

Why Pre-plan?

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Q&A Instructions

At any time in the presentation submit your questions via the Q&A tab on your Zoom menu.



Prayer

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this afternoon our brothers and sisters who have died. We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends, to know and to love as companions on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

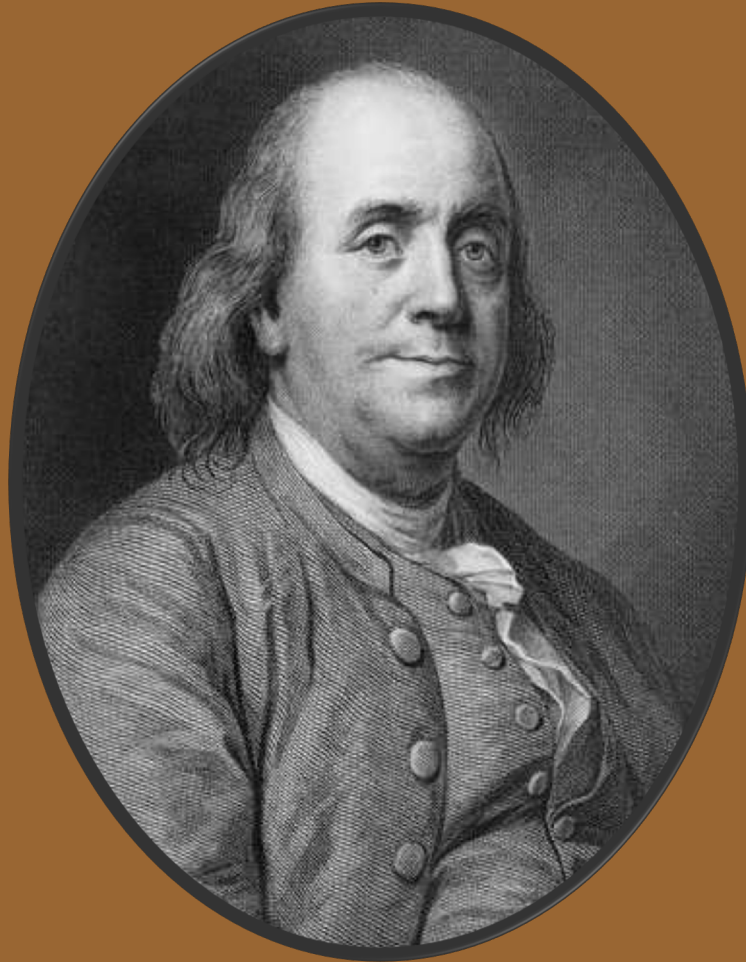


LAST THINGS:

Preparing for Death & Burial

The Episcopal Church in Colorado
Wednesday, January 22, 2020

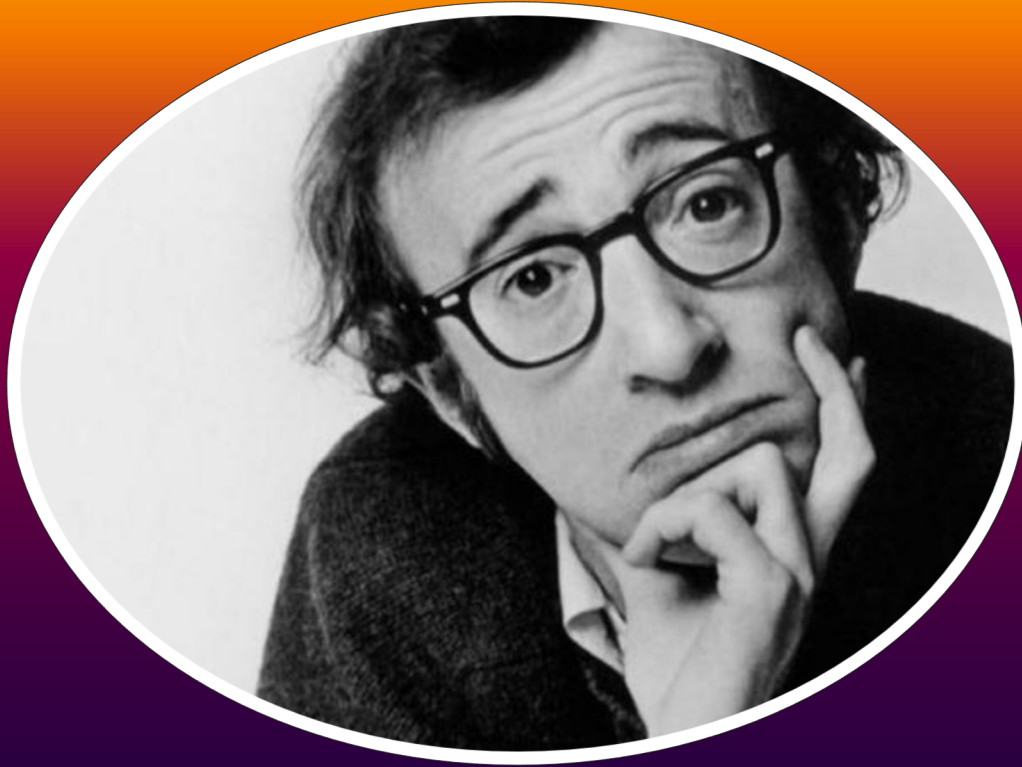
WHY PRE-PLAN?



**“ . . . but in this world nothing
can be said to be certain, except...”**

“...death and taxes.”

(Benjamin Franklin, 1789)



"I am not afraid of death.
I just don't want to be there
when it happens."
(Woody Allen)

Despite its inevitability/certainty –
whether we consider our own death,
or the deaths
of our loved ones and friends –
the time of death
is nearly *always* experienced
as time of
CRISIS.

**The *intensity* of the crisis
at the time of death
is influenced by many factors, including:**

- how close we were to the person.
- how dependent we were upon the person.
- the circumstances of death.
- the amount of unfinished business that remains in our relationship with the person.

But a critical variable
in the intensity of
the crisis of death is how
prepared
we are to face death.

**We live in a society that is
fascinated by death.**



The National Enquirer (1-24-13)

**"Chandra Levy Murder
Secret Hearings!"
(She died in 2001.)**



The New York Post (2-2-14) "OD eyed in
Philip Seymour Hoffman death"



We live in a society that is also “death-denying.”

- We're infatuated with youth.
- We rage at the “unfairness” of our mortality.
- We tend to avoid speaking about death, or speak in euphemisms.
- Our funeral practices often shield us from seeing and hearing and dealing directly with the reality of death.

Stay young.



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“Join me in the battle
against ageing!”

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- Dark spots
- Dry skin
- Dull glow-less skin
- Lines & wrinkles
- Sagging skin
- Open pores
- Uneven skin tone

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Stay young.



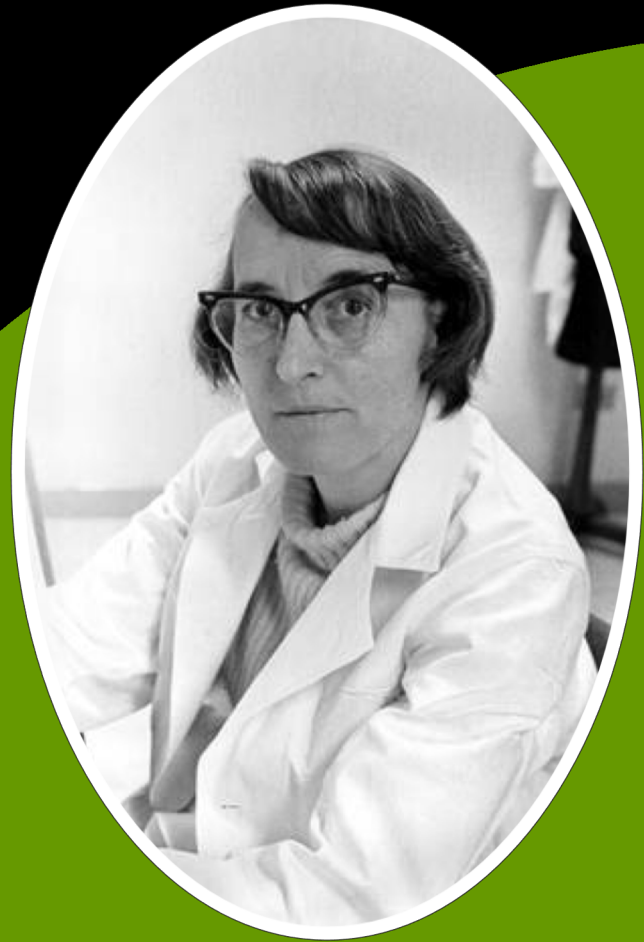
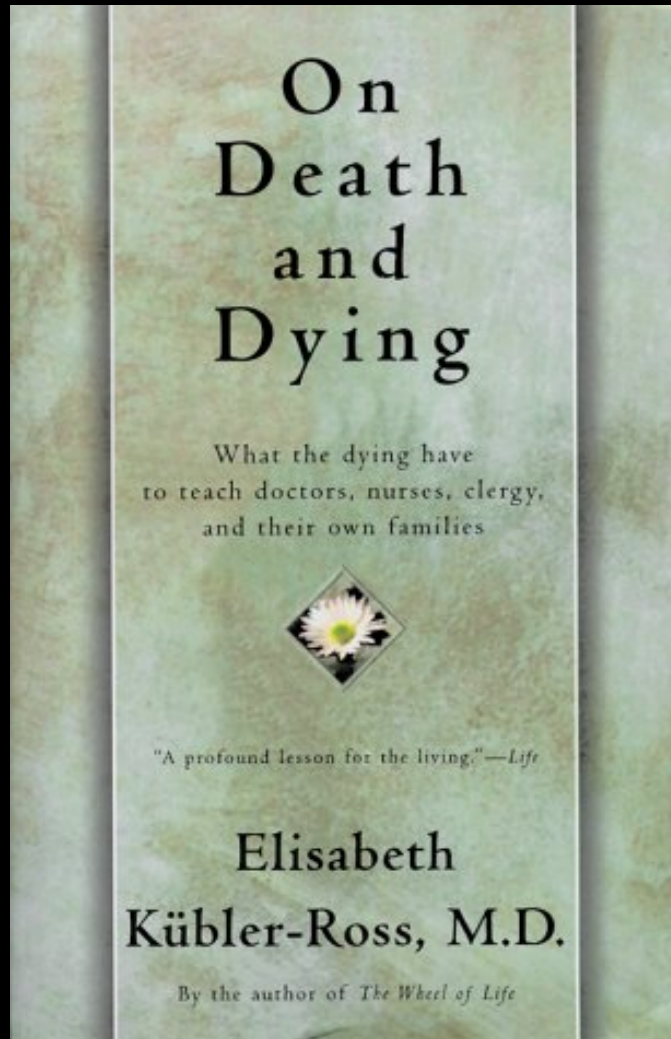
 **Bethanie**
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Where you go to live.



**KEEP
CALM
AND STAY
FOREVER
YOUNG**





**Dr. Elisabeth
Kübler-Ross**

1969

In our culture,
many people have
little hands-on experience
in dealing with
the phenomenon of death.

As a result...

**... basic understandings and skills
are being lost.**

- People are dying later and later in life,
- away from their homes,
- and geographically far way from loved ones.

**We're losing the privilege
and the art
of caring for the dying.**



And so, for *all* these reasons
(and more), and in spite of
its inevitability,
we tend to come to death –
not only suffering
from natural grief – but also
unprepared.

The crisis, then, deepens
and becomes even more painful
as we are forced to do
what we don't want to do,
and to make decisions
for which we have not planned.
The spiritual, emotional, and financial
repercussions can be immense.

Therefore, the time to think about death,
to talk frankly with one another about it,
and to plan for it is...

NOW

... while everyone is “happy and healthy” –
instead of waiting for the moment of crisis.




*“As death appears to be inevitable,
perhaps we should consider it now.”*

(His Holiness the Dalai Lama)

PREMISES

- 1 Grieving is natural and healing.
- 2 The Church seeks to support mourners.
- 3 Planning for death prepares us to face our own death, and eases the crisis for our survivors.
- 4 The rites/practices of death/burial should be *both* a comfort to survivors *and* a reflection of our understanding of death in the light of the Gospel.
- 5 We bear primary responsibility for ourselves in life and in death. Yet it's essential that we discuss our "last things" with our loved ones.





To Do:

Plan for *my* death and burial
NOW!



Other Related Topics...

- **Grief (including children)**
- **A Christian Perspective on Death & Resurrection**
- **Burial Practices**
- **Burial Liturgies**
- **Stewardship in Death (assets, body & organ donation, living wills, etc.)**

...for another time!

Q & A



Additional Resources

Visit the Legacy and Planned Giving page on the Episcopal Church in Colorado website:

<https://episcopalcolorado.org/congregational-resources/development-stewardship/legacy-and-planned-giving/>



Additional Webinars in this Series

- January 29 – Planning throughout the Year (noon to 12:45 pm)
- February 5 – Doing Planned Giving Well (noon to 12:45 pm)
- Register at
<https://episcopalcolorado.org/congregational-resources/development-stewardship/legacy-and-planned-giving/>



This completes our webinar.

Thanks for Joining!

