

After a committal service with interment or scattering, cut flowers or bouquets may be left at the site for no more than 7 days.

Flags for Veterans may be displayed for one week after interment and on Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Cut flowers are permitted for Memorial Day. They may be placed one week before the holiday and must be removed no later than one week thereafter.

Only flags and cut flowers are allowed to be placed in the Memorial Garden.

When the ground is frozen, interment will take place as early as practical after the thaw.

Fees for the interment or scattering of cremated remains, inscription of memorial cobblestones, or prepayment for a spouse shall be adjusted as necessary by the Bishop's Committee.

The Memorial Garden Committee shall have charge of the Memorial Garden, under the authority of the Bishop's Committee and the Clergy. The Committee shall make and enforce all policies, determine recommended fees, and be responsible for the care and maintenance of the Garden. The Committee shall consist of a chairperson appointed by the Bishop's Committee; three members from the parish; and the Clergy or a person appointed by the Clergy. Policies may be amended or revised by the Bishop's Committee and the Clergy when necessary.



St. Columba's MEMORIAL GARDEN



“Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.”
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 499

Through centuries of Christian history, the churchyard burial ground has been the final resting place for those who have gone to the Lord. St. Columba's Memorial Garden was created on the grounds of St. Columba's Episcopal Church to be a place of peace and natural beauty to receive the ashes of our loved ones, as well as a place to pray, meditate, and remember those who have departed from us.

The woodland site of the Memorial Garden is quiet and peaceful, with naturalized plantings under a canopy of tall trees. A circular terrace of bluestone is edged with granite cobblestones. Cobblestones inscribed with names and dates of birth and death mark the sites of ashes that are interred or those who are otherwise memorialized in the Garden.

The site has been officially designated by the State of Maine as a burial ground, where cremated remains may be interred or scattered. The Memorial Garden site has been blessed and consecrated by Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, 8th Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Maine, and thus is a holy place.

ST. COLUMBA'S
MEMORIAL GARDEN POLICIES

Interment or scattering of cremated remains in the Memorial Garden is available to all members of St. Columba's Episcopal Church, their families and friends, as well as those who have in the past been members of St. Columba's. Interment or scattering of the ashes of any other persons will be at the discretion of the Clergy.

Members of St. Columba's may plan in advance for a resting place in the Memorial Garden by making arrangements with the Clergy.

A St. Columba's Memorial Garden Book of Remembrance is kept in the church office. There is a listing for each person memorialized in the Garden, whether or not ashes are interred. Persons in whose memory trees, shrubs, plants or monetary gifts are given shall also be memorialized in the Memorial Garden Book of Remembrance.

The fee for interment of ashes in a biodegradable container in the Memorial Garden is \$500.00. Checks should be made payable to St. Columba's Memorial Garden. This fee covers the cost of interment of the ashes, a listing in the Memorial Garden Book of Remembrance, inscription of the name and dates of birth and death of the deceased on the cobblestone, and the ongoing maintenance of the garden.

Adjacent plots for interment may be purchased in advance for a spouse.

The fee for scattering or direct burial of ashes into the earth, or to memorialize a loved one who's remains are buried elsewhere is \$250.00. This includes a cobblestone inscribed with the name and birth and death dates of the deceased, and a listing in the Book of Remembrance.

Other monetary donations and memorial gifts may be made to the St. Columba's Memorial Garden Fund at any time.

Memorial donations of trees, plants, shrubs, or hardscape items, such as benches, must be approved by the Memorial Garden Committee. In order to maintain the natural condition of the Garden's woodland setting, plantings and other items must be limited and suitable to the site. The Memorial Garden Committee shall maintain the landscape design for the Garden and a list of plantings and materials which are needed.

Scheduling of interment or scattering of ashes will be made with the Clergy. The location will be determined by the Memorial Garden Committee, consulting with the funeral director and/or the family.

Ashes may be interred in a biodegradable container or directly into the earth. Ashes may also be scattered unconfined onto the ground within a designated area of the Memorial Garden.

A permanent record of the location of ashes, whether scattered or interred, will be noted on a plot plan, which will be kept in the church office. After interment, the area shall be restored to its natural condition.

The cobblestones placed as memorials shall be inscribed with nothing other than the names and dates of birth and death of those whose ashes are interred or scattered in the Memorial Garden, or who are otherwise memorialized there.

Any inscriptions on larger memorials, such as benches, are limited to name, dates of birth and death, and one additional line, such as "In Loving Memory", and must be approved in advance by the Clergy, the Memorial Garden Committee, and the Bishop's Committee.