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**Memorials and Gifts:**

- In memory of  
James Smith  
by David Monroe

One of the most loving things you can do for your family is to plan ahead and be prepared should you become no longer able to make decisions for yourself. As you gather with loved ones during the holidays, take advantage of opportunities you may have to discuss your end of life preferences. As you consider this, you may realize that it would be helpful for you to know the wishes of other family members. Begin by first sharing your own situation. You may say, "It is important to me that you know what my wishes are in case something happens to me." After sharing your preferences, you may say, "Okay, now let's talk about what you want." Here are a few questions to consider:

- What are their end of life wishes?
- Do they have a will or advanced directive to help ensure that these wishes will be met?
- Is their will and durable medical power of attorney up to date?
- Do they have long-term care insurance? If so, where are the policies?

You may be asked to make certain promises. Think carefully before making promises you may be unable to keep. A good reply might be, "I will make sure you have the very best care possible." These may be some of the most important words your loved one will hear you say.

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." – Albert Schweitzer*

*May each symbol of Christmas cause you to see the world in a whole new light  
by guiding you to Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.*

*We Wish You A Very Merry Christmas And A Wonderful New Year! ASMC Board of Directors:  
Cathy Cole Lampkin, Gregory K. Price, Karen Hill, Katy Norton, Lynda Geddes, Norma McCord Wells  
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