

## The Trinity Parish Memorial Garden

An enduring image in the history of the Christian Church is that of the quiet country churchyard next to the quaint village church. For parishioners of that time, their spiritual home on earth, their church, naturally became their final resting place. While the churchyard as a place of burial is rarely possible in today's modern world, the desire to be buried on church grounds is for some, abiding and strong. Burial near the church in a place of prayer and peace, affirms the holiness of the body.

Through the years some members of our congregation have voiced a desire for an appropriate place of burial at Trinity Parish where they and their loved ones have been sustained during life. The Memorial Garden within the church courtyard is designed to meet this need. The Memorial Garden is a beautiful place, surrounded by church buildings and attractive landscaping. Because it is intended to be a personal haven and place of rest for our parishioners, interment in the Garden is limited to members of the Parish and their immediate families.

The current fee is \$300 per burial site; \$250 by pre-arrangement. The Memorial Garden is a vital part of Trinity Parish. It is a peaceful place where those who have died in Christ may be remembered and their ashes returned to the earth. Trinity Parish Memorial Garden is in no way a cemetery. Rather, it reflects a reverent expression of faith in the resurrected life, with flowers blooming and children playing.

Some contributions have already been made to The Memorial Garden Fund, but more are needed to achieve the standard of beauty and perpetual maintenance that is planned. All non-monetary gifts must have approval of the Memorial Garden committee. Memorials will be listed in The Book of Memorials. Please make your contribution to The Trinity Parish "Memorial Garden Fund," not the "Memorial Fund," which is a different fund for the purpose of providing memorials elsewhere in the church complex.

### Interment In The Memorial Garden

All determinations for interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden shall be made by the Rector and the Memorial Garden Committee. However, the Rector may use discretion if an exception is to be made.

The Memorial Garden area is divided into one-foot square areas. Interment of ashes will be placed directly into the earth. A chart of interment sites will be kept in the Parish records. There will be no markers or flowers on the burial site. The name and birth and death dates will be placed on a plaque on the Memorial Board in the cloister. The **Request for Interment** must be completed, signed by the Rector and affixed with the church seal. The original will be retained in the church files and two copies will be given to the family. The **Request for Interment** may be completed in advance and retained by the church office.

All interments will include the Book of Common Prayer Committal Service in the Memorial Garden, officiated by the Trinity Parish clergy or their designated representative. The appropriate information will be entered in the Church Burial Register, with the name and location of the interment officially noted.

### About Cremation

The Episcopal Church supports the choice of cremation following the death of a loved one. As Christians, we reverently burn things which have been blessed for God's service: palms, altar hangings, flags and indeed—ourselves. Our bodies, set apart and devoted to God's glory in our Baptism, may then appropriately be cremated. ". . .earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." (The Committal, Book of Common Prayer, Page 501)

### Request For Interment

I hereby request interment of the cremated remains of \_\_\_\_\_  
in The Memorial Garden of Trinity Parish, St. Augustine, Florida. I understand that no attempt will be made to mark the exact location of these ashes and that no person will acquire any property or other rights in The Memorial Garden or the property of Trinity Parish as the result of the interment. I understand the ashes shall be interred directly into the earth, and therefore, cannot be recovered or preserved intact. I further accept all other conditions, which the Vestry of Trinity Parish imposes upon the use of The Memorial Garden. This request will remain in full force and effect unless and until I specifically revoke it in writing.

Person Interred \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Requestor \_\_\_\_\_ Requestor's Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Upon the recommendations of the Memorial Garden Committee, approved by \_\_\_\_\_

This \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_ .

The Rev. Matt Marino, Rector