**St Paul's Episcopal Church
Cemetery Guidelines and Regulations**

St. Paul's Cemetery was founded for the use of current and past members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It is not a public cemetery. For the mutual protection of every purchaser in St. Paul's Cemetery, the Vestry of the Church adopts the following rules and regulations. Our cemetery is the responsibility of the church and the property owners and experience has taught us that joint interests are best served by the thoughtful enforcement of regulations which preserve the cemetery. Coventry Chapel is part of the Cemetery and provides niches and other opportunities for placement of cremains of Church members.

**Purpose**

In order to preserve and maintain uniformity and beauty, to provide for stability and against decay and deterioration, to safeguard the sanctity of each grave against inefficient care, the Church reserves the right to make any and all rules and regulations that the Vestry deems necessary to protect and provide for the future welfare of the cemetery.

**Records**

The Church maintains records showing lot owners and grave locations in St. Paul's Cemetery. The locations of all graves/buried urns/plots are recorded in the Church office. Service information of all interments of US war veterans is available.

**Lots, Graves and Niches**

Lots are sold for immediate and future needs of Church members. Payment is expected upon purchase of each grave or plot or niche. The Church reserves a protectorate over each and every grave sold in the Cemetery. No grave/niche shall be molested, marred, changed, improved nor bodies disinterred without the consent of the Vestry.

Only members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church may purchase lots. The cost of each is grave is $500.00 and includes perpetual care. The cost of a niche in Coventry Chapel is $600.00. The cost to have cremains scattered is $300.00. Exceptions to this fee schedule may be made by application to the Vestry of St. Paul's or in case of indigence, to the Rector.

Once purchased, unused lots may be re-sold at the original sale price but the sale is restricted to other members of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church only. No transfer or assignment of any plot shall be valid without the consent of the Vestry. All expenses are to be handled between the buyer and the seller.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church administers the Cemetery, including maintenance and improvements.

**Interments and Dis-interments**

All interments, dis-interments and removals must be made at the time and in the manner designated by the Vestry of St. Paul's and in accordance with current North Carolina law. At the time of burial, opening and closing costs associated with the physical burial are to be paid to the funeral home. All costs of transportation and funeral home services are the responsibility of the family, not St. Paul's Cemetery.

No private mausoleum or other structure shall be permitted on the surface and no underground vault or tomb will be permitted which extends to the surface.

A body or cremains may be removed from its original plot in accordance with the law and at the expense of the family. The Church assumes no liability for the damage to any casket, burial case or urn that is damaged during said removal. Vestry approval is required for any disinterment.

**Burial of a Body**

Vaults are not required but may be used at the discretion of the family. There must at least 18 inches between the top of the vault and the surface of the ground. Green burials in a shroud or biodegradable coffin are permitted, except where restricted by law.

**Multiple Burials in one Plot**

Double depth burial is permitted if the first interment allows for the top of the second interment to remain 18” from the surface of the ground. Please note that not all plots may be suitable for double depth due to underground formations of nature i.e rock, water etc. The church does not assume liability for plots intended for double depth burial not being suitable.

**Burial of Cremains**

Burial of cremains is permitted. If using an urn, the exact location of each urn must be recorded at the office. There must be at least 18 inches between the top of the urn and the ground. This will prevent possible disturbance in the future.

**Multiple Cremains in one Plot**

One plot may be used for multiple cremains provided each new interment does not disturb any previous interment and is recorded on the marker or monument.

**Monuments and Markers**

In order that improvements are kept uniform, the Church reserves the right to regulate the size and quality of all memorials and monuments in the Cemetery.

Permanent markers must be placed within one year of interment. A monument refers to a granite or marble upright marker placed at the head of the grave. A marker or memorial refers to the granite, marble or bronze marker placed at the foot of the grave. Continued maintenance of monuments is the responsibility of family members and their heirs.

The foundation for the monument will be concrete with a six inch border flush to the ground. The foundation must be at least twelve inches deep supported by two eight inch concrete blocks. The cost of the foundation is the responsibility of the owner

No monument may be removed from the Cemetery except by the Church unless written order of the owner is presented to the Vestry.

Should any monument or memorial become unsightly, dilapidated or a menace to the safety of visitors, St. Paul's shall have the right to either correct or remove said marker at the expense of the deceased family or heirs.

**Grave Decorations**

Trees, shrubs, vines or flowers may not be planted on any plot.

Funeral flowers will be removed by the Church after they become wilted and unsightly.

The care of grass, including seeding, weeding, watering and mowing will be the responsibility of St. Paul's Cemetery as well as the care of all existing shrubbery and trees.

**Principal**

The Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church or a clergy person designated by the Rector will be the principal Officiant at services conducted in St. Paul's Cemetery or Coventry Chapel.