

Old Trinity Church Cemetery

P.O. Box 157

Church Creek, MD 21622

410-228-2940

www.oldtrinity.net

Old Trinity Church Cemetery is maintained as a service to the community by the Vestry of Dorchester Parish, which has been in continued existence since 1692. Vestry members are all volunteers elected from the congregation of Old Trinity Church. Daily operations and decisions are made by a volunteer Cemetery Chair appointed by the Vestry.

The land on which the original churchyard began was patented by an English settler in 1671. As the first markers were wooden, when burials began is not known. The church was built sometime before 1692, the year it became Dorchester Parish Church by an act of the Maryland General Assembly. Worship followed the use of the Church of England until the American Revolution, at which time Maryland recognized the continuing church as the "Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America." In a legal sense, the Vestry acts as trustees for the Episcopal Diocese of Easton.

The cemetery is consecrated ground, but persons of any faith or no faith at all may be buried here. Graveside religious services of your choice may be arranged in consultation with your funeral director. Use of the church building is reserved for Christian worship, which may include funeral services, if desired. Use of Valliant Hall for gatherings at the time of a burial may be arranged for a fee.

The church was restored to its original form in the 1950s. Since then, an attempt has been made to maintain the cemetery in a manner consistent with the colonial period. That is the reason for many of the restrictions concerning grave markers and artificial adornments. Other regulations address fundamental legal rights or address problems that have arisen in the past. The purpose of all these rules is to preserve these grounds as a place of rest, reflection, and religious observance for all people and all generations. We appreciate your cooperation.

Many individuals tend family gravesites here. A hose bib for water is located on the front of Valliant Hall. The Vestry employs a professional groundskeeper to cut the grass, which today must be done with mechanized equipment. The groundskeeper needs unrestricted access and may occasionally trim or remove obstacles. Artificial decorations will be removed. If there are problems, please take your concerns to the Cemetery Chair, not the groundskeeper.

The cemetery grounds are normally accessible every day from dawn until dusk, but there are not personnel on duty every day. If you need access to any buildings or need to speak with the Cemetery Chair, please call the church office to make arrangements.

We hope that Old Trinity Church Cemetery will meet your need as a resting place for the mortal remains of your loved one. We commend to you this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer: *Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

A Short List of Frequently Used Rules and Regulations

Revised 4 April 2014

Please see www.oldtrinity.net for the complete list of rules and regulations.

MEMORIALS (See Section D)

1. The Vestry has approved only the white or gray colonial style headstones for use in the Cemetery. ... Ledgers, footstones, and cornerstones are permitted, but must be set flush with the established grade.
2. Any character, picture, artifact, or quotation that is to be placed on any monument of headstone, other than name, date of birth, and date of death, shall first be submitted, in writing, to the Vestry for their approval.
3. The engraving affixed to the exterior of any niche closure shall bear only the name of the person or persons whose remains are there interred together with the month, day, and year of birth and death. ...
4. Certain fraternal and heraldic devices may be accepted by the Vestry for attachment to a memorial stone or to the bottom of the exterior face of a niche closure, provided the dimensions of the device do not exceed that of a four inch circle. ...

UPKEEP OF LOTS AND MEMORIALS (See Section F)

1. Fresh flowers and wreaths may be placed on graves at any time of year.
2. No artificial flowers, halo wreaths or saddle wreaths are permitted at any time and will be removed by the Cemetery caretakers. Bows and decorations made of natural materials are permitted.
3. Planting of flowers is permitted not to exceed a space twelve (12) inches from the front of the headstone. No planting of any kind is permitted on the back or sides of the headstone.
4. No planting of roses, bushes, shrubs or trees is permitted.
5. If an existing plant, shrub or tree is found to be an interference to adjacent lots or avenues, to be dead or damaged, or to be not maintained, it will be pruned or removed by the Cemetery caretakers.
6. Except for small American flags and their holders, no articles, statues, toys, or any decorations of any kind other than living materials as specified above will be permitted on any grave, lot or tree. ...
7. No enclosure of any kind, such as a fence, coping, hedge, or ditch, shall be permitted around any grave or lot. ...
8. No wooden, wire, or cast-iron bench, chair, trellis, or artifact other than approved grave markers is permitted upon the grounds of the Cemetery.
9. Holders containing flowers or other decorations including wreaths will be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make such removal at any time. Winter wreaths will be removed after February 2.

Old Trinity Church Cemetery

P.O. Box 157

Church Creek, MD 21622

410-228-2940

www.oldtrinity.net

Rules and Regulations

Revised 4 April 2014

A. PURPOSE & DEFINITIONS

1. These rules and regulations are hereby adopted as the rules and regulations governing the Old Trinity Cemetery, Dorchester Parish, Church Creek, Maryland, 21622, and all owners of interment rights, visitors, and contractors performing work within the Cemetery shall be subject to said rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted from time to time by the Vestry of Dorchester Parish. These rules and regulations are designed for the protection of owners of interment rights as a group. They are intended not to be restrictive, but rather to afford fair and equal treatment to all owners, and are based on many years of experience. Their enforcement will help protect the Cemetery and create and preserve its beauty.
2. The term “Vestry” shall mean the Vestry of Dorchester Parish, a Religious Corporation.
3. The term “Cemetery” as used in these rules and regulations, is hereby defined to mean the Old Trinity Church Cemetery, consisting of the Churchyard surrounding the Church, the 1954 addition thereto, and the new Old Trinity Memorial Cemetery and Columbarium.
4. The term “Owner” shall mean the owner of rights of interment.
5. The term “interment” shall mean cremation and inurnment, entombment or burial of the remains of a deceased person.
6. The term “memorial” shall mean any marker or structure upon or in any lot or niche, placed thereupon or therein or partially therein for the purpose of identification or in memory of the interred.
7. The term “contractor” as used in these rules and regulations shall mean any person, firm, corporation, agent, or anyone engaged in the placement, erection, or repairing any memorial, opening or closing any grave, crypt or niche, or other work in the Cemetery.

B. OWNERSHIP, RIGHTS, and SUPERVISION OF CEMETERY

1. The Vestry reserves the right to compel all persons coming into the Cemetery to obey the rules and regulations adopted by the Vestry. The rules and regulations may be changed without notice to any Owner by the Vestry.
2. The Vestry shall take reasonable precautions to protect owners, and the property rights of owners, within the Cemetery, from loss or damage; but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage caused beyond its reasonable control and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God,

common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, order of any civil or military authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, or consequential, other than as herein provided.

3. The Vestry shall direct generally all improvements within the grounds and upon all lots and graves, before as well as after interments have been made therein. They shall have charge of the planting, sodding, surveying and all maintenance and improvements to the Cemetery.
4. The right to enlarge, reduce, replat or change the boundaries or grading of the Cemetery, or of a section or sections, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of/or any part thereof, or remove or regrade, roads, drives and walks is hereby expressly reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for sprinkling system, drainage, lakes, etc., is also expressly reserved, as well as is the right to the Cemetery property, not sold to individual owners, for Cemetery purposes.
5. All interment rights are subject to all rules and regulations of the Cemetery that are now in full force and effect and any that the Vestry may hereafter enact.
6. Each owner is vested with the ownership of interment rights for the sole purpose of interment of human dead bodies. Under the regulations of the Cemetery the interment rights cannot be conveyed without the assent of the Vestry nor any use, division or improvements be made which the Vestry deem improper. The owner of interment rights may dispose of same by will, subject to the foregoing conditions. If the owner dies intestate, the interment rights will descend to the owner's heirs according to the laws of descent.
7. All interment, disinterments and removals shall be made by the Vestry, for which a charge will be made according to the schedule of fees.
8. Any person desiring to remove a body from the grave space must present a written permit signed by the owner of such grave space, all other State permits required, and also sign a request to have such a removal made. These documents shall remain on file in the office of the Cemetery.

C. SALE AND PURCHASE OF INTERMENT RIGHTS

1. Interment rights can be purchased in Old Trinity Cemetery only with the approval of the Cemetery Chair, acting for the Vestry, and subject to the rules and regulations of said Cemetery now or hereafter adopted for the government of this Cemetery, and for the purpose of interment only.
2. All agreements for the purchase of interment rights must be on the form approved by the Vestry and signed by two of the following persons: the Rector, Registrar, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden of Dorchester Parish.
3. The sale or transfer of any interment right by an owner or purchaser shall not be binding upon the Vestry. If the owner no longer desires to have such right of interment, the owner must reconvey such interment rights back to the Vestry.
4. The Vestry is not under any obligation to purchase the interment rights nor to refund any part of the consideration paid for therefore by the owner. However, the

Vestry may, upon request from the owner, redeem such rights at the original purchase price.

5. No interment rights can be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or hypothecated without written approval of the Vestry. Any Burial License, which has not been specified in any Decree of Divorce shall be acknowledged and assigned to the party who presents the said certificate to the Vestry for change.
6. The subdivision of interment rights is not allowed without the consent of the Vestry and no one shall be buried in any lot not having an interest therein, except by written consent of all parties interested in such lot and the Vestry.
7. No conditional or partial transfer of interment rights and no sale of an undivided interest, except to a person or persons who are already part-owners, will be recorded, as the Cemetery cannot be responsible for the carrying out of the intent of the grantor.

D. MEMORIALS

1. The Vestry has approved only the white or gray colonial style headstones for use in the Cemetery. All memorials shall be set on uniform lines to conform to the general plan of the Cemetery. Ledgers, footstones, and cornerstones are permitted, but must be set flush with the established grade.
2. Any character, picture, artifact, or quotation that is to be placed on any monument of headstone, other than name, date of birth, and date of death, shall first be submitted, in writing, to the Vestry for their approval.
3. The engraving affixed to the exterior of any niche closure shall bear only the name of the person or persons whose remains are there interred together with the month, day, and year of birth and death. The characters shall be common gothic. The surname shall be at the top, engraved with one and one quarter inch high letters. The given names and dates engraved with one-inch high letters arranged according to the standard prescribed by the Vestry. The fee for engraving shall be in addition to the interment fee and is the responsibility and at the expense of owner.
4. Certain fraternal and heraldic devices may be accepted by the Vestry for attachment to a memorial stone or to the bottom of the exterior face of a niche closure, provided the dimensions of the device do not exceed that of a four inch circle. The cost of the emblem and its installation shall be born by the owner in addition to the interment fee.
5. If any memorial, or any structure what-so-ever, or any inscription be placed on same, shall be determined by the Vestry to be offensive, they shall have the right and it shall be their duty, to enter upon such lot and remove, change or correct the offensive or improper object or objects.

E. FUNERAL REGULATIONS

1. Notice of at least twenty four (24) working hours before the announced time of the funeral will be required, except in the cases of death from contagious diseases, or when ordered by officers of the State or Federal governments.

2. Access to the Columbarium shall be gained by arrangement with the Cemetery Chair and upon the giving of reasonable notice of at least twenty four (24) working hours. The niche shall be opened only in the event of subsequent interment of an additional urn or urns therein. An urn shall not be opened subsequently to the initial sealing thereof except for “unity” urns. No object separate from the urn and its contents may be placed in the niche.
3. All crypts, graves and niches shall be opened by the Cemetery, only. The charge will be in accord with the standard fee schedule.
4. Individual graves within an owner’s lot must be located and specified to the Cemetery Chair by the family or its representatives. All graves are to be staked for opening by the Cemetery Chair.
5. All caskets and urns must be interred in either a vault or other grave liner acceptable to the Cemetery Chair.
6. The burial of two bodies in one grave is not permitted except upon prior approval of the Cemetery Chair and payment be made to Old Trinity Church equal to the cost of one grave space, prior to interment.
7. When a removal is to be made from a single grave and transported to another, either in this or another cemetery, arrangements for transport of the vault must be made with someone other than this Cemetery. The Cemetery shall open and close all graves within the Cemetery, for either interment or disinterment for which the appropriate service charge shall apply according to the fee schedule. Application for removal must be signed by the next of kin, notarized and accompanied by a proper state permit, prior to the time of removal.

F. UPKEEP OF LOTS AND MEMORIALS

1. Fresh flowers and wreaths may be placed on graves at any time of year.
2. No artificial flowers, halo wreaths or saddle wreaths are permitted at any time and will be removed by the cemetery caretakers. Bows and decorations made of natural materials are permitted.
3. Planting of flowers is permitted not to exceed a space twelve (12) inches from the front of the headstone. No planting of any kind is permitted on the back or sides of the headstone.
4. No planting of roses, bushes, shrubs or trees is permitted.
5. If an existing plant, shrub or tree is found to be an interference to adjacent lots or avenues, to be dead or damaged, or to be not maintained, it will be pruned or removed by the Cemetery caretakers.
6. Except for small American flags and their holders, no articles, statues, toys, or any decorations of any kind other than living materials as specified above will be permitted on any grave, lot or tree. The Cemetery caretakers have authority to remove any objectionable object that is contrary to the regulations of the Cemetery.
7. Due to lawn maintenance and access to burial plots, all objects—flags, flower holders and so on—are not permitted to exceed a space twelve (12) inches from

the front of the headstone. The Cemetery is not responsible for any object left on a grave (see Section B-2 for more details).

8. Holders containing flowers or other decorations including wreaths will be removed as soon as the flowers fade or wither and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make such removal at any time. Winter wreaths will be removed after February 2.
9. No loose stones are permitted on any grave or lot.
10. No enclosure of any kind, such as a fence, coping, hedge, or ditch, shall be permitted around any grave or lot. Grave mounds will not be allowed and no lot shall be raised above the established grade.
11. No wooden, wire, or cast-iron bench, chair, trellis, or artifact other than approved grave markers is permitted upon the grounds of the Cemetery.
12. The cemetery is open to the public from dawn to dusk.
13. Persons within the Cemetery shall use only the avenues, walkways, and roads, as laid out.
14. All persons are reminded that the grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the human dead and that the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton injury, destruction, disturbance, and disregard of these rules.
15. It is of the utmost importance that there should be a strict observance of all the properties due the place, whether embraced in the foregoing regulations or not, as no impropriety will be tolerated. All well-disposed persons will confer a favor by informing the Vestry, Cemetery Chair or their agents of any breach of proper decorum that may come under their notice.

G. MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

1. The Vestry may, and it hereby expressly reserves the right, at any time or times, with or without notice to owners, to adopt new rules and regulations, and to amend, alter and/or sentence in the rules and regulations.
2. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Vestry, therefore, reserves the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions, or modifications in any of the rules and regulations when, in its judgment, the same appear advisable. Such temporary exceptions, suspensions or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such.

H. PREVIOUS RULES

All previous rules and regulations concerning the Cemetery are hereby abolished and rescinded.

This updated version was approved by the Vestry of Dorchester Parish and is in effect as of the 6th day of April, 2014.