

UUC Memorial Committee

Annual Report June 2015

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://uucnrv.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); Dick Luke (New Structures Oversight); Nickola Dudley (Gardening).

Goals

- Better communicate the Garden's purpose and availability to new & old members.
- Complete the recovery of the sand and paver area that was disturbed by The Garden additions.
- 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. Two new columbarium have been constructed, with Dick Luke providing oversight. Before installing the new niches finishing touches are in process to ensure the structure is properly sealed.
2. A sign has been installed to inform/remind visitors of The M. Garden's intent. A tour of the grounds has been added to the monthly Sunday tour, as proposed last year.
3. Because the cost of the two columbarium was contained, there should be, henceforth, sufficient funds for plantings and maintenance expenses resulting from purchases of pavers, and niches, and rights to scatter ashes.
4. "Big Event" workers/students from VA Tech were enlisted for the Garden & other grounds projects in March. Grounds tools have been accumulated to enable the work.
5. Garden enhancements have been added with the oversight of Susan Baker.
6. Columbarium I has all but one niche reserved or in use. Columbarium II has two niches reserved. Each columbarium holds 15 niches.

Report Submitted by Bobbie Littlefield on June 5, 2015.