

NEWS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2 | FALL 2017



GIVING THANKS FOR THE ANGELS IN OUR LIVES

'Tis the season of Thanks and Giving. As we gather with our friends and loved ones over the next few weeks, we will reminisce about years past. Our conversations will turn to those unique moments that bind us. Some of these moments will be sad and others will generate a belly laugh.

Preserving the stories of our past is crucial to our future.

Gravestones are one way of preserving the past. The marker, regardless of size or material, is evidence of the fact that the person buried was important to someone. The survivors did not want this person to disappear into history without engraving the fact of their existence on the most enduring material available.

Inside this issue we will reflect on the lives of the many angels past and present who have made our community and our lives better because they cared. If you have not visited this outdoor museum and sculpture garden in a while it is time to visit and wander among the gravestones of the many who made Lynchburg.

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL GIFT?

For the booklover in your life, Remembering the Fallen: A biographical study of the Civil War interments at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia, by Bethany L. White, makes an excellent gift. The book can be purchased online at www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com or you can stop by the cemetery office and pick up a copy.

Our angel notecards are the perfect choice for those who still value handwritten notes. On the set of six cards is a reprint of an oil painting of the Angel of Grief created by Judy B. Stowers.

Looking for a one-of-a-kind gift? Consider arranging a private tour of the historic section of the cemetery for your loved one. Private tours allow the visitor to focus on their particular area of interest. To learn more about scheduling a tour, contact the office.

Find us on the web at www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com

Facebook at [presbyteriancemeteryva](https://www.facebook.com/presbyteriancemeteryva)

Follow us on Instagram at Historic Presbyterian Cemetery





STORIES IN STONE

”On August 30, 1889 workers in a mine in Frostburg, Maryland accidentally opened a vent to a nearby mine creating a flood that trapped 45 men.”(Baltimore Sun, 1889).

Hugh Garland Meem, VMI graduate and mining engineer for Alleghany Mine, was there that day and rallied onlookers to accompany him into the mine to rescue the imprisoned. When others turned away, it was Meem who continued the search and he is credited with saving the

lives of the 45 miners.

After rescuing the first group, Meem learned that three men and a boy were still unaccounted for. He insisted they be found and asked for additional volunteers to join him in his search. The group waded through water that reached their armpits and finally found the last four huddled together. One of the rescued mistook Meem, who was dressed in white, for an angel coming to carry him home.

The Baltimore Sun described Meem as “a tall and sturdy young man, well-built physically to carry out any proj-

ect his undoubted courage might suggest. He bears his honors modestly; avers that his achievements have been exaggerated, and that others are entitled to praise as well as he. Nevertheless, it is generally conceded that he played a noble and heroic part.”

Sadly, just five months later Meem died of typhoid fever at the age of 25. Born in Lynchburg on January 2, 1865, he was the son of Gen. Gilbert Meem and Nannie R. Meem. His body was returned to Lynchburg and he is buried in Range 7, Lot 1. His tombstone reads as follows:“ Alone, unaided, he bravely risked his life in a successful effort to save 45 miners imprisoned in a flooded mine in Frostburg, MD in 1889.”

REMEMBERING LYNN DODGE

As we enter the season of Thanks and Giving, we remember and honor our dear friend, Lynn Dodge, who passed away in September.

Lynn served as president of the Friends of the Presbyterian Cemetery and also as a trustee for the cemetery. Under her leadership, the Friends obtained 501c3 status, installed a scatter garden, es-



GUIDED TOURS

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Judi Harvey and Seregi Troubetzkoy our Sunday tours were a resounding success! A record number of people attended our Architecture and Symbolism tour in August. Tours will begin again in April. Watch our website and Facebook page for details.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY!

Many assume the Presbyterian Cemetery is full and no longer has spaces available for purchase. Not true. In fact, there are several options available for those seeking to secure their final resting place. Plots for traditional, in-ground burials and for the burial of cremains are available throughout the cemetery.

In addition to in-ground burial options, the cemetery offers niches for interring cremains and has recently added a scatter garden. The scatter garden provides an environmentally friendly and economical alternative to in-ground burials. If you would like more information about burial options, please call the cemetery at 434-845-0551 or email pc1823@msn.com

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The cemetery has been blessed to have the Garden by the James return and continue to add beautiful plantings to forgotten graves throughout the cemetery.

This fall, they planted over 100 bulbs on the gravesite of the five girls who died in the 1909 fire at the Presbyterian Orphanage! Be sure to visit and check out their hard work this spring!





ANGELS AMONG US: *Thankful for the Many who Volunteer*

Australian politician Elizabeth Andrew is quoted as saying, “Volunteers are the backbone of many organizations. They are giving of their time and labor and expect very little in return. They don’t necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.”

At Presbyterian Cemetery, Greg Tyree is one such volunteer. Greg has a soft spot in his heart for forgotten graves. Since retiring from Belvac Machinery earlier this year, he has spent much of his free time sprucing up the cemetery grounds and tending to forgotten graves. A lover of history and a reenactor, Greg has adopted the gravestones of Confederate soldiers whose family lines have literally died out. He has painstakingly worked to clean their markers so others might quickly recognize them when visiting.

Greg came to the cemetery because of the family he has buried here, but he has stayed because of his desire to preserve and honor the past. If you see him around say, “Hello and thank you!”

Board of Trustees

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Friends of Presbyterian Cemetery

- Nadine Christian, Treasurer
- Judi Harvey, President
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CONNECT WITH US

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established summer tours, and created a newsletter.

Lynn was passionate about preserving the rich history of the cemetery and sharing the stories of those buried here with the world. Just as she oversaw the transition of the Lynchburg Public Library from paper to electronic operation, her dream was to see the cemetery make the same transition. Lynn’s desire was to create a digital map of the cemetery which would identify the more than 17,000 individuals buried here and to share their stories online.

The Friends of the Presbyterian Cemetery is committed to realizing Lynn’s dream of digitizing the records and installing wayfinding signage throughout the cemetery. If you would like to contribute to this project, you may make a donation in Lynn’s honor.



THANK YOU:

To our volunteers who give generously of their time and talents

- Rachel Beiler
- James Bucklew
- Karen Bucklew
- Chuck Bradner
- Buck Bradley
- Allen Chipley
- Nadine Christian
- Lynn Dodge
- Lisa Edmunds
- Porter Flynn
- Winston Green
- Max Guggenheimer
- Judi Harvey
- Karlie Kotz
- Bob Leslie
- Holmes Laughon
- Tance Laughon
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- Susan Pillow
- Suzanne Ramsey
- Cary Roberts
- Abigale Sattler
- Sam Sensabaugh
- Nancy Strosnider
- Kendall Sydnor
- Sergei Troubetzkoy
- Greg Tyree

Organizations

- James River Garden Club
- Jones Memorial Library
- Liberty University
- Lynchburg Fire Dept. Station 2



- Lynchburg Museum
- Lynchburg Tourism Department
- Lynchburg Visitor’s Center
- The News and Advance
- WSET

INTERESTED IN ADOPTION?

Maintaining a 194-year-old site presents a never-ending challenge. Several years ago, the cemetery decided to out-source mowing to a professional lawn care firm. Due to the many monuments and pieces of funerary art located in the cemetery, great care and patience must be used when cutting the grass. On average, it takes a team of five people two days to cut the grounds!

In order to make the cemetery presentable, much more than cutting the grass is required. With only one part-time staff person, these duties fall to volunteers. Periodically, groups or families volunteer to do cemetery clean up. This usually involves weeding, raking, removing dead flowers, and picking up debris.

The cemetery is seeking individuals/groups interested in adopting a section of the cem-



etry and performing routine clean-up chores. The process is simple. Your group would agree to perform basic clean-up activities for a specific section of the cemetery. It's a great way to get some fresh air and learn some Lynchburg history in the process. Each group will receive a tour of the cemetery as a thank you. If you or your group would be willing to help, please contact the office at 434.845.0551 or email pc1823@msn.com.

Have you seen our new sign?

People often ask, "Where is the Presbyterian Cemetery?" Many pass by on their daily commute but fail to realize the cemetery is right in front of them when they exit the expressway. Thankfully, that will no longer be the case. A new sign has been installed on Robins Road directing visitors to the cemetery. The main entrance remains on Grace Street but the Robins Road entrance provides quick access to parking and the office.



2017 ANNUAL FUND

Contributions received through October 31, 2017

Corporate / Foundations

Etta & John Hughes Foundation	\$1000
First Presbyterian Church	\$1000
Bank of the James	\$500
John C. Echols Trust	\$500
Westminster Presby. Church	\$500

Monument Circle \$1,000-\$2,499

Edward Booth, Memory· Raymond Booth
Max Guggenheimer, Memory· Lynn Dodge
Lynn Dodge

Wall Circle \$500-\$999

Hanna Burruss, Memory· Lynn Dodge
Cary Roberts

Garden Circle \$250-\$499

Budd Adams, Memory/Honor· Kathleen Adams and Carolyn Adams
Robert Bradley
Jessica Flippin, Memory· Lynn Dodge
Roger and Winston Green
John Lauer
Kendall Sydnor

Gate Circle \$100-\$249

Monroe Baldwin
Dixon Chipley

Mary Glenn Cobb
Linnie Dudley
Judi Harvey
Kathryn Kirkpatrick
Betty Kirkpatrick
William Massie
Langhorne McCarthy
Wallace McKenna
Judith McNeel
Margaret Nash, Memory· Raymond Booth
Kimball Payne
Austin Quick, Memory· Quicks, Pearsons, Kinners
Suzanne Ramsey
Betty Roberts
Nancy Strosnider
Jettie Marie Waller, Memory Lynn Dodge
Peter Ward

Contributions up to \$99

James Dooley
Betty Elliott, in memory Lynn Dodge
Jim Carrington
William Hooper
Edie & Robert Light, Memory· Lynn Dodge
Eloise Peters
Kathy Miller
Richard Fox
Dr. James and Ruth Smith

UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking for something to do with out of town guest? In need of physical and mental stimulation after all that food and football? Come out and participate in our first annual scavenger hunt!

The cost to participate is \$10 and the money goes towards cemetery restoration. Scavenger hunt kits can be purchased at the cemetery office or the Lynchburg Visitor's Center. The hunt can be completed anytime between Thursday, November 23 and Sunday, November 26. The hunt is suitable for all ages and everyone who submits their answers by 5:00PM on Sunday, November 26 will be entered into a drawing for a prize pack.