

Adopt a Garden 2021

The Building and Grounds team invites you and your family (or your organization) to adopt a garden for the 2021 year. We have many gardens (about 21) around the church that are in need of some green thumb(or any other color) care. Work alone, meditatively, to cultivate the gardens for the growing season; make them one of your family's fun time projects; gather a couple of friends to work on one of the plots; fulfill some community service hours; or encourage your special group to take on a service project. Each area is small, but each has potential for color and design. As Earth's caretakers, we can plant and trim and weed as demonstrated in the parables of Jesus. Your commitment will be about four hours a month. Although you will sign up as individuals for a particular area, you could also team up with those who are gardening around you to share the watering and weeding efforts throughout the season.

The Garden Adoption

1. Pick a garden area on the diagram for adoption. Put your name and email on the sign up in the Narthex. Find the line that corresponds to your numbered adopted area.
2. Look over your garden and make some plans.
3. Cultivate the area in the spring. Rid the area of old leaves and dead flowers. Use topsoil, mushroom manure, or peat moss to fertilize the space as needed.
4. Plant your flowers: annuals and/or perennials. Avoid flowers that are deer friendly or they won't last long. Deer have made "our hill" their home over the years with the philosophy that "What is theirs is ours." However, feel free to use deer repellent as needed.
5. **Water and weed** as needed over the summer. Frequency of care depends on the weather, but if you work with those who have adopted gardens near you, it will ease everyone's burden.
6. **Pesticides or weed killers should not be used when children are present during preschool or VBS.** A vinegar, soap, and salt solution kills weeds effectively – this recipe can easily be found on internet.
7. Hoses are available at the water faucets. You need a "hex key" to turn on the water. If you need help figuring out the watering faucets, someone will demonstrate the process for you. There are also a few watering cans. The side of the church with the ball field is usually "scorched" by the sun and sometimes needs extra water. Plant hardy flowers that can survive the brutal summer months on that side.
8. Trim bushes or trees as necessary.
9. Plant some bulbs in the fall, if you wish. Clean up the area after the autumn's frost.
10. There are many perennials already planted in some of the gardens so be careful when you weed.
11. ***This year's Spring Clean-Up is on Saturday, May 1 from 8am – Noon. Bark mulch will be available that day for your garden plot.***
12. Any questions, please contact Pam Dobos: 412-833-3868 or dob914@aol.com.