

Memorial Stones

Nancy S. Goodfellow

Sybil A. Kellogg

Gloria Mansfield

Stuart Mansfield

Kevin McWilliams

Joyce Whitehead

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Responsive

In Memoriam (Remember Me) words by Christina Rossetti,
music by Michael John Trotta

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold my hand, nor I half turn to go,
yet turning, stay.

Remember me when no more day by day,
You tell me of our future that you planned:
Only remember me; it will be late to counsel then or to pray.

If you forget me for awhile
and afterwards remember, oh do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave a vestige of the
thoughts that once I had,
Better by far forget and smile than remember me and be sad.

Remember me when I am gone away.

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The Consecration of the Memorial Stones

— words from *The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates*

For 21 years now, we have honored our beloved dead through the designing, the creating, the maintaining, and the expanding of our Memorial Garden. The first stones commemorated our congregation's earliest history.

May the example of their lives remain alive within our own.

May our garden bloom in remembrance.

The names of members who had served our faith and our community within still-living memory keep their faces before our eyes, their names in our minds.

May their loving spirits be at rest.

May the serenity of our garden be a comforting reminder of the peace into which they have entered.

Some of those remembered in our Garden never saw this church. They were our individual ancestors, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends.

May they never be forgotten.

May their names be inscribed upon the leaves of the Tree of Life.

Some were our spouses, partners in life, who moved on before us into the mystery. Others were our children, toddlers and young adults, who should have seen our names in the Garden, not we theirs.

Too briefly did they walk beside us.

Still, we are grateful beyond words for the gifts of their lives.

There is joy in our Garden, stones that celebrate families, weddings, continuing participation in Life, in spite of the inevitability of life's ending.

We know that each life must end in its time

– and we rejoice in all the joys that make our lives worth living.

And this weekend, we add and acknowledge and dedicate these newest stones, for loved ones known to many in our community, for those who were known by only a few of us, comfort for those who remember that Time is too slow for those who wait; too swift for those who fear; too long for those who grieve; too short for those who rejoice.

But for those who love, Time is eternity. Hours fly, flowers die, new days, new ways pass by. Love stays.

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