

EST. 1823  
**PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY**  
OF THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG

### The Presbyterian Cemetery as an Outdoor Classroom

Students from area Colleges and Universities came together to provide assistance researching key projects, helping to write assessments and better serve the operating and business needs of the Presbyterian Cemetery. While most of this work has been put on hold due to the coronavirus closing schools, we wanted to share some of their progress. Students, faculty, and staff from Liberty University, Randolph College and University of Lynchburg adopted the Presbyterian Cemetery as an intercollegiate and cross-curricular outdoor classroom. We appreciate all of their efforts and hope that collaborations with these community partners will continue.



- \* At Liberty University, Dr. David Snead's Virginia History class researched the names of fifty burials. Each student studied primary sources to tease out details of everyday people living extraordinary lives during the 19th and 20th centuries. The fifty biographies were then edited by Joshua Tate, a junior history major at LU. Many of these biographies were shared on our Facebook page.
- \* University of Lynchburg's Bonnar Leader and History Major Alex Watkin, concentrated on the "servants section" of the cemetery. According to the Burial Book, this section was designated for the black servants of families who were buried here during the 1800's. Unfortunately, there are no official records listing dates, names or any standing monuments indicating that these plots were actually used. Sam Tomlin of Green Vault Corporation did an official probe, followed by Randolph College's Professor Sarah Sojka's Environmental Science class investigation. Dr. Sojka's students used ground penetrating radar, proving the plots had indeed been used for several burials. We have asked the Legacy Museum to "share the news" of this exciting discovery and to join PC and gain more knowledge regarding these graves as well as help honor those interred with an Honorary monument. For her efforts, Alexa Watkin received the top tier Robert C. McCauley award at University of Lynchburg.
- \* University of Lynchburg alumnus Jacob Olichney, a plant biology student, has been sprucing up the grounds by trimming bushes and identifying trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- \* University of Lynchburg's Bonner Leader students Schuyler Rowe and Matthew Varsi assisted with board meeting documentation, special events planning and promotion and grant writing and research.
- \* Liberty University students Danielle Oktay, Olivia Stuckey, Josh Pense and others worked long hours making sure the grounds are cleaned up and free of debris while learning about plants, monuments, and record keeping.



### Mailing List Update

If you had a change of address or are receiving duplicates of this newsletter, we would like to know. Also, because we strive to be good stewards of our resources (financial and physical), we would like to know if you are interested in receiving our newsletter via email. If you would prefer an electronic version, please email us at [office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com](mailto:office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com)

### Board of Trustees

- Bill Barrett
- Dawn Blankinship
- Robert Bradley
- Mary Sue Childress
- Tripp Duerson
- Lisa Edmunds
- Sally James
- John Tinsley

### Friends of the Presbyterian Cemetery

- Judi Harvey, President
- Racheal Deddens, Secretary
- Suzanne Ramsey, Editor

### Executive Director

- Lara Jesser-Abell

## Corporate Donations

- Bank of The James
- Echols Farm Inc.
- First Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Church—  
Presbyterian Women
- Greater Lynchburg  
Community Foundation
- Westminster Presbyterian  
Church

### \$1,000—\$2500

- Robert Bradley
- Cary Roberts, PhD
- John Tinsley

### \$200 - \$999

- Emily Anderson in honor of  
The Descendants of Samuel  
Poindexter
- Susan Arthur
- Hanna Burruss
- Kathy Dagaforde in memory  
of Risque Benedict
- Gray & Tripp Duerson
- Lisa & Paul Edmunds in  
memory of Billy Barksdale
- Winston Green
- Lara Jesser-Abell in memory  
of Maud Wood Jesser
- Donald Jones
- Robert Leslie
- Anne Leydon
- Bill McBratney
- Sarah McBratney
- Judith McNeel
- Kendall Sydnor in memory  
of Grace Sydnor

- Jerry Stone in memory of  
Lemuel White, Sr & Family

### \$99—\$199

- Lewis Arthur
- Monroe Baldwin
- George Beam
- Dawn & Brian Blankinship
- Charles Burgess
- Brian Cann in memory of the  
Marshall & Montgomery  
Families
- Brad Copas in memory of  
Minnie and William Puckett
- Terri Cornwell
- Edward Craighill
- Charles Crist
- Linnie Dudley
- Richard Fox
- Mary Gibb in honor of  
Max Guggenheimer
- Michael Harrington
- Eva Irvan
- Sally & Trey James
- Liz & William A Jesser, III
- Leslie Kneece
- Sallie Leys
- Mike Lucado
- George Maxwell in memory of  
Miller Maxwell
- Richard Miller in memory of  
S.Behetheland Stewart Miller
- Kevin Shroyer in memory of  
Gen. Samuel Garland Jr.

### Contributions up to \$99

- Robert Babcock
- Edith Barber

- Renee Campbell
- Peggy Caprise-Gagestyn in  
memory of Adrian Gagestyn
- Mary Glenn Cobb in memory  
of The Barksdale, Leys and  
Horner Families
- Russell Crank
- Constance Dahlberg
- Jim Dalton
- Mary Easter
- Paul Ferguson in memory of  
Eunice Ferguson & Mary M  
Gallaher
- Claudia Hamblen
- Doug Harvey
- James Harvey
- Granville Hill
- William Hooper
- Anne Hoven
- Claudia Jutras
- Robert Light, Jr. in honor of  
Judi Harvey
- Clyde Marks
- Langhorne McCarthy
- Wallace G. McKenna
- Richard Morris
- Ruth Pillow
- James Smith
- Mark Stanek in memory of  
Danny Stanek
- Nancy Strosnider
- Edna Twiddy
- Mary Ann Williams in memory  
of Elizabeth & Robert Richards
- Richard Fox

**Contributions 11.01.19 - 05.06.20**

Friends of the Presbyterian Cemetery  
2020 Grace Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24504

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LYNCHBURG, VA  
PERMIT # 161

Please consider making a gift to The Presbyterian Cemetery, a 501c(13) nonprofit organization. Donations will go toward our general operating costs and wherever the need is greatest. ALL gifts are most appreciated! If you would like to restrict your gift for a specific purpose, please indicate your donation go to The Friends of The Presbyterian Cemetery, our 501c(3) organization, and tell us how you would like your donation applied.

Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Follow or tag us on Instagram at [historicpresbyterian](#)

Like us or check in on Facebook at [presbyteriancemeteryva](#)

Follow us on Twitter at [PresbyterianCe1](#)

**Find us on the web at [www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com](http://www.presbyteriancemeteryva.com)**

Office hours are 9:30am to 2:00pm Monday thru Thursday

