

INFORMATION SHEET

THE PLANTING OF FLOWERS, SHRUBS OR TREES IN THE CEMETERY

PLACING FLOWERS, PLANTS OR WREATHS ON A GRAVESITE

Planting Flowers, Shrubs or Trees:

1. Cemeteries owe much of their beauty to plantings and trees, especially old ones like St. Stephen's with its venerable cedars and their magical resurrection ferns, the stately magnolia, the azaleas and the sasanquas. But we must acknowledge that, in time, they may eventually damage the church, the walkways and gravesites. Careful consideration must be given to what can be planted and where.
2. The approval of the Cemetery Committee **must** be obtained before **any** planting can be done. The Cemetery Covenants also require the approval of the Cemetery Committee before trees, shrubs or plants can be trimmed or removed.

Placing Flowers, Plants or Wreaths on a Gravesite:

1. The placement of live cut flowers, plants or wreaths on gravesites, especially at times meaningful to a family, are welcome, comforting and add to the beauty of the churchyard. Remember to remove them when they begin to wilt or die. The Cemetery Committee has the authority to remove anything from the cemetery, including flowers, potted plants, wreaths, etc. if they are wilting or dying.
2. The Cemetery Covenants prohibit the use of artificial flowers, potted plants and wreaths. Artificial flowers or arrangements brought or delivered by individuals, funeral homes and florists (who may not be familiar with the Cemetery Covenants) will be removed. When they are brought or delivered for funerals or other significant occasions, such as Easter or Christmas, the intent will be honored for a limited period of time before removal.
3. Some families place items on a gravesite that hold a special meaning for them, such as sea shells. Some families use planting containers to hold potted plants. Care should be taken so that they are not damaged by or interfere with the maintenance of the churchyard.