

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden Policy

## REMAINS

- It is the policy of St. Mark's Episcopal Church to inter cremains (ashes) directly into the earth (earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust).
- Only cremated human remains may be buried in the Garden.

## WHO MAY BE BURIED IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

- The cremated remains shall be those of Church members, the immediate families of Church members, former Church members, and others designated by the Rector as may be pastorally appropriate.

## SERVICE OF COMMITMENT

- The burial service will be presided over by clergy of this church unless specific permission for other clergy is obtained from the Rector and will use the Rite of Burial from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.
- During the service of committal, the officiant pours the ashes directly into the ground or places the ashes that are in a biodegradable container into the ground and then covers them with earth. Urns or other vessels will not be buried in the Memorial Garden.
- Although St. Mark's Episcopal Church cannot guarantee that the cremains of loved ones will be buried directly next to each other, every effort is made to accommodate such wishes when possible.
- To arrange a burial service email [office@stmarksrva.org](mailto:office@stmarksrva.org) or call the rector.

## MEMORIALS

- Memorial bricks with the name and years of birth and death may be placed in the walk in the garden.
- No other markers or plaques will be authorized.
- To offset the direct costs associated with an interment and to provide a fund for present and future maintenance of the garden, a fee in an amount set by the Vestry is suggested for each interment. Checks should be made payable to St. Mark's Episcopal Church.
- Except for the memorial brick provided by the Church, no permanent individual plantings or floral arrangements will be permitted except by special permission in writing. In lieu thereof, floral memorials for the Church or Chapel may be arranged with the parish office.

## PROPERTY RIGHT(S)

- No property right of any kind in the Memorial Garden is or may be acquired by or through this or any other agreement.

Vestry Approval Date: 9/17/18

Senior Warden: Margaret Jones