



**The
Robert Kincart Prayer Garden,**

“A Walk Thru the Bible”

On behalf of the members of the

**First Presbyterian Church
175 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, Florida**

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Welcome to our garden of faith. We invite you to enjoy this Biblical Garden both with your family and friends.

It was inspired by plants from the Bible and is founded on the three principles of ancient gardens from the Middle East:

- Water
- Shade
- Rest and contemplation

Water is represented in three ways. First, the meandering paver walkway recreates the majestic rivers of the Bible as they take their historic journeys through the land where stories of faith are told.

Water is also symbolized by a circle of river stone you'll pass along your journey. The plant within represents the bulrushes growing along the Nile, where the baby Moses was hidden. He became the leader who guided the Israelites out of bondage.

You'll hear the sound of water as you walk by the Langston Fountain in the center of the courtyard.

The shade under the lofty oaks and magnolias along the walkway provides a welcome respite from the fast pace of everyday life. The giant oak towering over the circular patio and gathering area was given to the church in 1975, when the building was constructed. The three Southern magnolias along the garden walk were also gifts from that time.

The other massive oaks in the garden were here when the church acquired the property.

Places for sitting for rest and contemplation start with the round patio and seating bench. This offers a place for groups to gather or guests to rest after a walk around our beautiful Lake Hollingsworth. You can relax on benches placed around the garden.

You'll find another semicircle seating wall around the Langston Fountain.

About 130 plants are mentioned in the Bible. What you'll see here are a few specimens from those that do well in this climate and are readily available to you for your garden. Interpretative signs will help you identify these plants and where to find them in the Bible, listing its role in the greatest story ever told.

Please enjoy this garden. It's our gift to the community. We invite you to join us for a Sunday service to see what our church can offer you and your family.

Excerpt from Volume II, Solving the Landscape Puzzle,
Chapter 103. *Enhancing the Senses:
Sight, Smell, Sound, Taste, and Touch*

Some gardens are examples of different themes designed to tell a story or promote an image.

In 1978 our church the First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland moved from downtown to its fourth location across from the beautiful shores of Lake Hollingsworth on the east side of the lake, around the corner from world renowned Florida Southern College. It was placed among a towering group of existing oaks where a stately mansion used to stand. A beautiful garden was developed around it.

To finance the new landscaping (which I designed) the church sold additional trees; oaks, magnolias and pines to the congregation to adorn the property. Young men from a Sunday school class called the Joy Class provided the labor.

Later when a new addition was added I had the privilege of designing an interpretative garden aptly named the: **“Robert Kincart Prayer Garden, a Walk Thru the Bible”**.

Each plant has an interpretative sign listing its role in the greatest story ever told.

The garden features a meandering walkway of cobblestone pavers that passes under a gazebo with a grape vine, as it winds its way through history. We invite you to join us, it's worth a visit.

Ten Gardens to visit in Central Florida:

1. Robert Kincaid Prayer 'Garden Walk thru the Bible' - Lakeland
2. Hollis Gardens - Lakeland
3. Bok Tower Gardens - Lake Wales
4. USF Botanical Gardens - Tampa
5. Eureka Springs Park - Tampa
6. Sunken Gardens - Saint Petersburg
7. St. Pete Orchid Farm - Saint Petersburg
8. Bambi's Butterfly House - Disney World, Orlando
9. Leu Gardens - Orlando
10. Nature Coast Botanical Garden and Nursery - Spring Hill

greenthumbartist.com

The Langston Fountain
before the
Robert Kincart Prayer Garden
" Walk thru the Bible"
was added.

