

BACKGROUND ON CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDENS

In England, Europe, and the eastern United States, the churchyard has been a traditional place for the burial of the dead throughout centuries of Christian history. In times past, those who died were laid to rest in the hallowed land around their church. Only recently has Western society set aside separate areas for burial.

Space requirements preclude having burial at St. Paul's except in the case of ashes from cremation. The Memorial Garden has been established to receive ashes, allowing the parish to return to the ancient custom of burying the dead next to the church, where generations of families have and will continue to gather and worship.

The Memorial Garden has been provided on the church site as a sacred place for burial of ashes of parishioners, past and present, and their families. In the tradition of the Episcopal Church, the Communion of Saints includes the whole family of God, the living and the dead, bound together in the Resurrection of Christ. The community at St. Paul's rejoices that the Memorial Garden provides an opportunity for uniting our Communion of Saints on parish property.



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THE MEMORIAL GARDEN



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HISTORY

The current location of the Memorial Garden between the sanctuary and the parish house was established in 1995 when the Atrium was built in the previous Memorial Garden space. In 2005, a committee was formed by the request of the Vestry to develop a plan to accommodate the burial of ashes and the placing of memorial plaques in the new Memorial Garden. The resulting Memorial Garden is intended as a place of tranquility, peace, and natural beauty in the middle of our urban location. It is graced by pleasant plantings, a central fountain, and benches for prayer and meditation.

BURIAL OF ASHES

Cremated remains of members of the parish and their immediate families may be interred in the Memorial Garden. As this is a communal Memorial Garden, ashes will be buried directly in the perimeter planters, mixing with the soil and other interred ashes. Ashes will not be recoverable, nor will they be preserved in any manner.

Brass memorial plaques will be attached to the planters in the Garden. Plaques will be placed in chronological order. Space may be reserved under the plaque of the descendant with a rosette for future immediate family members.

PROCEDURES

Arrangements for the interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden are made through consultation with the clergy. A signed agreement is required as records are kept by the church to document those persons whose ashes have been interred in the Memorial Garden.

The costs associated with the internment of ashes in the Memorial Garden are as follows:

- Ashes interred with brass plaque - \$350
- Place-holding Rosette for future family member - \$75

Reimbursement will be made to St. Paul's. Gifts for memorials, thanksgivings and celebrations are always welcome for the continuing maintenance of the Garden.

The Garden is supervised by the Property Committee.

For more information, please contact
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