

General policies regarding graves in Christ Church Durham Parish Cemetery

*(For more specific information, or for matters not addressed here,
please contact the Cemetery Director.)*

Purchase of Right(s) of Burial

When you purchase a "right of burial," you are not purchasing a specific plot or piece of ground in the cemetery. You are purchasing the right to be buried somewhere in the cemetery. The church and cemetery staff will do their very best to honor specific site requests, and in most cases are able to do so, but unforeseen circumstances (like the discovery of old, unmarked graves) occasionally require burials to be placed elsewhere in the cemetery.

- (a) All burials in the cemetery must be arranged ahead of time through the Cemetery Director.
- (b) The burial of cremated remains requires the purchase of a right of burial. This right pertains to the cremated remains of no more than two persons. This number restriction is due to the space available for markers.
- (c) The placement of a memorial plaque or marker of any sort requires the purchase of the right of burial in the cemetery.
- (d) The right of burial cannot be sold, transferred, or traded to another person.
- (e) If the purchaser of the right of burial and all members of his/her immediate family are deceased, any remaining unused rights of burial shall revert to the parish. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove any markers, stakes, and cornerstones involved in such a procedure.

Excavating Plots

- (a) In addition to being subject to the rules and regulations of the Cemetery Committee, all interments, disinterments, and removals are subject to the laws of the constituted authorities of the county and State.
- (b) All digging, interments, and disinterments are to be authorized and arranged through the Director, performed by the church's gravedigger contactor. Disinterments are to be recorded in the cemetery files and the parish vestry's minutes.
- (c) All cemetery activity other than visits or placement of decorations, must be first cleared and approved by the Cemetery Committee.

Headstones, Tombstones, and Markers

The owner of each plot must erect a proper monument thereon, made of stone (no wooden markers).

- (a) All placements of cemetery memorials, headstones, or monuments are to be first approved by the Director. The Director, or his/her designee, must be present when the stone is set.
- (b) In the case of United States military veterans, the United States Government issued stone/brass plate marker can be placed either as a headstone or placed at the foot of the grave.
- (c) In case of a person or persons whose estate cannot afford a proper monument, the Cemetery Committee shall evaluate each circumstance on a case-by-case basis and make provisions for a proper marker (typically a small stone with name and dates of birth and death) accordingly.
- (d) No enclosures of plots of any kind are allowed.
- (e) No mausoleum type/style grave will be allowed on any plot.
- (f) No markers of any kind shall be affixed to the front brick wall bordering the entrance of the church and cemetery grounds. (All markers/plates currently affixed to the wall are 'grandfathered' in.)

Cemetery Decorative Items

- (a) The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to plant, transplant, and cultivate such trees, shrubs, and flowers as they deem proper in and on any part of the cemetery grounds; also to supervise and control all improvements on any plot or plots.
- (b) Planting of live plants, shrubs, or trees on any gravesite or plot is not allowed.
- (c) Cut flowers, potted plants, and wreaths may be placed upon the graves at any time, but not inserted in the ground. After the flowers have died, they, along with the containers, may be removed by the cemetery groundskeeper and disposed of accordingly. The Cemetery Committee and groundskeeper are not responsible for any containers.
- (d) The Cemetery Committee reserves and maintains the right to remove from plots without notice to the owner, all withered flowers, plants, boxes, cans, shells, toys, flags, balloons, wood or iron cases, brick, rock or any such objects that are deemed either detracting, unsightly, or inappropriate to the plot and cemetery grounds or impacts the safety of the groundskeepers and visitors. Christ Church, Durham Parish Vestry and the Cemetery Committee are not responsible for personal injury.