

used for all costs incident to operation of the garden, to include perpetual maintenance and care, any capital expenditures required in connection with the garden, and care of the surrounding area.

The Vestry specifically reserves the right to adjust the fees at any time. Any adjustment will be effective the week after notice of the change has been printed in *The Apostle's Standard*.

APPLICATION

Arrangements for the interment of ash remains, either one's own or those of a member of one's family, may be made by completing and signing an application that is available in the church office.

The completed application and a competed nameplate information form should be returned to the Garden Coordinator in the Church Office with a check.

If only the deposit is paid at the time of application, payments are due annually with the balance in full due within three years from the date of the original application.

Once full payment for the interment has been received, and on approval of the application by the committee, an acceptance will be issued.

The acceptance and the application, together with the regulations, constitute

a contract between the applicant and St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church.

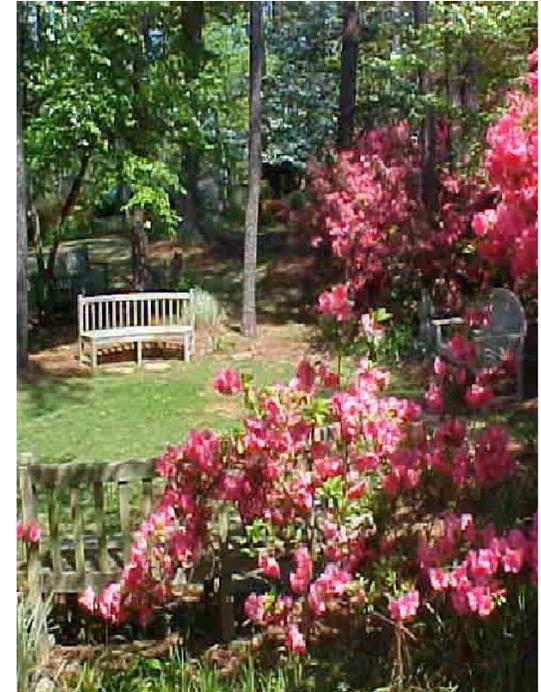
The original contract will be kept in a permanent file in the church office with a copy mailed to the applicant.

ADMINISTRATION

The Memorial Garden Committee oversees the Garden. The Rector and the Wardens of the Vestry appoint the committee. The basic design, planning, and administration of the garden are under the supervision of the committee, whose actions are subject to approval of the Rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. The Garden Coordinator (church staff member who is appointed by the Rector) provides the administrative clerical assistance necessary for keeping the garden files organized and updated.

**ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA
MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**Dedicated
August 23, 1992**



**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal
Church
1790 LaVista Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329**

Revised June 2004

PURPOSE

The purpose of the St. Joseph of Arimathaea Memorial Garden is to provide an appropriate, consecrated, and maintained place for the interment of ash remains of church members and their families. The Garden is located in a landscaped area of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church.

Since ancient times people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place with special care that it be near the gathering place of their families so that each may be held in lasting remembrance.

From earliest times, Christians have buried their dead in churchyards. The solemn interment of the remains of a loved one in the ground is in keeping with our confidence of our resurrection through faith in Christ.

As Christians, we regard burning as a properly reverent way of disposing of objects which have been blessed for religious use; that is, prayer books, altar linens, etc. If it is appropriate to destroy by burning what has been set apart and used to the Glory of God, how much more so is it appropriate to cremate the human body and to inter the remains in a church garden?

If the parish is the center of life through baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, and marriage, then death and burial should also be an integral part of parish life.

The Memorial Garden receives perpetual care. The option of a reserved land plot allows parishioners to make this important decision, thus removing the burden from grieving family members.

The Garden is named for St. Joseph of Arimathaea, a secret disciple of Jesus, responsible for his burial.

INTERMENT

The ashes are those of a member of St. Bartholomew's, a former member, or a member of his or her family (defined as spouse, parents, children, or siblings of the eligible person), or of applicants approved by the Rector.

The ashes are interred in biodegradable containers.

The Garden Coordinator assigns numbered plots on behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee. The location of occupied or reserved plots is shown on a master plan, which is kept on file in the Church Administrator's office. Where practicable, the committee attempts to accommodate the wishes of persons to arrange for interment of the remains of family members in contiguous plots.

It is anticipated that the garden will be available for interment of remains in perpetuity. In the event that all plots are used, remains will be reverently interred in previously used plots. It is intended,

to the extent practicable, that interment of ashes in previously used plots be accomplished in the order in which the plots were initially used, i.e., beginning with the first-used plot and continuing in sequence of use.

The name of each person whose ashes are interred in the garden, together with their date of birth and death, will be listed on a nameplate and affixed to the exterior wall of the church.

COST

The fee for interment is \$600. Applications, however, can be accepted on receipt of a deposit of \$100 with the balance of the payment being made not later than 3 years from the date of the application. The entire fee must be received before interment. This fee covers interment, purchase and installment of the nameplate, and perpetual care of the garden. In the event of a change of mind, all monies paid in excess of the amount of the deposit (\$100) will be refunded.

If immediate interment is required, the Rector has the discretion of postponing immediate payment of fees. However, the contract must be signed, nameplate form completed, and the name and location of the interred recorded.

Receipts from fees are held in a reserved fund at the direction of the Vestry, and administered by the Rector and the committee. Fees are to be