A Place for You

There are 592 spaces for interment. The south wall section, given in memory of Muriel Snider, provides 230 spaces. The north section (shown below), given in memory of Sally Munsen, provides 272 spaces.



Committal Service

Funeral or memorial services, if they are held at North Church (and performed by the staff of North), will follow the guidelines of the Directory for the Worship of God of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In all cases, the ashes will be interred as provided for in the Directory of Worship.

The Memorial Garden



A burial ground for cremated remains

North Presbyterian Church

300 North Forest Road Williamsville, NY 14221

Phone: 716-632-1330 Fax: 716-632-1332 E-mail: n.church@verizon.net

The Churchyard

It was once common to find a burial ground surrounding a village church, for Christians believe that both in life and death we are in God's hands and in eternal communion with all God's people. A churchyard witnesses to something ancient and central to Christian faith and tradition.

In present-day United States, many church members move from city to city, making it difficult to have continuing witness to the world about their discipleship to Jesus Christ. Being interred in the churchyard of their former congregation would be significant and would testify to later generations the faithfulness of those who had lived in years past.

Because of the land required, and strict health laws, traditional interment is impossible for most congregations to develop as part of their ministry. The interment of cremated remains is appropriate to Christian theology, attractive to many of our members and possible for our North Presbyterian congregation.

For many years cremation was regarded as being in conflict with the doctrine of the resurrection of the body. That doctrine, however, has never held that our earthly remains were somehow to be revived, but rather that in the day of resurrection we will be clothed with a new spiritual body appropriate to our new spiritual state. Therefore, a churchyard, while it fulfills some of the functions of a cemetery, looks different and has a different ambiance.

Design

The triangle of land located between the north and south wings of North Church is a particularly appropriate place for our churchyard. It is sheltered from the noise of traffic, yet it is central to our facilities. Benches provide an area for rest and reflection. It has a quietness about it, yet it is visible from classrooms, Westminster Hall, the Dickinson Room, and the sanctuary. It is accessible from the parking lot and also from the door in the Dickinson Room.

The churchyard is defined by our existing building and a low brick wall across the western end of the triangle. Landscaping the area outside the wall are flowering annuals, and deciduous and evergreen plantings. The interior wall is granite; names and dates of those whose ashes are interred immediately in front of the wall are incised on the granite.

In order to preserve the dignity and beauty of the garden, there shall be no permanent vases, flowers or other decorative units placed in the garden. No plantings of flowers, real or artificial, will be allowed on or around the plots or the wall, other than those on the master plan for the Memorial Garden.

The garden is a legal burial ground. In the unlikely event that North Presbyterian Church ceased to exist, the Memorial Garden area would remain in perpetuity.

Price Schedule and Purchasing

The churchyard at North Presbyterian Church is not a public facility. It is a burial ground for present and past North Church families. If a friend of these families or a non-affiliated person wishes to apply for a gravesite, he/she may do so for an added expense of \$100.

1 gravesite—\$400 2 gravesites—\$700 (A gravesite is an area of ground 18" by 10" provided for one interment.)

Assignments of location in the churchyard will be handled in accordance with the prospective holder's preference, insofar as it is possible.

Interment and Recording Fee—\$50

Engraving (inscription)

An engraving includes an individual's full name and years of birth and death. The engraving fee cannot be prepaid. At the time of death, the family or estate will be able to make final arrangements for the engraving fee at the market rate. At that time, the churchyard overseers will make arrangements with the engraving company to have the tablet engraved.

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The original purchase price includes a reserve for perpetual care. There will be no refunds.