

Summer's End

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The days are getting shorter and summer has ended. Despite a lingering warmth and humidity, there are colors beginning to turn, and the nights, now longer than they were, are also cooler.

I've sometimes wondered what would happen if the nights got steadily longer, and the days shorter, and they *didn't* stop and reverse the trend at Christmas time.

Of course, that's exactly what happens above the Arctic and Antarctic Circles—the days get shorter and shorter and one day there is no day at all—only night!

Maybe that's a little like what happens when we die. Certainly time goes by faster and faster as we age—just like the days getting shorter and shorter.

God has plans for our souls after we die. But we must make plans for our temporal possessions—our stuff—because we're not going to take it with us!

Wills and trusts and other instruments of estate planning, like Revocable Living Trusts, are important tools in making those plans.

A Revocable Living Trust puts all your assets under the care of a Trustee (or Trustees)—for your benefit during your lifetime. You can even be the Trustee! Then the Trust names how certain properties are to be managed for the benefit of others after you die—beneficiaries who might be family or friends or charitable causes (like your church).

The Episcopal Church Foundation has trained staff available to help you work up such plans—and access to high-quality legal and financial professionals to make sure you take the steps that are right for you.

For more information about making a bequest or planned gift to your church, contact a planned giving committee member or the Episcopal Church Foundation at 800-697-2858 or www.EpiscopalFoundation.org for confidential advice. And while you feel the days getting shorter and the air a little chillier this year, consider how the plans you make will leave the world a far better place because you had been in it!