



In 1988 the concept for a Memorial Garden originated from an interest expressed by members of the Community Church to create a place of remembrance and peace. – The congregation felt there was a need for a location, on the church grounds, where ashes of deceased members and their families, as well as friends of the Church, could be interred. A committee was charged with the task of taking that concept and creating a space. A few years later The Garden was dedicated.

The Garden is in a lovely area overlooking the Mill Pond. A native granite stone pointing upward is the focal point. Surrounding the stone are flat granite stones, low ground cover, and bark mulch. Benches and flowering shrubs are around the garden core. The Garden provides a unique area of tranquil beauty.

At the time of interment, the ground cover is lifted and then replaced. Family members may choose to have a plaque with the name, date of birth, and date of death near the spot where the ashes are placed or they may choose to leave the spot unmarked. A person may be memorialized without the placement of ashes in The Garden. When this is done, a plaque is placed in the center of one of the large stones.

A special Memorial Book of Remembrance records interments. Also recorded in the book is a photo of the deceased, the obituary, and a brief biographical sketch. The Memorial Garden Trustees keep this official record on the mezzanine of Fellowship Hall.

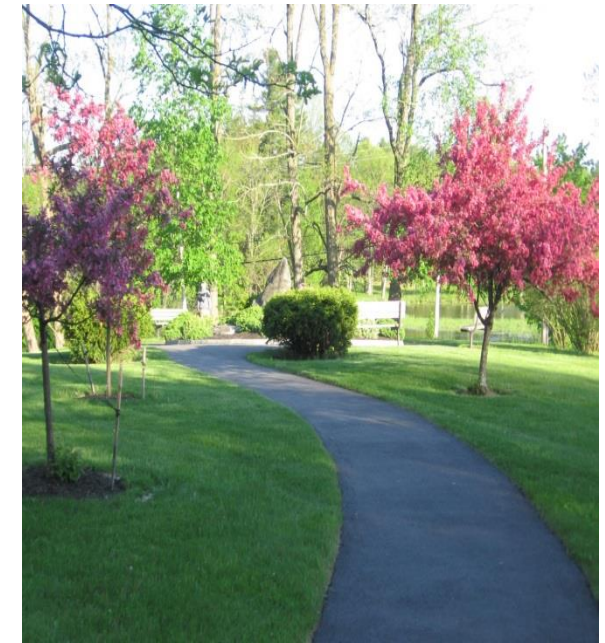
The Garden is self-supporting with donations and memorial gifts providing the funds. The Memorial Garden Trustees are charged with maintenance and administration of The Garden. A \$600 fee is asked of the family at the time of interment. A space can be reserved by paying a \$100 deposit. In unusual circumstances, an adjustment of the amount may be made by consulting the Minister or the Memorial Garden Trustees.

Funds are used to care for the garden and for the landscaping both in the garden and in the surrounding area. The Trustees have established a policy of not designating the trees and shrubs with memorial plaques. However, they are listed in the Memorial

Book of Gifts to the Church. Memorial benches are labeled with plaques.

Church members and their families are invited to consider the use of The Garden for the interment of ashes or to memorialize a loved one. Others may apply to The Memorial Garden Trustees through the Church Office. Inquiries about The Garden may be made to the Minister or the Chair of the Trustees.

It is the desire of the Church that the community will pause and enjoy the beauty of the site. Please feel free to visit and remember and reflect on the lives of those who have touched you.



*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee,
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

By George Mathewson

Trustees:

William Mason, Chair
Donna Hardy
Carolyn Puffer
Dianne Thompson
Sara Urban
Willard Urban

Consultant:

Owen Rogers

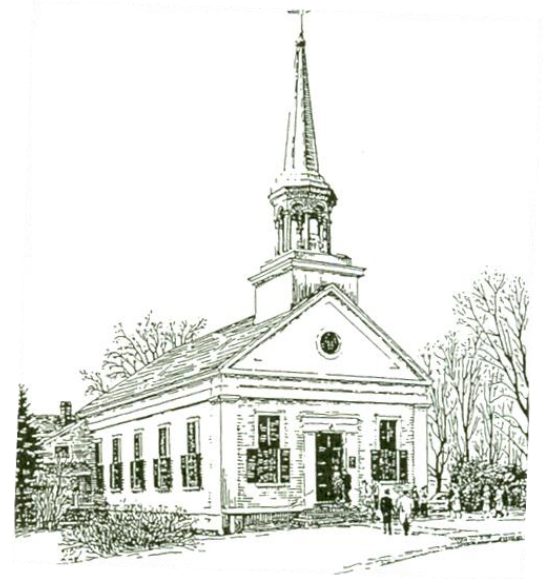
Minister:

The Reverend Dr. Mary Westfall

Community Church of Durham
United Church of Christ
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April 2014

MEMORIAL GARDEN



Community Church of Durham

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