CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Cashiers, NC

VESTRY POLICY REGULATING CEMETERY & MEMORIAL GARDEN PLOTS

Approved by Vestry 8/18/10

Purchase

For the purposes of purchasing either a Cemetery of a Memorial Garden plot, the purchaser must meet one of the following qualifications:

a. Be a pledging member of the Church of the Good Shepherd with a current pledge, or a member of his or her immediate family, or his or her legal agent, OR
b. Have been a continuing contributor to the Church of the Good Shepherd for a minimum of three (3) years, or a member of his or her family, or his or her legal agent.

Quantity Restrictions

Cemetery: No individual or family may purchase more than one (1) 10'x18' cemetery plot or two (2) 10'x10 or 10'x14' ones.

As of August 18, 2010, there are four (4) remaining cemetery plots that will accommodate two coffins. There is another plot that will accommodate one coffin and one set of cremains. There is also one plot that will hold two sets of cremains. The Vestry approved a proposal that these six plots be sold only for the uses listed above, particularly that the plots that accommodate two coffins are not to be sold to parishioners who plan to bury cremains.

Memorial Garden: No individual or family may purchase more than two (2) Memorial Garden plots.

Sale of Plots

Those owning plots in either the Cemetery or Memorial Garden may sell them **only** to the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Fees

The following purchase prices are set by the Vestry and may be revised only per Vestry approval:

Cemetery:	10' x 10' plot	$500.00
	10' x 14' plot	$750.00
	10' x 18' plot	$950.00

Block B, Lot 8 is reserved for hardship cases and emergency situations. Agreement to cremation is a requirement for these special situations.

Memorial Garden:	All plots	$250.00

At the Rector's discretion, no person shall be deprived of a final resting place in the Memorial Garden.

Interment

For the purpose of interment in either the Cemetery or the Memorial Garden, the remains shall be those of a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd or a member of his or her immediate family.

Review & Revision

The Cemetery Committee shall review the Policy and make recommendations to the Vestry as to needed revisions as it may see fit or at least once per year.

Regulations

Operating regulations for the Cemetery and Memorial Gardens are different. Reference should be made to the appropriate Regulations (see below). In the case of any questions which may arise concerning either Policy or Regulations and which are not covered herein, final resolution shall be solely by the Vestry with the guidance of the Rector and the Cemetery Committee.

CEMETERY REGULATIONS

1. No monument or marker higher than 7" from the natural surface of the ground shall be allowed on any lot; markers shall be level even if the ground slopes; markers must be placed 6" from the plot line; all markers must be approved as to size, shape, and setting by the Cemetery Committee.
2. The top of the marker is parallel to the Western boundary of the plot. The remains are interred on the Eastern side of the marker
3. There must be markers for all cremains buried in the cemetery.
4. Burials must be 6" from the plot lines, with a maximum of two (2) caskets or four (4) cremains for each 10'x10' plot, two (2) caskets or six (6) cremains for each 10'x14' plot, four (4) caskets or eight (8) cremains for each 10'x18' plot. Any modifications to the above shall be at the discretion of the Rector.
5. All markers shall be flat and made of marble or stone. Bronze markers shall be set in marble or stone.
6. No flowers or other decoration shall be permitted. The Landscape Committee shall have the right and duty at all times to remove any holders not so approved, any artificial flowers, or any withered or unsightly flowers or debris.
7. No grave mound shall be allowed on any grave.
8. No furniture (benches, etc.) shall be allowed on the cemetery grounds.
9. Neither the purchaser of a plot nor any successor to the interests of such purchaser shall have any right or power to sell or otherwise dispose of such easement rights. However, the purchaser may bequeath easement rights to member(s) of the purchaser's immediate family.
10. It is understood that the church will provide no facilities, equipment, or labor for the opening or closing of graves, and that all incidentals of coffin interment, including removal of dirt and leaving the premises in good order, shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser or the purchaser's successors. For the interment of cremains, the church shall be responsible for the removal of dirt and, following interment, for the replacement of dirt and leaving the premises in good order. Both such activities must be coordinated, in advance, with the Cemetery Committee.
11. It is understood that cemetery care shall be the same as that given to the Church grounds. Families are responsible for the care of headstones.

MEMORIAL GARDEN REGULATIONS

1. Cremains shall be placed either a) in a biodegradable container which shall then be interred or b) directly into the ground.
2. The maximum size of the container is 9” x 9” x 9”.
3. The place of interment shall follow a numbered, sequential “plot” plan adopted by the Cemetery Committee. No particular place may be chosen or designated by the applicant. Each plot shall be one (1) foot by one (1) foot by two (2) feet deep (1’ x 1’ x 2’).
4. Each plot shall hold no more than two (2) interred containers or cremains. The first interment in each plot shall be at the depth of two (2) feet. Should there be a subsequent interment in that plot, it shall be at the depth of one (1) foot.
5. The name of each person whose cremains are interred in the Garden, with the years of birth and death, shall be listed on an individual bronze name plate. This name plate will be attached to a permanent memorial plaque in order of interment. This name plate will be the only individual marker or memorial permitted in the Garden, and shall be purchased and paid for by the church. The memorial plaque will not indicate the location of interment. A permanent record of the exact place of interment for each person shall be maintained by the Cemeterian in the church office files.
6. Responsibility for interment of the cremains shall be at the discretion of the Rector.
7. The basic design, planting, and arrangement of the Garden shall be under the supervision of the Landscape Committee at all times.
8. No flowers or other decoration shall be permitted on the surface of the plots.
9. The Memorial Garden shall receive the same care and maintenance as that given to the cemetery and church grounds.

CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL GARDEN PURCHASE PROCEDURES

1. Purchase shall be made by filling out and signing the application which shall be furnished by the Church of the Good Shepherd. The application must be returned to the Cemetery Committee and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, payable to the Church of the Good Shepherd.
2. Upon approval, a fully executed application constitutes a contract between the purchaser and the Church of the Good Shepherd. The fee may not be refunded except at the discretion of the Rector.
3. The original executed application shall be kept in a permanent file in the church office. One copy of the application shall be given to the purchaser.
4. It is understood and agreed that this contract shall create a license and shall not convey any interest in real estate to the applicant. It is further understood and agreed that the contract cannot be transferred without the written consent of the Rector.

Changes and Amendments

All purchasers and/or successors shall be subject to the Policy and Regulations herein, as they now exist and as they may be revised and/or amended by the Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Any questions which may arise concerning the Cemetery or Memorial Garden which are not covered in the Application or Policy and Regulations shall be determined solely by the Vestry, with the guidance of the Rector and Cemetery Committee.