

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Brevard, North Carolina



**Policies & Procedures
governing
St. Paul's in the Valley Cemetery
Effective November 18, 2025**

Two Cemeteries under the Care of St. Philip's Episcopal Church

History

St. Paul's in the Valley Cemetery

The sacred grounds of St. Paul's in the Valley Cemetery give special meaning to the phrase, "Communion of Saints." St. Paul's in the Valley burials date to the middle 1850's with the earliest known burial in this cemetery being 1857. The graveyard has been naturally maintained and has been cited as one of the most beautiful in the South. This private cemetery was established first to be used by members of St. Paul's in the Valley Parish and then later by members of St. Philip's Parish, Brevard, NC.

There are two Civil War veterans buried here, one Confederate and one Union, as well as veterans of WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. There are also slaves buried in the cemetery, their graves marked by rough stones, and known only to God. Also buried here are many of the founders of our church and their children.

Please take the time to wander peacefully in this serene resting place of our generations, and while you're at it, take a walk down "St. Peter" path to the Memorial Stone.

Cemetery under St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Under the present church sanctuary, there remain graves from the original cemetery for St. Philip's Parish. These graves were covered when the present stone structure was built to replace the original wooden church building that was destroyed by fire in 1925. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Policies and Procedures

These Policies and Procedures set forth rules, regulations, and guidelines for the use of St. Paul's in the Valley Cemetery. A copy of these policies shall be given to plot owners or their closest descendant and will be given to all future purchasers.

I. Administration

a. Cemetery Committee

- i. The Cemetery Committee shall be composed of 5 or more active communicants of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. They will be appointed by the vestry and their terms shall be set by the vestry. It shall also include the Rector and the Junior Warden.
- ii. Administrative details concerning the sales, improvements, upkeep, and designation of cemetery plots shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Committee. Maintenance of individual plots is the responsibility of the owners and/or their descendants.
- iii. Any action requiring approval of the Cemetery Committee is understood to mean "a majority of the active members of the Cemetery Committee."

b. Transactions

- i. An owner may not sell or transfer any lot or plots except back to St Philip's Parish and at the original purchase price.
- ii. Lots shall not be sub-divided without written permission of the Cemetery Committee and the Vestry.
- iii. Records of all transactions, noting the cemetery plot/plots and grave site information, shall reflect the name of the owner and any additional relevant information. These records shall be retained at the church.

II. Cemetery Plots

a. Sale of plot(s)

- i. Plots shall be sold ONLY to current, established communicants as defined by St. Philip's Parish Bylaws.
- ii. The procedure for the sale of a lot shall be as follows:
 1. The representative of the Cemetery Committee will collect full payment for plot or plots only after establishing communicant status.
 2. Document the sale of the plot(s) in the receipt book for the Cemetery. Complete the certificate.
 3. The original receipt and certificate must be given to the Senior Warden for his/her signature.

4. Once signed, copy the original receipt, mark it **Attention “Bookkeeping/Archives”** and place it in the Cemetery mailbox in the Parish Office.
 5. Mail the original receipt and certificate to the purchaser.
 6. Report the sales at the next Cemetery Committee Meeting.
- iii. Sale prices for grave sites are listed in Appendix A.
- b. Burial
 - i. Before any burial or disposition of ashes can begin, the **Burial Information Form**, which will be supplied by the church (or is available on the church website) **must be completed and returned to the Parish Administrator.**
 - ii. Only communicants or their immediate family can have their ashes scattered at the Memorial Stone. A small bronze identification marker will be placed on the Memorial Stone by the Cemetery Committee. The Rector or his/her designee will inform the chairman of the Cemetery Committee or other members of this Committee of the details of the burial.
 - iii. The plot owner shall assume the financial responsibility for opening and closing a grave. Any damage to the roads, paths, other plots or markers shall be repaired and the cost borne by said plot owner. While the choice of burial is personal, we encourage those who wish to bury at St. Paul’s in the Valley to consider cremation. Heavy-duty earth-moving machinery that is required to open a grave does damage to roads and often to grave lots/plots around the grave to be opened.
 - iv. For those interested in a Green Burial, your funeral home will inform you of the state requirements. We require a minimum earth cover of 48 inches.
- c. Monuments
 - i. Monuments shall be constructed of the following materials only natural stone, granite, marble, or bronze. The addition of a bronze plaque attached to natural stones is acceptable. Natural stones are available from monument companies or local stone yards. The choice is yours so long as it contributes to the natural, historic beauty of the cemetery.
 - ii. All grave monuments are limited to a MAXIMUM HEIGHT of 36 inches above ground level, including the base, and a MAXIMUM WIDTH of 30 inches.
 - iii. The monument itself MUST BE APPROVED BY the Cemetery Committee and, additionally, a member of the Cemetery Committee must approve its placement on the plot.
- d. Pet burials are not permitted.

e. Maintenance

- i. Any planting must be located within the confines of the individual plot and shall be limited to low growing, natural flora, non-invasive plants. Only plants that will not exceed the boundaries of the plot and will not obscure or limit access to other areas of the cemetery will be permitted. Plantings within a plot must not detract from the overall appearance of the cemetery and must conform to the natural beauty of this historic site. For ideas of acceptable plants, please discuss it with representatives of the Cemetery Committee.

Note: The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove any and all plants that do not conform to the rules set down in #1, as well as plants that are not maintained.

- ii. Plantings of any type outside the boundaries of a plot can only be done by the Cemetery Committee.
- iii. All monuments must include, at a minimum, full name, date of birth and date of death. The marker is the responsibility of the owner or descendant of the plot. **Structures of any type (stone benches, etc.) require Cemetery Committee approval.**
- iv. In order to maintain the natural beauty of this historic cemetery, the following items are prohibited: glass items of any nature, vases, jars, candles, cement benches, small yard flags, balloons, spinners, artificial flowers or shrubs of any type, or permanent plastic or cement plant pots or statuary.

Note: The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to add to the list of prohibited items that are felt to distract from the natural beauty of St Paul's in the Valley.

- v. Money from donations and the sale of plots shall be used for the improvement and upkeep of the cemetery. The Cemetery Committee shall use its best efforts to maintain the cemetery in good condition and in accordance with the current Policies & Procedures.

APPENDIX A

ST. PAUL'S IN THE VALLEY CEMETERY

Effective May 14, 2024, the selling price for grave plots in St. Paul's in the Valley Cemetery shall be:

1-space burial plot	4 ft. x 10 ft. (Approximately 40 sq. ft.)	\$500.00
4-space burial plot	16 ft x 10 ft. (Approximately 160 sq. ft.)	\$1,500.00
5-space burial plot	20 ft x 10 ft (Approximately 200 sq ft.)	\$2,500.00
6-space burial plot	24 ft x 10 ft. (Approximately 240 sq. ft.)	\$3,500.00

All checks should be made payable to:

Attn: Cemetery Committee
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
256 E. Main St.
Brevard, NC 28712


APPROVED BY THE ST. PHILIP'S CEMETERY COMMITTEE



DAVID MORROW, CHAIRMAN

Nov 20, 2025
DATE

APPROVED BY THE VESTRY OF ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DAVID YEAGER, SENIOR WARDEN

19 November 2025
DATE

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256 E Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712

828.884.3666

www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org

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MINISTERS: The Baptized People of God
The Rt. Rev. José Antonio McLoughlin, Bishop
The Rev. Elizabeth Roles, Rector

† † †

OUR VISION: *Rooted in God's word and guided by Christ's example, St. Philip's Episcopal Church will be a loving, inclusive community committed to living out Christ's commandments.*

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OUR MISSION: *Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and informed by Scripture, tradition and reason, we will:*

- *Learn and teach by word and example how God continues to be at work in the world and in our lives;*
- *Love and serve all people as Christ loves us;*
- *Grow in faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us; and*
- *Celebrate joyfully this faith in our life, worship, prayer, and service.*

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