

done all the things we know we must, and we try to the best of our abilities to do what we can for others. But once that mercury starts climbing, all bets are off. It's even easy to skip church on Sunday from time to time.

Unfortunately, this isn't always a good idea. Nobody wants to think about planning for the end of life, especially not at this time of year. But it is a responsibility we should not put off. In fact, the *Book of Common Prayer* tells us that it is our Christian responsibility to ensure that we have made provisions for our families and loved ones and arranged for the disposal of our temporal goods. We should also try to be mindful of the religious and charitable organizations that might benefit from a bequest or planned gift in our wills.

You can obtain a copy of the free booklet, *Planning for the End of Life*, by completing the form below.

Return it to your church office or contact a planned giving committee member, or the Episcopal Church Foundation at 800-697-2828 or www.EpiscopalFoundation.org.

Please send the free booklet *Planning for the End of Life*

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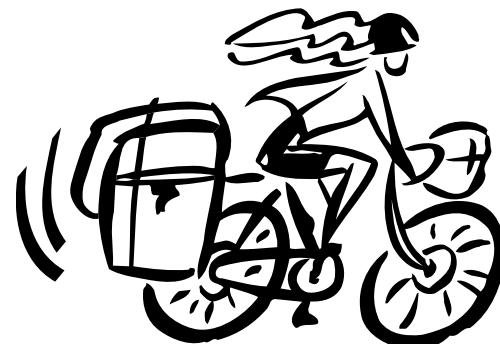
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It's Summer



Even after all these years since we've been school children looking forward to summer vacation at the end of every school year, there's still something magical about summertime. Something that sets our pulses to racing with anticipation, that conjures the sweet smell of childhood sweat, that recalls the long days when a season seemed to last so much longer than the blink of an eye. So maybe we don't spend so much time riding our bikes, skipping rope, and catching fireflies these days. And perhaps it has been awhile since we've cannonballed off the high dive. But with any luck, we hopefully have a little extra time during these months to spend with our families, enjoy gardening, soak up the sun, maybe even travel. But we can all partake of the summer bounty—corn on the cob, watermelon, ice cream—that can elicit memories of school day summers with just one taste.

Sometimes it's easy to put off serious matters and responsibilities during the summer. Who among us has not said that it would be easier to wait until September to tackle a project or a chore? It's as though we're programmed to put off such matters until autumn, a season for buckling down. Because let's face it, we've worked hard all year, we've dutifully