

Episcopal Church of the Advent

338 Academy Street, Madison, GA 30650

(revision: 2025-7-21)

Church of the Advent has created a Memorial Garden as a contemplative space of remembrance where the cremains of church members and/or their families may be scattered or interred.

Church of the Advent Memorial Garden Policies

1. Please keep in mind that the garden is not meant as a substitute for a cemetery. As described below, only the cremains of the deceased may be scattered or buried. Our church cannot guarantee the space shall remain a Memorial Garden in perpetuity.
2. The intent is that, as long as the Episcopal Church of the Advent is active at this location, this Memorial Garden space shall be maintained as created. However, if a future vestry decides the Memorial Garden space would better serve a new purpose, or, should Church of the Advent cease to be at this location, a collection of soil samples representative of the designated scattering and burial sites shall be gathered and relocated to another suitable consecrated site identified by the Parish.
3. The garden serves as consecrated common ground where cremains shall be returned to nature over time. Scattering and burial in designated locations (please refer to 'Procedures') may occur only with input from the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in their absence the Senior Warden.
4. The Church limits use of this Memorial Garden for the scattering and interment of cremains of deceased members of Church of the Advent and their immediate family members (spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren). Exceptions to this limit may be reviewed and approved by the rector, priest in charge, and vestry of Church of the Advent. A connection to the Church of the Advent spiritual community through family or close relationship is the common link amongst those whose cremains will be present in the Memorial Garden.
5. Specific sites of any burials shall remain unmarked and cremains should be placed directly in the soil with or without biodegradable packaging (paper, linen or cotton cloth).
6. A fee may be established by the Church of the Advent Vestry in exchange for the right to bury, scatter or otherwise place cremains in the Memorial Garden. Such a fee for services is not a tax-deductible contribution, and is separate from any memorial gifts to the Church (which may be tax deductible). On the advice of the Rector, Priest-in-Charge or, in their absence the Senior Warden, the vestry may reduce or waive the fee for eligible persons or families experiencing hardship.

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7. Fees collected and donations designated for the Memorial Garden shall be placed in a Vestry-designated fund.
8. Burial rites shall be accordance with the worship and practice of The Episcopal Church as set forth in authorized resources and in consultation with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of the Parish.
9. The Vestry shall maintain a record of those whose cremains are present in the Memorial Garden and family contact information. This record will be part of a Notebook maintained in the church office and will include Memorial Garden Policies, Procedures, Terms and Conditions, a listing of individuals whose cremains have been scattered/buried with the date of that scattering/burial, and a diagram of the garden showing sites where cremains have been scattered or buried.

Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions of the Agreement between The Episcopal Church of the Advent and the deceased's family or the Executor of the deceased's estate relating to The Memorial Garden at The Episcopal Church of the Advent in Madison, Georgia are as follows:

1. Control and management of The Memorial Garden are wholly and solely vested in the Vestry of The Episcopal Church of the Advent, Madison, Georgia, or its duly authorized committee or committees.
2. Receipt of fee, gift and/or donation here unto is without reservation and can be used by The Episcopal Church of the Advent for any lawful purpose. No property right of any kind is acquired by the deceased or the deceased's family.
3. The Episcopal Church of the Advent and those acting on its behalf shall not be liable for damages or loss to cremains or losses of any kind.
4. The family of the deceased buried in the Memorial Garden at The Episcopal Church of the Advent agrees that the deceased's cremains may not be removed from the garden for any reason.
5. All these terms shall be binding, recognized and accepted by deceased's family or the Executor of the deceased's estate and The Episcopal Church of the Advent, Madison, Georgia.

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Church of the Advent Memorial Garden Procedures for Scattering or Burial of Cremains

1. To request the scattering or burial of cremains contact the Rector, Priest-in-charge, a Warden or church administrator. They will ask the individual or committee designated by the vestry to be in charge of the Memorial Garden to help with procedures.
2. If the request is to scatter cremains, a general area in the Memorial Garden for the scattering will be discussed and a location recorded on a diagram of the garden found in the Memorial Garden Notebook.
3. If the request is for burial of cremains, the site shall be located using the Memorial Garden diagram in the Notebook, and shall be a site where there has been no previous burial within the past ten years.
4. Burial must be no deeper than 18" and the cremains must be deposited directly in the ground without a container, or within biodegradable packaging (paper, linen, cotton or similar material that will quickly break down within ten years). Vaults, plastic bags or vessels, and non-biodegradable containers are not permitted.
5. The name of the deceased, with birth and death dates, may be inscribed on a name plate and added to the perpetual plaque in the Memorial Garden. For the sake of uniformity, the church will order the name plates. This shall be the only signage allowed in the Memorial Garden for remembering the dead.
6. A fee established by the vestry shall be charged for the scattering or burial of cremains in the Memorial Garden. Part of the fee shall be used to purchase a name plate for the perpetual plaque if one is desired while the balance of the fee will be placed in the designated fund for the Memorial Garden. The fee is \$1,000 (8-21-2022).

MEMORIAL GARDEN APPLICATION

For the Interment of Ash Remains in the Episcopal Church of the Advent Memorial Garden

I hereby request the right to spread/or bury (circle one) the ash remains of:

[print name as desired on marker]

Birth Date of deceased. _____

Death Date of deceased. _____

I have read and do agree to each of the attached policies, terms and conditions, and procedures governing the garden. I have made these regulations known to the person(s) named below and they understand that my signature hereto is binding on them.

Signed _____ Date _____

Church of the Advent Representative:

Signed _____ Date _____

Name(s) of person(s) responsible for carrying out my wishes as expressed above:

Name _____

Telephone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Name _____

Telephone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Fee paid: \$ _____