

UUC Memorial Committee

Annual Report June 2016

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 Supporter: Isabel Berney, (Book of Treasures)

Goals

- Maintain the Registry & files that identify purchases and use of columbarium spaces.
- Continue to communicate the Garden's purpose and availability to new & old members. Make Memorial Garden pamphlets and policies available as opportunities are identified.
- Ongoing Garden Maintenance: The fencing structure and the sand in the paver area will need tending to on a regular basis.
- Collaborate with the minister about appropriate intervals to focus on preparedness for end-of-life matters. Consider future workshop(s) to include such topics as estate regulatory requirements, hospice services, Funeral Consumers Alliance materials, managing life's end; especially, to avoid hardships often encountered in this society.

Achievements/ Activities

1. Because Dick Luke was able to contain the construction costs of Columbarium II and III, we expect we'll have sufficient funds for plantings and maintenance costs-derived from purchases of pavers, niches, and rights to scatter ashes.
2. Landscape timbers and a brick border were installed to reduce erosion and better direct water flow coming down from the berm that surrounds the garden.
3. "Big Event" students from VA Tech were again enlisted for the Garden & other grounds projects in March.
4. Columbarium I has all but one niche reserved or in use. Columbarium II has two niches reserved. Since each columbarium holds 16 niches, 31 niches are available.
5. Isabel continues to update the Book of Treasures as special gifts are received.
6. Sponsored an April End of Life Service & Workshop, with about 40 participants.
7. Updated our *Policies & Procedures* on June 1 so that the committee will meet at least semi-annually rather than at least four times a year.

Report Submitted by Bobbie Littlefield on May 22, 2015, updated June 2, 2016