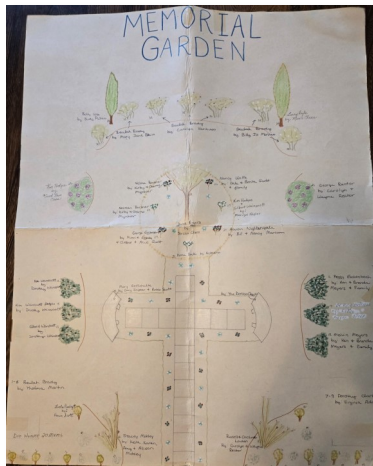


The 222 History Corner - The Memorial Garden at Bellevue Baptist -

In May, when we celebrate Memorial Day, it brings to mind a special place just outside the church. The garden area between the Sunday school building and the main church building is known as the "Memorial Garden." Maybe you have seen the kids there playing in the colorful trees, or hunting for Easter eggs. It is dedicated to the memory of many church members' loved ones who have passed away. The *Lively Stones* book says, *"In June, 1994 the Memorial Garden was nearly completed, suggested by Karen Scott as a way to make use of 'unused green space' between the buildings, the garden was designed to reflect the 'cross and crown' motif of the church's main stained glass window. ...Over the years, new plantings have been added in memory of deceased loved ones and friends."*



Karen Scott, (my mom), worked with Ammon Landscape to design the layout and select the plants for the garden. Church members donated plants and benches in memory of loved ones to offset the project cost. Many church volunteers installed the landscaping and hardscaping that began the garden we know today. Over the years, Karen Scott and many other church members have volunteered to upkeep the garden. Some people still donate plants, or propagate pieces of plants from their own garden. When Karen Scott passed away in 2014, her Sunday School class added a plaque to the garden in her memory.

The Memorial Garden has become a beautiful place where people can reflect, pray and remember. It is a great place to "work"

through hard feelings. Sometimes working alone in the garden is good for the heart. I also like to work there with friends and enjoy the sunshine and garden fellowship. Since the Memorial Garden is not the Garden of Eden, we will always be battling weeds and pests. We are blessed to have Nature's Way keeping up with the maintenance of the garden. That connection may have played a role in bringing Tink and Heather to our church. Heather and her sister Lauren, both help care for the plants around church as well. Although the hard work is now handled by Nature's Way, I still enjoy trimming the roses, watering and planting flowers.

The Memorial Garden is a special place to enjoy God's creation, especially when the pink Magnolia trees are in bloom. The Post newspaper once featured it as the "Eyecatcher of the Week" and wrote: *"... trees bloom in the churchyard to herald spring at Bellevue Baptist Church."* Many plants and shrubs have come and gone, but the Dogwood in the middle and two Magnolia trees have been there from the start.



The Memorial Garden is a favorite place for kids to play and families to take pictures. Many children in the neighborhood have helped me plant the leftover Easter flowers or water the plants in the summer, the same way I did as a child. The next



time you pass the Memorial Garden, remember that each plant has a story and many lives are remembered at the Bellevue Baptist Memorial Garden.

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