

UUC Memorial Committee Annual Report 2014

Purpose of the UUC Memorial Committee is to maintain, enhance and regulate the use of a memorial garden space for the UUC to be used as a long-term repository for cremains and as a peaceful area for meditation and remembrance. The Committee keeps a Registry of persons memorialized in the Garden and provides a Book of Treasures in which are recorded the origins of gift items that are visible on the premises. For more information, see our Web page: <<http://uucnr.org/memorial-garden.htm>>.

Board Appointed Members: Bobbie Littlefield, (Chair & Registry); Dick Bauman, (Congregation Liaison); Arthur Snoke, (Treasurer & Web); Susan Baker, (Grounds Caretaker); Tim Pickering, (Installation/ Scattering Caretaker). Committee Supporters: Isabel Berney, (Book of Treasures); Bill Clarkson (Grounds Support), Dick Luke (New Structures Oversight); Nickola Dudley (Gardening).

Goals

- Better communicate the Garden's purpose and availability to new & old members. Example: The outside facilities could be added to the monthly building tour, with a grounds map handout, (card size), indicating dedicated areas - useful when time is short or weather is problematic.
- To insure the integrity of the MG as an area for meditation and remembrance, provide gentle signage at the Garden, given not everyone has read the policy manuals or emails.
- Continue to build the Garden's financial "nest" for funding the next columbarium(s). Get construction estimates. Begin work of at least one structure as early as possible.
- Continue to maintain and enhance the memorial garden plantings - request a line item in the UUC budget to fund plantings/items normally unavailable within the grounds budget.
- Collaborate with the minister to establish an annual Remembrance Sunday (or month) in which end- of- life planning guides with estate regulatory requirements, hospice services, Funeral Consumers Alliance materials, and Memorial Garden information is displayed.

Achievements/ Activities

1. Garden area looks lovely thanks to Susan Baker, George Lally, Bill Clarkson & Nickola Dudley
2. A regular timetable for mulching, fertilizing; and for Spring plantings of annuals is established, utilizing Virginia Tech students' "Big Event" workers in March
3. Website was updated with new policy enabling time purchase of columbarium niches
4. Two niches filled (total 7); 2 sold (total 8 reserved); 1 niche available

Lessons Learned

Our last two columbarium may not be as expensive to install as the first one.

Report Submitted by Bobbie Littlefield on May 21, 2014.