



Second Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Information

“Even at the grave we make
our joyful song...”

About the Garden

In 1992, the Session and Trustees of Second Church approved the dedication of a special section of the church grounds to be a memorial garden where people might place the cremated remains of loved ones. Over the years many people in our congregation have found great comfort in knowing that their loved ones remains are in a safe and peaceful setting. The Memorial Garden is also especially suited for meditation, prayer, and moments of personal remembrance. The use of the Garden is not limited to church members.

The design of the Garden and the guidelines for its use reflect the goal that it be kept in perpetuity as a quiet and peaceful sanctuary for all people. The simple elegance of God's Creation is its only decoration. There are no grave markers, holiday decorations, or memorial flowers of any kind at the site; no attention is drawn to any individual burial site. The Memorial Garden is located near our magnificent and soaring bell tower, far enough from the parking lot to provide some privacy and yet close enough to be easily accessible.

Inside the church building, a special memorial plaque is installed where are inscribed the names of persons whose ashes have been placed in the garden together with their dates of birth and death. In addition, near the plaque, there is kept a photograph album, one page of which is available to those who choose to place there a picture or written memento of a deceased loved one. In the Church Register are recorded the names and dates of death of all persons whose ashes are buried in the Garden.

Funeral Arrangements

There is considerable flexibility regarding the timing and manner of the interment service. For example, the interment of cremated remains could occur immediately before or after a funeral service or could occur many weeks later. The service could be held either in the church building or in the Garden.

The church will gladly provide a special urn to contain the ashes during the service. Near the end of the service, the people attending move to the actual site within the garden. The pastor or a family member may carry the ashes to the garden and, at the appropriate time, pour the ashes into a hole previously prepared for this purpose by the church Property Manager.

In keeping with the universal and communal spirit of the Garden, no urns, containers, or other permanent objects are buried and no record of the exact burial site is kept.

Responsibility for continued oversight and maintenance of the garden rests with the Grounds Committee of the Session.

Contributions

Contributions toward the cost of maintaining the beauty and serenity of the garden are much needed and very welcome. For members of the Second Family and their relatives, there is no set fee for the use of the Garden to inter cremains, for the engraving of the memorial plaque, or perpetual care. People are encouraged to give to the Memorial Garden Perpetual Care Fund as they are able, using the cost of similar cemetery plots as a guide. The requested donation for people who are not members of the congregation is \$500. All such gifts are designated for the Garden and used for its perpetual upkeep and enhancement.

Families may also choose to make a gift for a specific project within the Memorial Garden (e.g. new plantings, installation of footlights, paving stones) when such projects have previously been approved by the Grounds Committee. Please contact a Pastor to determine if there are current opportunities for designated gifts.

The Grounds Committee has developed the Garden in accordance with a carefully designed master plan. Families are not permitted to install any plantings, etc., without prior approval from the Grounds Committee.

Honoraria

If the interment of cremains is in conjunction with a service in our sanctuary or a local funeral home no separate honoraria for the Property Manager or pastor(s) is suggested.

If the interment is not in conjunction with a service in our sanctuary or a local funeral home a \$25 honorarium is suggested for the Property Manager and a \$75 honorarium is requested for each pastor involved in the interment service.

second
presbyterian church

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