

UUC Memorial Committee

Annual Report June 2017

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 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 one remaining fencing structure and the sand in the paver area; also weeds in the central circle will need tending to on a regular basis.
- Collaborate with the new minister, Pam Philips 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, and Funeral Consumers Alliance preparation materials.

Achievements/ Activities

1. Virginia Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute, has been sponsoring a class each semester for the public on managing our end of life scenarios. Isabel presented one class: "Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Document our end-of-Life Choices & Make Things Easier for Your Survivors". Another UUC past member, Elaine Myers, presented a well planned end of life scenario by recounting her mother's story.
2. For our Sunday Circle discussion program Julia Lewis presented a publication review on end of life; another time, Elaine Myers presented her mother's story about intentional termination of food intake.
3. We engaged a Final Exit speaker who spoke at our Sunday morning discussion session; then was our Sunday Service speaker. On another Sunday, Tina Smuz M.D. and Ann Campbell, RN, spoke about hospice care & commented on an in-house hospice care facility, "Sojourn Center" they hope to make available to us in 2020.
4. Va Tech's "Big Event" student volunteers worked in our M/ Garden & grounds in March.
5. 31 niches continue to be available for purchase. Pavers are still available.
6. Isabel continues to update the Book of Treasures as special gifts are received.

Budget and Amount Used:

Available Funds: \$ 2840.81. (We used only about \$170 this year). Garden plantings, mulching, weed control - is normally \$300/yr. paid from our M.Garden account while mowing is paid with Grounds Committee funds. Sale of niches, pavers, and scattering fees will likely continue to cover future needs of The Memorial Garden.

Report Submitted by Bobbie Littlefield on May 26, 2017.