



The Memorial Garden at Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Episcopal Church, Villas, New Jersey

Why a Memorial Garden?

The Church has had an historic concern for the care of the remains of her dead, as attested by the churchyards surrounding older churches. These are becoming less practical due to the land use problem. Costs for cemetery plots, perpetual care fees, opening and closing fees, and grave markers all are escalating and involve considerable outlays.

The reduction of the body to the ashes from which it came is an appropriate and alternative natural process. It is in full accord with the traditions of the Christian faith.

Our Christian tradition emphasizes that there is no dualism between the flesh and the spirit. When a person dies, he or she dies totally to be raised, according to Christian theology, in a new act of re-creation of the resurrection on the last day. God will recreate us out of the ashes to which we are returned.

Purpose

The Memorial Garden of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay, Villas, New Jersey, was created to provide a beautiful and sacred area on church grounds to inter the ashes of the deceased.

The Garden is part of the ministry and property of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Church and is under the care of the Vicar, Wardens, and Vestry. Ongoing care is delegated to the Memorial Garden Committee, nominated and approved by the Vestry.

The Memorial Garden is a place to visit, meditate, and give thanks for the happy memories of special lives that have been shared. The quiet beauty of the Memorial Garden speaks of life – life everlasting.

Guidelines

A suggested donation of \$100 is requested to provide for the maintenance and ongoing care of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Memorial Garden. The Vicar may reduce or waive donations at his/her discretion. The amount of this suggested donation will be reviewed periodically by the Committee, and changes will be recommended to the Vestry. A brass plate for the deceased may be added to the Memorial Garden Plaque located in the church.

The Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Memorial Garden is not a cemetery. The garden's sole purpose is to provide a sacred area to place ashes. Plots and spaces are not sold.

The continuing beauty and character of the Memorial Garden, as a place of quiet reflection, is dependent upon adherence to the landscaping plan. Placement of ashes does not convey the right to plant flowers or shrubs, or to place markers or objects of art.

Protocol for memorials, memorial plaques, and the distribution of ashes will be at the discretion of the Memorial Garden Committee and the Vicar.

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Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive your servant into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.