

President's Corner  
November 10, 2016

I'm back again with more info on how our congregation gets our work done. It's pretty clear that this congregation ministers to itself and to others via one primary mechanism...our committees. These groups and the volunteers of which they are comprised are not only the heart and soul of this community, they are also the muscle and the brains.

Today, we will be looking at the Memorial Garden Committee which is charged with managing the portion of our grounds that is dedicated as the final resting place for those who wish their cremains to be located near our spiritual home. The efforts of this committee reach much further than just our current and past congregants. With only some 40 currently interned, this small plot is capable of accommodating the needs of our congregants for generations to come...and, as you will see below, they are taking steps to do so.



Richard Miller, Memorial Garden Chair

Many approach our front doors without realizing they are passing by our Memorial Garden. It is certainly a lovely area, but it is not necessarily reminiscent of most places of final resting. However, its subtle presence has been created by intent. Shortly after our building was completed, the Memorial Garden was added to the site. The importance of having a resting place that blends with its natural surroundings was always intended. About a year and a half ago the committee engaged a landscape architect whose task was to revitalize our garden using only indigenous, noninvasive materials to emphasize the natural flora of this area. You may have noticed some changes this year: the addition of an irrigation system and some new foliage. However, this project, having just begun may require several years to reach completion.

The monies for this garden project come from a dedicated restricted fund. Some additional funds are generated by the modest charge for interment. This includes a granite marker, inscribed only with the deceased's initials. His or her dates of birth and death are inscribed

on a brass plate on the Memorial Gardens plaque located in the building's entry vestibule. For those who wish to be memorialized by the congregation but whose cremains rest elsewhere, there is an option of having an inscribed brass plate on a second plaque also located in the vestibule.

The committee meets as needed. It is chaired by Richard Miller; other committee members include Kay Sturgeon, Bill Scharf, Ingrid Brophy, Andi Kramer and Arlene Dean. They work together to bring friends and families the flexibility of crafting a memorial service which specifically meets their expressed needs and preferences regarding the degrees of formality and informality. In short, this knowledgeable and involved committee seeks to understand and employ the concepts central to the creation and maintenance of a naturally beautiful, subtle and functional resting place that ministers to the wounds of grief in our congregation whether they be fresh or decades old.

If you would like to know more about this amazing group, please contact Richard Miller...the guy in the picture above.

Next week's committee is TBA. In the interim, don't forget to sign up for the Thanksgiving Potluck Feast on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Twin Lakes Lodge.

And, if you have questions I can help you with, please connect with me. In addition to the usual modes of communication, after service on most Sundays, I'll be in the library ready and eager to hear your positive comments and constructive criticisms regarding how this congregation can best serve our community and be served by your Board.

Peace in your hearts,

Linda