

# **The Chapel Garden of St. David's Episcopal Church**

## *Policies of Use of the Chapel Garden*

P.O. Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448, (812) 988-1038, [www.stdavidsbb.org](http://www.stdavidsbb.org)

**Preface** – It has long been a custom of the Christian Church to bury members of their community in the churchyard, completing the cycle of birth, death, and reunion with God, the ground of our being. In this spirit, St. David's offers the Chapel Garden as sacred space to receive the cremains of the faithful and as place to honor and remember our deceased members, friends and family.

**The Chapel Garden** features two areas for receiving cremains. 1. A Commonbarium has an outdoor patio and benches surrounding an altar built to symbolize the Tree of Life. Cremains may be interred through the altar and commingled in the vault underground, open to the earth. 2. The Chapel Garden is designed with areas where cremains may be scattered. The entire Chapel Garden area is consecrated ground, first set aside as an area to reflect and remember our beloved dead by the Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, 2016. The Chapel Garden continues as a center of the worship and fellowship life for the church for small outdoor services and a gathering spot during outdoor activities.

**Who may be interred in the Chapel Garden** – Interment in the Chapel Garden will be done by clergy or authorized persons using rites of the church and is available to St. David's members, the family of members and others with links to our community. Arrangements should be made with clergy through the church office. As with all of St. David's Episcopal Church property, uses of the Chapel Garden will be at the discretion of the Priest and with the approval of the Vestry.

**Recognition** – Those interred in the Chapel Garden are listed on plaques displayed on the benches surrounding the Commonbarium altar, listed in the memorial website for the Chapel Garden, maintained in permanent church records, recorded at the Brown County Recorder's office, and remembered on All Saints' Day.

**Intent for Use of the Chapel Garden** – A Statement of Intent for interment in the Chapel Garden may be made during end-of-life planning that is encouraged by the church, or at any other time. The Church will provide resources to inform end-of-life decisions. Request for forms can be made by contacting the church office or speaking with the priest, members of the vestry or the Chapel Garden committee. A \$100 fee is requested to accompany the Statement of Intent. This fee will be applied to the use of the Chapel Garden. One-half the application fee can be refunded if plans change before use. Arrangements for funeral services and interment can also be made by family members at the time of death.

**What are the current fees requested for interment in St. David's Chapel Garden?** – Interment in the Chapel Garden, Plaque, maintenance of the Garden, Recorder Fee: -- \$225. Fees for any other services provided by the Church or funeral homes during a funeral, such as transportation, printing, organist or music, meals, etc., may involve additional fees.

**Other Donations** – Financial contributions for the care of the Chapel Garden are always welcome. Funds will be used to maintain the Chapel Garden as a place of meditation, prayer, remembering, gathering and reunion. Checks may be made out to St. David’s Episcopal Church and may mark a death anniversary or All Saints’ Day services. Please write Chapel Garden in the memo line.

**Funerals at St. David’s** – Funerals are available at St. David’s, and planning and support of families takes place whether or not the Chapel Garden will be used for interment. Pre-planning is encouraged and can be aided by the priest and members of the Vestry and Chapel Garden Committee.

**Restrictions** – Only cremated human remains (without urns or other vessels) shall be committed in the Chapel Garden. No permanent decorations shall be placed in the Chapel Garden. Live or cut flowers may be placed for services as memorial gifts. These gifts will be removed at the appropriate time by donors or the Church. After interment in the Chapel Garden, cremains are not recoverable and will remain the property of St. David’s Church and the Diocese of Indianapolis.

**Policy** – This policy is to be reviewed annually by the Vestry of St. David’s Episcopal Church and amended as necessary.