

For Immediate Release

Edmonton AB

Green Burials – a path to a healthier view of death?

Green Burials, a seminar to investigate this recent trend in burial practices, will take place Sunday, Nov 3, from 2 to 4PM, at St. Stephen the Martyr/St. Faith Church, 11725 93 Street, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

For a burial to be considered “green,” it must consist of no embalming, a cloth shroud or simple coffin and no grave liner. Once buried the body is left to decompose and return to the earth, which Christians believe to be a full realization of the ancient burial rite: “Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

With a green burial, families may assume many of the responsibilities which in recent times were relegated to funeral homes: even the preparation of the body at home. Our presenters will explore some of the practical challenges families are likely to face, as well as spiritual considerations:

- **Marc Turgeon**, Director of Cemeteries, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, will speak from the perspective of a cemetery already conducting green burials;
- **Gina Vliet**, founder of *Charon Consulting* – which aspires to foster a positive death culture, to bring death out of the closet so to speak – will address such practical issues as the handling and transporting of a body that has not been embalmed;
- **The Rev. Heather Liddell**, Chaplain at the UofA and **The Rev. Arthur Dyck** of St. Faith’s Parish, will examine spiritual implications from a Christian perspective.

Two Edmonton Anglican cemeteries are currently involved in Green burials. Christ Church Cemetery Poplar Lake, located at 82 Street and 195 Avenue, sold a significant block of grave plots to a family for this purpose two years ago. The Colchester Cemetery, located south of Sherwood Park, conducted their first green burial last December.

This event is sponsored by the Edmonton Branch, The Prayer Book Society of Canada.

For further information contact:

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