

Wellesley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Memorial Path

Wellesley Congregational Church





"In nearly every sense, the earliest history and formation of the town of Wellesley and of this church [including the cemetery] are one and the same."

[Addendum B - A Common History]

Memorial Path - Wellesley Congregational Church

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Layout and Design by Andy Grachuk - www.JingotheCat.com

PROLOGUE

Following Village Church's major building renovation that ended in 2002, I had the good fortune of being asked to chair a newly-formed Churchyard Committee. In the visioning process which preceded the Moving Forward in Faith campaign for this major renovation a single individual responded to a questionnaire by simply stating (and I am paraphrasing here) "it would be nice to re-open the cemetery to new burials for our members." In 2007, Memorial Path was opened and that request was fulfilled.

This journey, now in its 15th year has been one of challenge and a lot of hard work by all of the Churchyard Committee members, but most of all for me personally one of the richest, most satisfying engagements I have ever had the privilege to be a part of.

I am eternally grateful for my wife, Nancy, who has patiently listened to every story and incident, joy and frustration along the way.

I recall the formative and design-intensive phase that led to the 2007 opening - the visits to various church cemeteries for burial ideas and one of the richest experiences, our day at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

The phase after 2007 and until the present has been one of continued evolution - of creation of process and serving our subscribers, of refining and improving how we do that servicing all with the intent to consider matters right before us but with a view to generations far beyond our involvement here.

Please promise me you will view the Addenda of Acknowledgement and Appreciation. I would be grateful if you do.

This material is for you. Yes, it provides what you need to know to make a reservation in Memorial Path. Some may bypass all else that is included here and I say to you, that is fine. Others may choose to further immerse yourself into what is here - the rich and enduring history of our church and cemetery and Village Church's special relationship with the formation of this town and, of course, the wonder of Memorial Path.

Kirk Smith

Chair, Churchyard Committee - 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DEEP APPRECIATION

Many have contributed much in time and treasure to Memorial Path. The following represents some who are noted here for their particular and direct contributions to the development of Memorial Path in its more formative stages.

ELIZABETH VIZZA CONSULTING - LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS AND MASTER PLANNERS

Liz Vizza was brought in to support the first Churchyard Committee in the development phase of this project. When little was clear about our mandate, Liz was instrumental in grounding us and guiding us step by step through the development stage. Attached is her primary work product in Addendum C. It is an incredible and informative read. In it one will see the “founding principles” which were used to develop virtually every aspect of what was to become Memorial Path. It also includes important design elements that should inform future generations who will have the opportunity to continue Wellesley Congregational Church connection to Memorial Path. Today, Liz serves as President of Friends of the Public Garden.

BLAIR HINES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Blair Hines was the primary architect of Memorial Path. Blair introduced to the Churchyard Committee the “shared concept” theme, including shared names on headstones and shared burial locations. Blair always lead with creativity and openness in thought and design along with a deep appreciation for the historical integrity of this 200 year old cemetery.

SHARY BERG – LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

Shary conducted detailed historical research of Wellesley Congregational Church in support of Liz Vizza’s consultancy. Much of this research was used by Shary who also created the church’s application to the U.S. Department of Interior to add the church and cemetery to the National Register of Historical Places, which was approved in 2014. It was Shary who introduced us to Karin Sprague.

KARIN SPRAGUE STONE CARVERS, INC.

Karin Sprague is the artist/engraver for all engraving done on Memorial Path headstones. Our longstanding history and close partnership with Karin is included in the brochure material. In addition to the engraving, Karin has secured the headstones from England and handles all that is necessary to get the headstones engraved and installed in Memorial Path.

JOHN MORGAN, EARLE MOSHER DESIGN/BUILD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

John Morgan, has owned and operated Earle Mosher for many years and was asked to help create a more welcoming feel to our cemetery. It was John and his firm who installed the 4 benches that are now in our cemetery.

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL LAB (PAL)

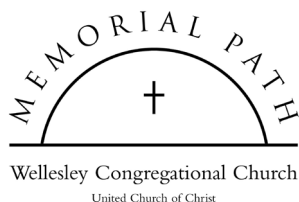
PAL conducted the digging and archaeological analysis of the space identified as the potential area which would become Memorial Path. This was a necessary prerequisite to obtain approval from the State Archaeologist for burials in Memorial Path.

ANDY GRACHUK – CEO, JINGOTHECAT.COM

Andy has been instrumental and a key partner in bringing this informational material together for the important next steps in this long journey. A master book designer, Andy is incredibly skilled in taking rough material, editing, formatting and converting it into various forms for distribution. With Andy, all my dreams in terms of use of the material, whether in total or in parts suddenly became wonderfully achievable. Andy has been a God-send.

ALLISON W. BELL DESIGN

Allison Bell designed the Memorial Path Logo.



CHARTER MEMBERS

Charter members are those individuals or families who contributed \$1,000 each to fund the initial development of Memorial Path. These courageous individuals made it possible for the area identified for Memorial Path to be dug and analyzed (see Public Archaeological Lab above) in order to obtain State Archaeological approval. After such approval was indeed obtained, it was possible to begin to pre-sell reservations to Memorial Path, making the entire endeavor financially feasible and entirely self-funding. We extend eternal gratitude for these special members (chronologically by last name).

Robert Bachman	Bradford Harding	Janis A. Luedke*
Elizabeth Bachman	Linda Harding	Kenneth L. Sipe
Diane Y. Bedrosian*	Charlotte W. Harrington*	Margaret L. Sipe
Edward R. Bedrosian*	Alice W. Loehlin	J. Kirk Smith
Richard W. Dodds	James H. Loehlin	Nancy J. Smith
Joan H. Donahue	Anne M. Luedke*	Arthur J. Stock
Kevin F. Donahue	James A. Luedke*	Barbara F. Stock
William H. Grass*	James A. Luedke, Jr.*	

* Denotes those who were among the 10 Individuals whose names were engraved on one of the first 3 headstones in 2007 which were installed in Memorial Path the November, 2007 opening ceremony. In addition, the names of George and Joanne Ritsert were also engraved as part of this initial group.

CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

First Churchyard Committee - During Development and Design Phase

Craig Stirrat

Gretchen Morrison

Judy Mongiardo

Linda Smith

Kirk Smith, Chair (taking photo)



Second Churchyard Committee – From Memorial Path Opening, 2007

Brad Harding

Charlotte Harrington

Joanne Ritsert

Kirk Smith, Chair

Craig Stirrat

Pam Stirrat



Left Photo (from left): Kirk Smith, Chair, Craig Stirrat, Joanne Ritsert, Rev., Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Engagement, Meg Sweeting, Church Administrator, Pam Stirrat Right Photo: Charlotte Harrington, Brad Harding

INITIAL PASTORAL SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Martin Copenhaver and Kathy Musser, were Senior and Associate Pastor when Memorial Path was opened. Both were very supportive of the Churchyard Committee through the years leading up to the 2007 opening and beyond. Each of them responded wonderfully to our request to submit biblical verses that Karin Sprague would engraved at the top of both sides of each three original Memorial Path headstone. These are the one located on Lot 5 and two on Lot 6. When we decided to add 5 more headstones, Liz Garriga-Byerly was Associate Pastor and she alone provided the biblical passages that are found on the each of the remaining headstones.

RECENT PASTORAL SUPPORT, VISION GOING FORWARD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Butter joined Village Church as Senior Pastor in 2015 and has been instrumental in paving the way toward integrating Memorial Path into the fabric of Village Church. At this point, we are well along the way of transferring the administrative responsibilities to church staff. When complete, this transfer will ensure the ongoing support and handling of this mission for future generations.

Rev. Stacy Swain joined Village Church in 2022 as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Engagement and has taken a pastoral leadership role in Memorial Path and Ministry of Last Things. [Ministry of Last Things is a ministry that was started by Kirk Smith and Charlotte Harrington under the pastoral leadership of Kathy Musser.] All members of the Churchyard Committee are thrilled to have Stacy here in this important role. We look forward to taking next steps with Stacy in continuing the vision and future of Memorial Path.

CHARLOTTE HARRINGTON – SPECIAL MENTION

Charlotte Harrington has always been a cheerful and faithful supporter of Wellesley Congregation Church in so many ways. Memorial Path was no exception to this. Charlotte was a significant, single contributor financially in the earliest stage of development of Memorial Path. This allowed the hiring of Vizza Consulting which in turn placed this mission on the path and place we find ourselves today. She was a very caring, engaged and committed Churchyard Committee member and it is hard to overstate how much she has meant to the creation and growth of Memorial Path.



It was Charlotte Harrington who joined me in the idea of starting a new ministry, called Ministry of Last Things. At the time, Charlotte had recently lost her son, Michael, in a sky-diving accident and I had lost both of my parents in natural causes – Charlotte’s loss, an unexpected tragedy, mine, sad losses, but one which can be expected. With these experiences coupled with the wide variety of planning we witnessed as prospective members considered choosing Memorial Path as a final resting place, it occurred to us that Ministry of Last Things could provide a way to be in service to our fellow Village Church members. The opportunity to join Charlotte in this endeavor and mission is one of my life’s greatest joys.

Charlotte is no longer able to participate in church and other matters due to health issues. But, Charlotte we share our undying gratitude for all that you are and all that you have done, for Village Church and Memorial Path.

TO BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING

Wellesley Congregational Church or “Village Church” (WVC), our cemetery and the town of Wellesley share a common origin. Initial settlers in this area gathered at the First Meeting House located on this same property to conduct local business and worship. They would naturally be buried in the adjacent cemetery. This area was originally part of Needham, known as West Needham. Weary of the distance and seeking to have their own independence, West Needham residents decided to break away from the town of Needham in 1775. However, the organization of the church and the building of the first meeting house would come over 20 years later due to the Revolutionary War with England. Officially, this church was organized in 1798, the year the first building was completed. The building we worship in today was dedicated in 1923, the fourth structure to be built on this site.

For a fuller history of WVC, its cemetery and the Town of Wellesley you are encouraged to read the written version of the November 6, 2016 presentation given in celebration of Wellesley Congregational Church and cemetery being listed on the National Register of Historic Places [See Addendum B - A Common History; Our Town, Our Church And Our Cemetery].

Both the church building and the cemetery were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015. We obtained two NRHP plaques, which are placed at the front (east) and west entrances of the church.

This brochure is focused on the cemetery and Memorial Path in particular. In these pages the story of Memorial Path will be shared, how it came about in the first place, how it was developed, how it works and how it will serve members of this church for generations to come.

**WELLESLEY CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH AND CEMETERY**

ORGANIZED IN 1798

ARE LISTED IN THE

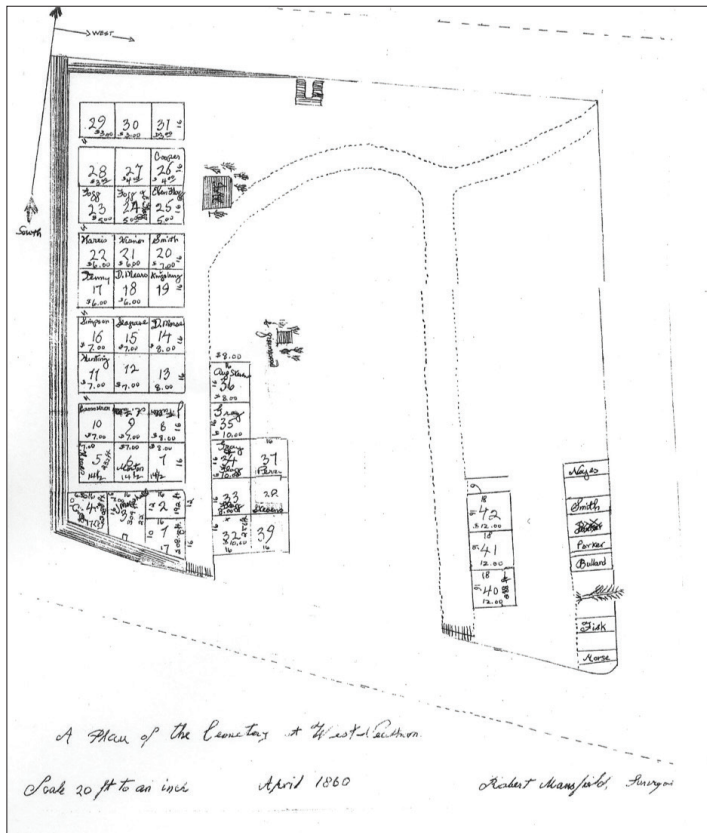
**NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES**

BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AN 1860 MAP MARKED WHEN THE CEMETERY RECORDED ITS LAST BURIAL RESERVATIONS

The cemetery has undergone a number of changes throughout its long and storied history, primarily to accommodate membership growth and new church buildings. That said, those buried in the cemetery prior to the opening of Memorial Path include this area's earliest settlers, war veterans and generations of church members dating into the early 1900s. The earliest grave site is dated 1777. As revealed in an 1860 plot map, the cemetery recorded its last set of burial reservations by that time. The cemetery recorded its last actual burial in 1905, 102 years prior to the opening of Memorial Path in 2007.

1860 CEMETERY PLOT MAP



The markings in this 1860 map indicate the cemetery was fully subscribed by that time (by the sale of various burial plots). It also provided an idea as to where the church could possibly reopen the cemetery as more fully described below.

After 1860, those interested in being buried in Wellesley chose Woodlawn Cemetery, which itself was formed by our church to alleviate the capacity issue. Woodlawn later became independent of the church and continues to be open to new burials.

2002 BUILDING PROJECT LEADS TO INTEREST IN REOPENING CEMETERY

WVC completed a major building renovation in 2002. Interest in reopening the cemetery came out of the discernment process which preceded the building renovation. The effort to reopen the cemetery began in 2003, immediately following the completion of the building project.

While the renovation involved nearly every part of the building interior, the most significant change to the exterior of the church involved the western facade, which abuts the cemetery. Prior to these changes the cemetery was separated from the church by a driveway and a slight uphill climb to a wooden fence which bordered the cemetery on its east side. The changes transformed the connection between the church and the cemetery. An attractive pedestrian entrance to the church was added and connection and access to the cemetery was considerably improved. The before and after photos below show this enhanced accessibility.



◀ *ACCESS TO CEMETERY BEFORE CONSTRUCTION*

▼ *ACCESS TO CEMETERY AFTER CONSTRUCTION*



FIRST FUNDING, INITIAL EFFORTS TO REOPEN CEMETERY

The effort to reopen the cemetery began without a budget, any funding or a design, but with a desire to reopen the cemetery in a manner befitting its two-century old heritage. In a very successful capital campaign for a church the size of WVC, \$8 million was raised. This fell short of the \$10 million in total costs. In order for the cemetery project to move forward, alternative sources of financing were necessary, which left the church with \$2 million in debt.

The first funding of this project came from a generous member who anonymously contributed “startup” funds to support initial development efforts. The Churchyard Committee, formed around this time, could then focus on two main elements necessary to complete the project: location and design.

An initial design idea of creating a columbarium was considered. This was discarded when concerns arose that a large above-ground structure would be inappropriate.

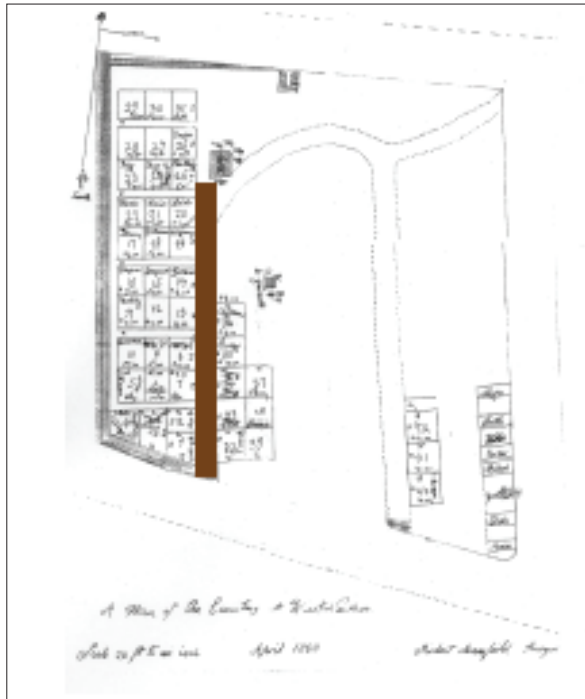
A landscape consultant, Liz Vizza, was hired and provided helpful guidance for the Churchyard Committee. After several meetings and extensive field research, including visits to a number of cemetery layouts, Ms. Vizza created a master plan which laid out guiding principles for the Committee to consider in the design of the cemetery. (See Addendum C – VIZZA CONSULTING GROUP CHURCHYARD MASTER PLAN.)

Shortly thereafter, the Committee hired Hines, Wasser, a landscape architect firm in existence at the time, to help in the ultimate design. The primary partner involved in this project was Blair Hines, owner and co-founder of the firm.

LOCATION IDENTIFIED; BASIC DESIGN DEVELOPED

Ms. Vizza called on the special skills of another preservation planner, Shary Berg, who conducted a historical review of the cemetery. Shary Berg’s work was quite detailed and would later be used in the application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, it was during her research process that the 1860 cemetery plot map was discovered. This map would prove helpful in locating where Memorial Path could be located.

LOCATION – 1860 CEMETERY PLOT MAP



The same 1860 cemetery plot map mentioned previously and which illustrated that the cemetery became fully subscribed, proved central to determining where a burial space could be located. Here, the presence of a 10 feet x 150 feet empty space running north and south through the cemetery is marked in brown. This space was identified as a path originally used to transport caskets into the cemetery via horse-drawn carriages, thus unlikely to contain burials.

DESIGN – THE CONCEPT OF “SHARED SPACE”

Many design alternatives were considered. A “field trip” to Mt. Auburn Cemetery to examine the use of “shared space” there proved helpful in the initial design of our own space. The Landscape Architect, Hines, Wasser, presented the mock photo below to propose the basic design concept that would be followed. In a “shared space” design, multiple names are inscribed on headstone sides with burial of cremated remains in the “shared” path. The committee agreed to pursue this conceptual design framework, with details to be worked out as the project moved forward.



A PHOTO MOCKUP OF THE ORIGINAL SHARED HEADSTONE DESIGN CONCEPT SUBMITTED BY HINES, WASSER

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST’S APPROVAL IS REQUIRED; SECOND FUNDING OBTAINED

After the location and conceptual design were agreed upon, it was discovered that we would need approval from the Massachusetts State Archaeologist before opening space in the cemetery for new burials. It was determined that the only way to prove this definitively would be to hire an expert engineering firm which would dig up the carriage path area in order to prove that there were no previous burials in this space. To finance the dig, we convened a meeting and asked church members if they would be willing to contribute “venture capital” funding to finance the dig. If it happened that previous burials were discovered and we could not use this space, their entire investment could be lost. Several members agreed to put up \$1,000 each to help fund the digging costs. As a sign of appreciation, these dedicated members became “Charter Members” of Memorial Path for their generosity. If the project moved forward, their contribution would be applied to their Memorial Path reservations.

The Dig – The firm of Public Archaeological Laboratory (PAL), a certification qualified engineering firm, was hired to conduct this dig. PAL’s crew used a backhoe to complete the excavation work, which took a full day. Thankfully, no buried remains were found in the 150 foot path.



▲ *PATH EXCAVATION: SURFACE REMOVED*

▼ *PATH EXCAVATION: TRENCH DIGGING*

▶ *PATH EXCAVATION: SURFACE RECLAMATION
AFTER NO BURIALS FOUND*



State Architect's Approval – PAL's results were submitted to the State Archaeologist, which approved the project in 2015.

With an identified location, a conceptual design and the required state approval, pre-selling reservations in Memorial Path could move forward. The proceeds of these first reservations would fund the costs, biblical inscription engraving and installation of the first 3 headstones to be placed in the path.

At this point, it is important to introduce Karin Sprague, a special partner of Memorial Path.

MEMORIAL PATH HEADSTONES AND KARIN SPRAGUE STONE CARVERS

KARIN | SPRAGUE
STONE | CARVERS

Our team of expert artisans use and pursue their gifts and talents by listening compassionately, then designing and hand carving memorials, fostering lasting relationships and shared healing through the "Art of Remembering."

- Our Mission, Karin Sprague Stone Carvers Website



Early in the development of Memorial Path, we were blessed with an introduction to Karin Sprague, an artist/engraver whose studio is located in North Scituate, Rhode Island. Her work and mission focus almost entirely on custom engraving of headstones and memorials. Her work has included simple tributes to elaborate designs, for such clients as Mt. Auburn Cemetery and others in New England, the U.S and abroad.

Karin has hand-carved all of the engravings on Memorial Path headstones (biblical inscriptions and names) and has been an instrumental partner from the beginning. It has been a special relationship and one which has added further richness to the Memorial Path experience.

Following Karin's advice, we have chosen to use slate for Memorial Path headstones. Slate is durable and conducive to Karin's fine carving. And, as one can see, when looking at the cemetery today, it blends in perfectly with our 200-year-old burial ground.

The particular slate used in Memorial Path is sourced from England, through a company with which Karin has had a longstanding relationship. It is an extremely high-quality slate, impressive to both sight and touch.

Karin typically visits our cemetery twice a year in the spring and fall to engrave names of those who have decided to have this done. Some name engravings occur "in advance"; others may follow a recent death. Many church members have enjoyed spending time with Karin during these visits, an experience she enjoys and encourages.

FINAL STEPS TOWARD A 2007 RE-OPENING

Generous contributions and initial Memorial Path fees allowed for the first 3 headstones to be purchased, delivered from England, engraved by Karin Sprague in her studio and installed by Karin in Memorial Path. These 3 headstones are located in Lots 5 and 6.

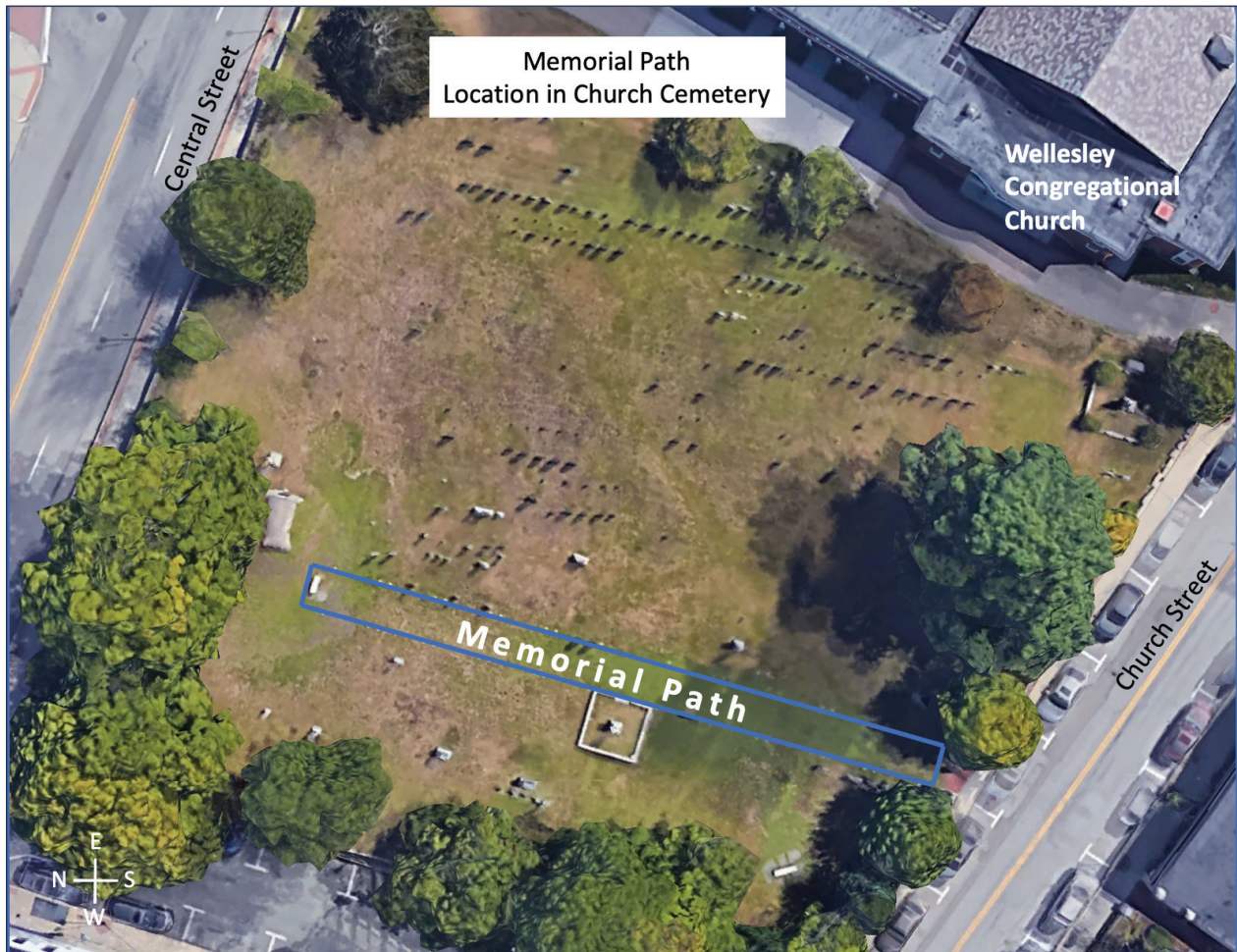
Memorial Path was dedicated at a ceremony in the cemetery on November 4, 2007 following the annual All Saints service that morning.

When engraving capacity on some of the headstones became limited and interest in Memorial Path grew, 5 more headstones were ordered and installed in 2015, bringing the total number of Memorial Path headstones to 8 in number.

MEMORIAL PATH TODAY - HOW DOES IT WORK?

MEMORIAL PATH LOCATION

Memorial Path is a 10.5 by 150 foot area that extends from Church Street, running northward toward Central Street. The path is located approximately two thirds of the way into the cemetery as you move westward from the church.



LAYOUT OF MEMORIAL PATH – HEADSTONES AND LOTS

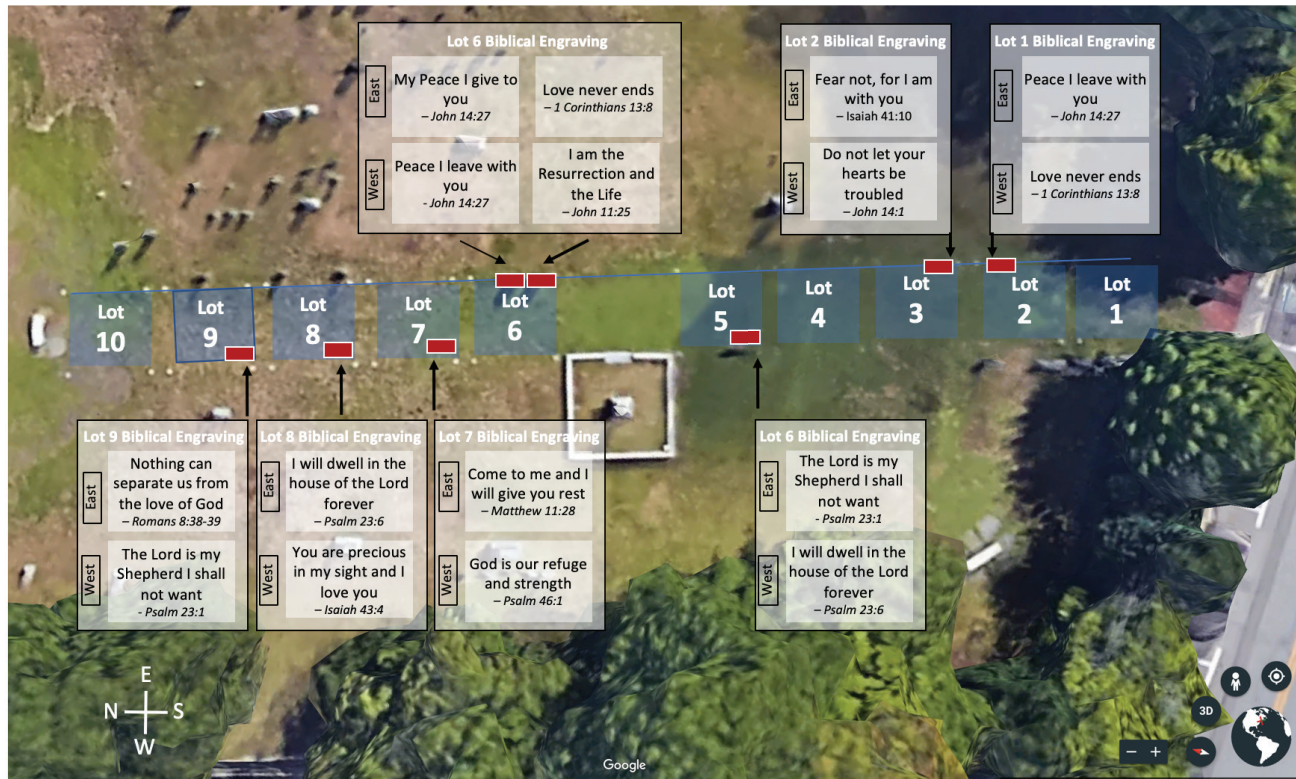
Memorial Path is made up of a total of 10 Lots with 49 Burial Locations in each Lot for the interment of cremated remains. The 8 headstones are located on either the east or west boundary of the Lots.

Memorial Path Layout

10 Number of Burial Lots
8 Headstones

The side of headstone is identified by the biblical inscription engraved on top

MP Headstones ■



HEADSTONE IDENTIFICATION

The biblical passages that are engraved at the top of both sides of each headstone, along with the associated Lot, serve to identify a headstone choice.



HEADSTONE ROW LAYOUT

Each Memorial Path member is provided a specific row on his or her headstone side of choice. Blank rows serve to separate each set of reservations. In other words, if two partners make a shared reservation, their names will be engraved in two consecutive rows. These two rows will be separated from other reservations by blank rows above and/or below their names. On average, there is room on each side of a headstone for 10 engraved names.



Burial Locations – All burials of cremated remains are made in the Lots in which each headstone is located. For example, individuals whose names are on the headstones on the border of Lot 6 will be buried in Lot 6. Those in the Lot 7 headstone will be buried in Lot 7, etc. Each Lot has a total of 49 Burial Locations with a surface dimension of 1.5 by 1.5 ft.

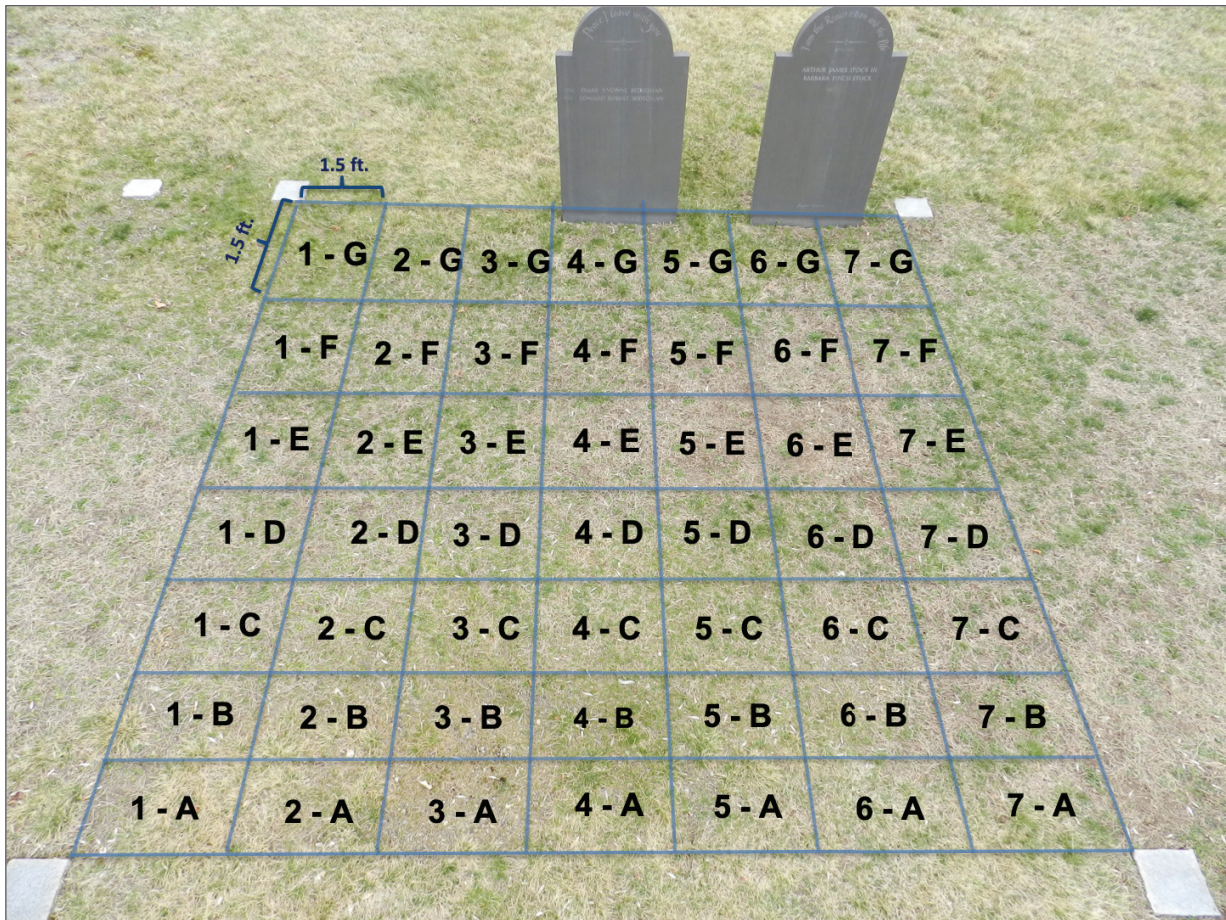
MEMORIAL PATH – BURIAL LOT 6

Below is a photo of Lot 6, which has two headstones located on its eastern boundary. In this photo the four 6” by 6” Lot Markers are located at the 4 corners of the Lot (circled). These corner Lot Markers are placed such that the inside corners of each marker define the four corners of the 10.5’ by 10.5’ Lot dimension. The ashes of all individuals whose names are reserved and in most cases engraved on these headstones, will be buried in Lot 6.



MEMORIAL PATH – BURIAL LOT 6 WITH ALPHA-NUMERIC LAYOUT SHOWN

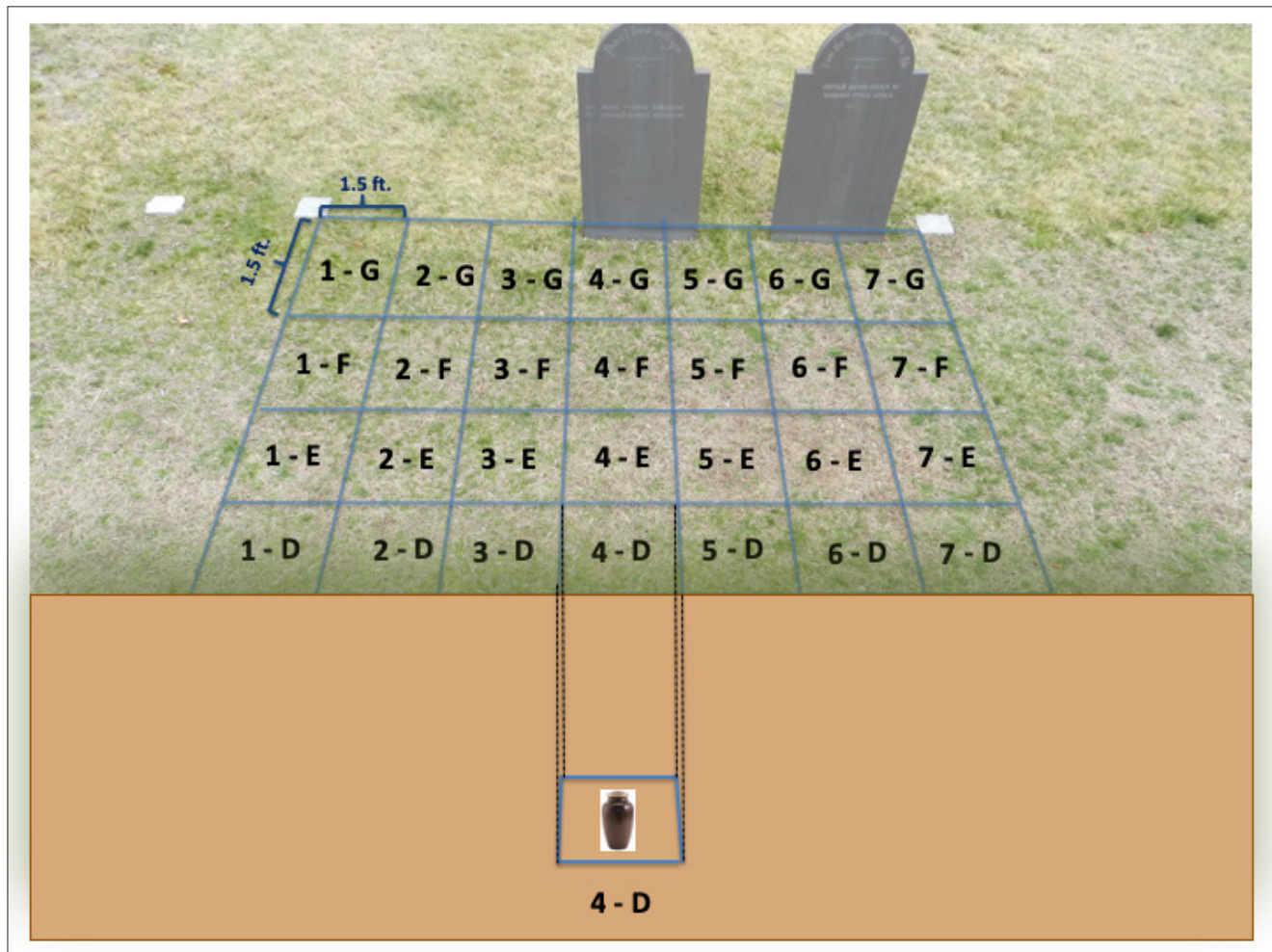
Below is Lot 6 with a graphical representation of the 49 Burial Locations overlaid on this Lot. Each burial location is identified with a “chess-like” alpha-numeric pattern.



Interment Options - At the time of interment, cremated remains are buried in a specific Burial Location (typically in an urn) several feet below the surface. Because of the relatively close proximity of the interred urns, the actual location is determined by the Churchyard Committee at the time of the death. Up to two urns can be interred in each burial location.

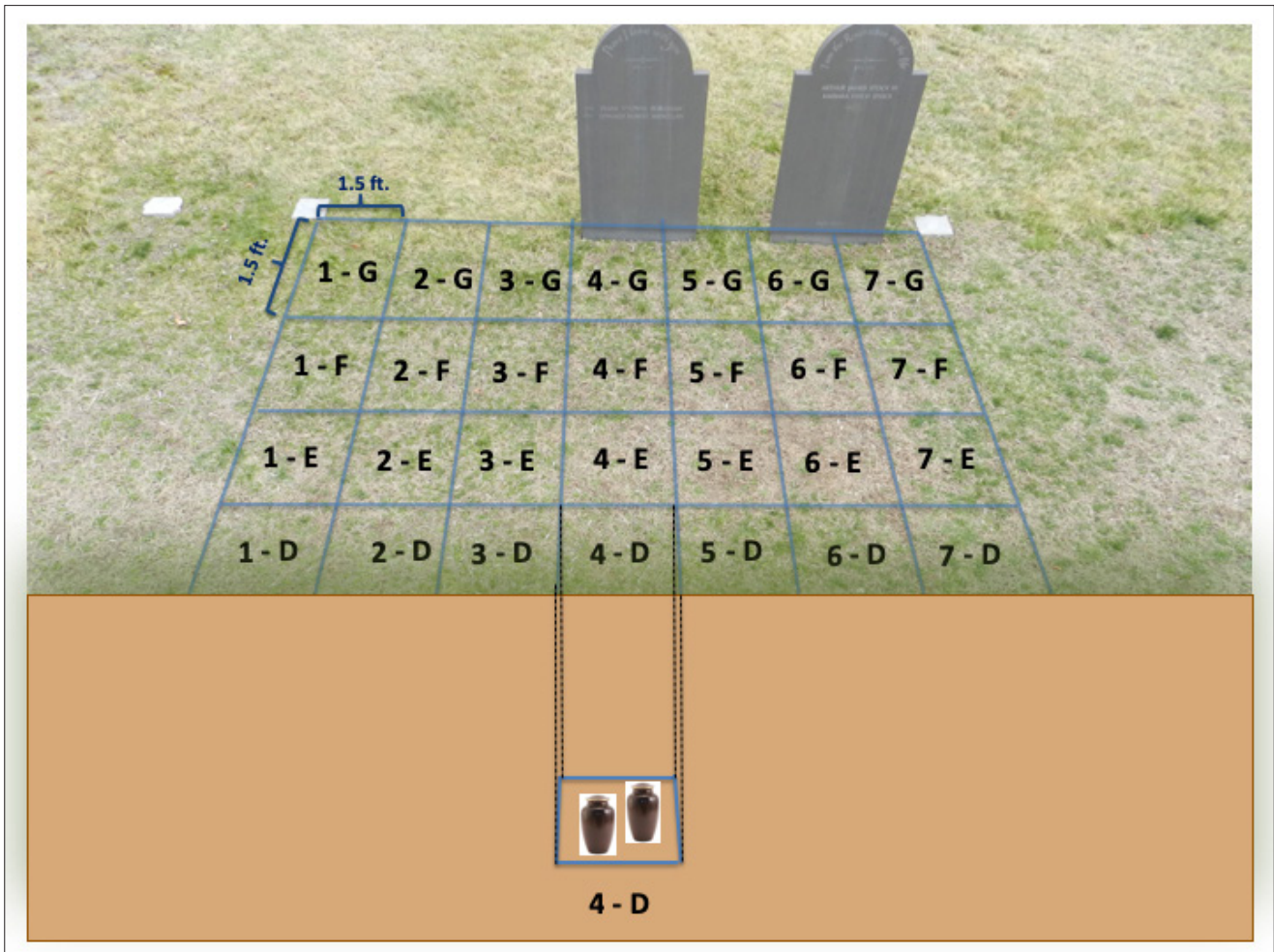
All excavations are completed by hand to assure that previous interments are not disturbed.

MEMORIAL PATH – BURIAL LOT 6
SINGLE-URN BURIAL IN BURIAL LOCATION 4-D



SCHEMATIC EXAMPLE OF A BURIAL OF A SINGLE URN IN BURIAL LOCATION 4-D

MEMORIAL PATH – BURIAL LOT 6
TWO-URN BURIAL IN BURIAL LOCATION 4-D



SCHEMATIC EXAMPLE OF A SHARED BURIAL LOCATION IN BURIAL LOCATION 4-D. IN A SHARED RESERVATION, THE REMAINS OF THE SECOND-TO-DIE WOULD BE BURIED IN THE SAME BURIAL LOCATION AS THAT OF THE PREVIOUSLY DECEASED PARTNER.

MEMORIAL PATH – BURIAL LOT 10
GARDEN (ASHES ONLY, NO HEADSTONE MEMORIALIZATION)

Lot 10, the northern most lot in Memorial Path near the bench, is set aside for those who wish to have only their ashes interred (no urns) and do not wish to be memorialized in the way of an engraving on a Memorial Path headstone.

MEMORIAL RECORDS

Another important aspect of Memorial Path is what is called “Memorial Records.” Memorial Records presently consist of several leather-bound notebooks and are located in the writing desk in the Church Parlor. These records are made available to those who wish to share personalized information about Memorial Path members, for example, a remembrance, a story, interesting background, etc. Information or material provided is coordinated with Churchyard Committee members, but there is considerable flexibility built into these records, with a view to allowing for a warm and personal touch. These records sit alongside data and information on all other headstones located within the cemetery and outside of Memorial Path. The Churchyard Committee will be considering further enhancement and development of Memorial Records in the future.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We hope that this material has provided some insight into the special story of Memorial Path, how it began, how it came into being and what it now means to WVC members.

To be sure, Memorial Path will continue to evolve in the future as we strive to make this sacred space available to WVC members for generations. We believe future generations of WVC members will continue the Memorial Path story, building on the hopes and dreams upon which this sacred space was formed.

In terms of the design objectives, the following, were considered important criteria:

- That the headstones and burials blend in with, and indeed honor, WVC's 200-year old church, cemetery and town;

These objectives were accomplished through the use of slate headstones and the manner in which they are laid out in the path. Slate headstones are extensively used in other areas of the cemetery and almost exclusively in the earliest burial sites. The headstones in Memorial Path blend in so well with the cemetery, they are virtually unidentifiable from a distance. To many seeing Memorial Path for the first time, the path becomes recognizable only when one is near or inside Memorial Path and the headstones are pointed out. The headstones have been distributed evenly throughout the path, avoiding a "crowded" effect and a layout which might draw attention. It is hoped that future generations will be sensitive to this important design feature. This would be accomplished by limiting the total number of headstones installed in Memorial Path. An added benefit to slate is that slate is very conducive to intricate hand engraving, so beautifully done by the artist, Karin Sprague.

- That Memorial Path has the capacity to provide a burial alternative for present and future generations;

Memorial Path only involves the burial of cremated remains which is space-efficient. As described above, there are 10 Lots in Memorial Path in total. Lots 1 to 9 each contain up to 49 burial locations for urns. Lot 10 is for ashes only. Each urn burial location can include two urns. Assuming 2 urns per location, over 882 urns could ultimately be buried in Memorial Path ($2 \times 49 \times 9 = 882$).

Lot 10 is reserved for ashes only and thus has virtually unlimited burial capacity. There is plenty of burial space to accommodate many generations to come. However, as mentioned above, in order to maintain Memorial Path as a cherished and beautiful final resting space, care must be taken to avoid using too many headstones. At some point, alternative ways to memorialize individual names of those buried in Memorial Path can be pursued, perhaps in another location or in a different way (rather than with headstones) while still using Memorial Path for burials.

Other important factors considered when designing Memorial Path included providing a burial option which:

- until 2007 was not available to WVC members for over 100 years;
- allows for the continued expression of connection to Village Church;
- allows one to make “final decisions” in advance as a loving expression to church and family members for generations;
- allows such “final decisions” to be assisted by the pastoral staff and those who oversee Memorial Path;
- provides a burial experience which could include both a commemorative service and an interment at WVC.

CHURCHYARD FUND

All fees and contributions made in support of Memorial Path are held in a separate Churchyard Fund and are solely used to support Memorial Path. To date, Memorial Path has been totally self-funded. No funds have been received for Memorial Path expenditures through WVC’s annual budget, though upkeep of the cemetery grounds is supported by WVC’s budget, with occasional assistance by Churchyard Endowment funds.

It would be wonderful, and arguably appropriate, for Memorial Path to be fully-endowed by the Churchyard Fund. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated and serve to ensure that Memorial Path will continue to be a beautiful resting place in the future.

It should be noted that we are presently in the process of transferring administrative responsibilities to Church staff.