

**ST. JOHN' S CHURCH - GRAVEYARD 9801 Livingston
Road Fort Washington, Maryland 20744-4925 301-248-4290**

BURIAL RECEIPT

Received this _____ day of _____, _____

from _____

Name _____

Address

the sum of _____

in payment for the burial of _____ at

grave site number _____.

Marker Fee	_____
Total site fee	_____
Previous site payment	_____
Balance due for site	_____
Opening and closing fee	_____
Total Received:	_____

Remaining Balance _____

All burials are subject to the policies of the Church Graveyard as adopted by the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, King George's Parish.

Burial Foreman
St. John's Episcopal Church
King George's Parish

Graveyard Policies & Information

St. John's Church

Broad Creek

King George's Parish

**9801 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744-4925
301-248-4290**

Updated

2018

INTRODUCTION

In 1694, the Vestry of Piscataway Parish (now King George's Parish) purchased 78 acres of land for the use of the Church. The first Broad Creek Church building was completed upon the present site in 1695. Although the early church records of burials have not survived, it can be presumed that Christian burials began to take place in the church yard soon after the completion of the first building. Of the original 78 acres, only the two-acre church yard (graveyard) has remained continuously in the possession of the church since its purchase.

The remains of at least four veterans of the Revolutionary War lie buried at identifiable sites in this graveyard. The oldest legible monument declares that James Jones was buried in 1760. An oral parish tradition holds that the Indians buried their dead here before the coming of the Church.

The graveyard, now managed by a Burial Committee under the direction of the Vestry, continues to carry out its function for the benefit of members of the congregation and the local community. An average of six or seven hours of volunteers' time is provided by lay members of the church in connection with each burial.

The Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, King George's Parish and the committee members do encourage simple Christian burials in preference to extravagant funerals and grave goods. There is no attempt, however, to interfere with personal choices in funeral practice. The necessary rules are detailed in the following pages.

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GRAVE SITE RESERVATION

Received this _____ day of _____, _____ from

_____ the sum of

_____ in partial payment for _____ grave site(s) in the Church Graveyard. The sites are reserved as follows:

No. _____ for _____

No. _____ for _____

No. _____ for _____

All space is reserved subject to the rules of the Church Graveyard as adopted by the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, King George's Parish.

Price Schedule: The charge for reservation and use of one burial site is \$500. The charge for a reservation of one cremation site or small site is \$500. The sum of \$500 is payable at the time a space is reserved. The balance of the charge is computed at the time of burial; it is due together with the grave opening fee before burial takes place.

Burial Foreman
King George's Parish

Acknowledgement:

Reservation holder

Date

PRICING POLICY

1. The cost of burial in the graveyard is divided into two parts: the **site charge** and the **opening and closing fee**.
2. The **site charge** for a casket burial covers the reservation and use of the grave site, and all other related services, except the actual opening and closing of the grave. The amount of the site charge is a minimum of \$3,000. The balance, if any, is due at the time of burial. As noted under CARE, the site fee is added to the Graveyard Endowment Fund.
3. The **opening and closing fee for casket burials** consists of the amount actually paid to the grave digger. This charge is payable before burial takes place and is negotiated with the gravedigger.
4. The **site charge** for the burial of ashes in the small sites is \$1000.
5. The **site charge** for addition of ashes over an existing burial is \$1,000.
6. The marker fee of \$300 is paid at the same time as the site charge.
7. Pricing and fees are reviewed regularly and subject to change.

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DEFINITIONS

Vestry refers to the Vestry of King George's Parish, also known as Broad Creek Church, and as St. John's Church.

Burial Committee consists of a Foreman and other church members, who perform the day-to-day operations of the graveyard. All members are appointed by the Vestry of St. John's Church.

The Graveyard Fund consists of monies from the gravesite reservation and burial fees, held in trust by the Vestry for maintenance and preservation of the graveyard. Donations are accepted to the Graveyard Fund.

A **burial site** or grave site is an area sufficient for one adult burial.

Holder refers to a person in whose name a grave site is reserved.

A **monument** is any memorial object extending above the level of the surrounding ground.

A **marker** is a stone or plate marking the grave or site, installed level with the surrounding ground.

A **cremation or small site** is an area approximately 36 inches north/south and 30 inches east/west.

RESERVATIONS

1. A **Reservation** sets aside a specified single grave site for a specific person or a couple. Use of a grave site is subject to the rules and regulations of the Vestry regarding the Grave Yard and Church Grounds.

2. Any grave site not used by the holder within 30 years of the reservation date shall revert to the Vestry unless the holder or his representative submits to the Vestry a written request for extensions prior to the end of the 30 year period. The requirement for a written request for extension will be waived so long as the holder is an active member of the congregation of St. John's Church; Broad Creek.

3. The church will attempt to contact the holder in year 29 via registered mail at the last address on record for the holder. The holder is responsible for updating address information.

TRADITIONAL BURIALS

For Traditional Burials, only traditional materials such as wood, linen, wool or cotton cloth are used to enclose the body. No caskets, vaults, or grave liners will be used if constructed of materials such as concrete, plastic, or corrosion-resistant metal.

BURIAL OF ASHES

Small sites are available for the burial of ashes from cremations. Ashes may also be added over a previous burial in a regular gravesite, physical limitations permitting. Reservation and burial fees will apply. The regulations and pricing policy in this booklet regarding Reservations, Markers, Care, and Planting for graves also apply to the burial of ashes. If a casket space is purchased, but then cremated remains only are interred, the balance of the space reverts to St. John's.

FLOWERS AND PLANTING

1. Planting may be done only with the approval of the Building and Grounds Committee of St. John's Church, King George's Parish, Vestry or the designated representative of that committee.
2. Placement of cut flowers, wreaths, artificial flowers, etc. is permitted, but the church cannot be responsible for damage to flowers resulting from the action of a contracted service or volunteer worker using mowing machinery or otherwise.
3. Flower containers which cannot be stored below the level of the ground will be subject to removal at seasonal cleanups. Flags are permitted for appropriate holidays, if positioned on the gravesite in a respectful manner. All flags shall be removed after the holiday. The following are prohibited because of hazard when picked up by mowing machinery:
 - a. Glass containers
 - b. Unpainted steel cans
 - c. Wire flower racks which can be separated from their wreaths or floral arrangements.
 - d. Balloons

OPENING GRAVES

Opening of a grave may be arranged by notifying the Burial Foreman, the Rector, or other parish officers. The burial committee will make every effort to have the grave open promptly on notice. It is highly desirable, however, that the church be notified no later than 7:00 A.M. two business days before the intended date of burial. The fee for opening and closing the grave is due and payable prior to burial.

CASKETS AND VAULTS

1. Caskets may be wood or metal. (See TRADITIONAL BURIALS for exception).
2. Concrete liners or vaults are optional. (Except in TRADITIONAL SECTION). Vaults must not exceed 36" width.
3. The use of inexpensive coffins or caskets is encouraged.

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

For the purpose of these regulations: (a) a monument is any memorial object extending above the level of the surrounding ground; (b) a marker is a stone or plate marking the grave or site, installed level with the surrounding ground.

1. Monuments may be placed only in grave sites reserved prior to 1 January, 1970. (Monuments are also excluded from certain grave sites reserved prior to that date.)
2. The corners of a grave site or plot may be indicated by stones or bronze plates set level with the surrounding grade.
3. Notice must be given to the Burial Foreman, Rector, or Warden of St. John's Church, King George's Parish in advance before a marker is set. This interval is required in order that the Burial Committee can stake out the proper location. After permission is granted by the Rector or a Warden, stones may be set. Stones set without this notice may be moved at the heir's expense.
4. No marker shall be placed in the graveyard except in accordance with the specifications established above.
5. Mounds, railings, chains, coping or other structures devised for identifying groups of graves shall not be built. Existing structures of this type may remain, but they may not be renewed after deterioration.
6. If a marker has not been placed on the grave site within one year after the burial, a simple marker including full name, birth and death year will be installed by St. John's. A marker fee of \$300 is assessed prior to burial with the site fee. Families who have markers in place in the one year period may have their marker fee returned if they choose.

CARE

1. The present policy of the Vestry is to provide regular mowing and a limited amount of trimming and other care for the graveyard. Relatives, descendants, and friends of those whose bodies lie buried are encouraged to trim around monuments, remove withered flowers and do other work not in conflict with these regulations.
2. Each grave site charge is consigned to the Graveyard Fund. The Vestry administers this fund, acting as a Board of Trustees. The fund is to be used for upkeep of the graveyard grounds.
3. The Vestry shall be sole judge of its obligation and willingness to act as trustees of any fund or funds offered for care of the Graveyard.