present will be a broad range of resource professionals including those representing:

- Funeral Consumers Alliance
- Memorial Society of Northwest New Jersey
- Estate Planning and Directed Gifting
- Anatomical Gifting and Organ Donation
- Hospice
- Bereavement
- Advanced directives, living wills & durable powers of attorney
- "Green" Burial Options
- Clergy will be present to suggest ways that religious services can be pre-planned to clearly communicate the values of the dead, as well as support the living.

The **Final Affairs Fair** is a simple way to open these discussions and provide important information, assistance and resources to the community. Participants can tour display tables, ask questions of experts, attend presentations, and gather printed materials. **CHECK BACK FOR UPDATES!**



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God – Romans 15:7

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