

Memorial Garden, currently approximately three acres, was purchased in 1804 by First Presbyterian Church for construction of its first sanctuary. The original building built in 1810, on the highest point of the property, was a 12 sided log structure. The second church building, erected of brick on the same site, was begun in 1835 and completed in 1837, mainly through liberal contributions of John F. Phifer. A third building was erected about a block away in 1874 on West Depot Street.

The rapidly growing congregation acquired land on North Union Street and the cornerstone of the First Presbyterian Church was laid on June 23, 1927.

Through the birth and decline of these early buildings, the graveyard was neglected. In 1930 Mrs. Sallie Phifer Williamson started restoring the cemetery as a memorial to her mother and renamed it Memorial Garden. After her death in 1937, her son Marshal Phifer Williamson continued maintenance of the garden until his death in 1966.

The garden is a privately owned cemetery of First Presbyterian Church of Concord and continues to be maintained through a generous trust from Mr. Williamson.

1. Parking lot
2. Building
3. Crepe Myrtle—*Lagerstroemia indica* “Natchez”
4. Eugenia Morrison (died of typhoid fever) and Rosalie Augusta Chunn (died of tuberculosis) wives of Rufus Barringer, A Brigadier General in the Civil War. Eugenia’s sister, Isabella, married General Daniel Harvey Hill and her sister, Anna, married General Stonewall Jackson.
5. American Boxwoods— *Buxus sempervirens*
6. Phifer family monument
- 7.
8. Sgt. Matthew Goodson died in the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery.
9. Black Gum—*Nyssa sylvatica*
10. Alexander Franklin Hurlly was a 1st Lieutenant under Captain George Propst in Company A, North Carolina State Troops in the Army of the Confederacy. After the war he was elected

- High Sheriff of Cabarrus County in 1868.
11. Rose garden
12. Hydrangea species—Bigleaf, Oakleaf, Peegee
13. Japanese Flowering Cherry—*Prunus yedoensis* “Yoshino”
- 14.
15. American Holly—*Ilex opaca*
16. Flowering Crabapple—*Malus*
17. Jones Yorke Room—Meeting room available to civic groups, garden clubs, and book clubs. Reservations required; \$50 fee.
18. Butterfly Bush—*Buddleia davidii*
19. Florida Anise tree—*Illicium floridanum*
20. Dwarf Japanese Maple—*Acer palmatum dissectum*
21. Waterfall and Goldfish pond
22. Carolina Silverbell—*Halesia carolina*
23. Chair, White Oak—*Quercus alba*, approx. 150 years old
24. Joseph Shinn was born November 27, 1751 and died January 22, 1804, the oldest grave in the garden.
25. Aaron Jones Yorke and wife, Martha Best Yorke deserve special attention for the help in the development of the garden we see today.
26. Russell brothers—four big boulders mark the graves of David M., John R., Robert E. and William G. killed in the Confederate Army.
27. Sundial Overlook—location of first two church buildings
28. Japanese Cedar—*Cryptomeria japonica*
29. Unknown Indian grave
30. Circus performer, George Yeaman, born in Edinburg, Scotland, died November 7, 1827. He suffered a fatal fall from his horse while performing in Salisbury, NC. Notice other performers engravings on stone marker.
31. Japanese Maple—*Acer palmatum* approximately 65 years old
32. Daylily bed
33. Formal Annual Beds and Fountain surrounded by Bufordii Hollies
34. Columbarium—wall with niches for cremated remains. Only for First Presbyterian Church families.
35. Remembrance and Benediction Plaques
36. Confederate Jasmine—*Trachelospermum jasminoides*

37. Southern Magnolia—*Magnolia grandiflora*
38. Greenhouse
- 39.
40. Winter Honeysuckle—*Lonicera fragrantissima*
41. Banana Shurb—*Michelia figo*
42. Chinese Fringe—*Loropetalum chinense*
43. Perennial Bed
44. Elizabeth Davis, the last person buried in the ground, 1999.
45. Carolina Jessamine—*Gelsemium sempervirens*
46. Star Magnolia—*Magnolia stellata*
47. Willow Oak—*Quercus phellos*, approximately 200 years old
48. Flowering Dogwood—*Cornus florida*
49. Aaron J. Yorke—County Superintendent of Cabarrus County’s first public schools, 1853.
50. Lionshead Fountain

The Garden has annual display beds and borders entwined through the 200-year-old cemetery. Those making their way through the garden will find year round color and interest ranging from over 100 different varieties of azaleas to 14,000 tulips planted each fall to bloom in March and April. Add to that, multitudes of perennials, gently sloping hillsides, ancient oaks, winding paths, waterfalls, butterflies, sculpted hollies, and intricately carved white Italian marble markers. Your journey will take you from the past to the present. We hope that you enjoy your tour of the Garden.

For guided tours, Jones Yorke Room reservations, and photography reservations, please call (704) 786-8009. For more information on the garden and photography rules, please visit our website www.memorialgarden.info.

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Tax-deductible donations may be made to:

Memorial Garden Association
PO Box 1193
Concord, NC 28026

Memorial Garden Walking Tour



Open Tuesday—Saturday
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Open Sunday
12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Closed Monday

Memorial Garden
36 Spring Street SW
PO Box 1193
Concord, NC 28026
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www.firstpresconcord.org