

2019 Cemetery Committee Report

In 1978 St. Nicholas Cathedral purchased 66 burial sites at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery, located at Rock Creek Church Road and Webster Street, NW (<https://www.stpaulsrockcreek.org/cemetery/>) in the Petworth neighborhood of Washington, DC. St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Washington, having been established in 1719 and remains under the stewardship of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, though since 1840, a public cemetery and non-denominational in nature.

There is a section of cemetery along N. Capitol Street with a small Orthodox chapel, dedicated to the Myrrh-Streaming Montreal Iveron Icon of the Mother of God, which was established by the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The chapel is surrounded by grave sites of the faithful from both of our parishes. In addition to this section of the cemetery, St. Nicholas also has sites along the New Hampshire Avenue border.

During the summer of 2018, the committee pulled the few files of records related to our cemetery sites and met with cemetery staff to review these files to get a better understanding of our actual plots occupied and still available. The committee also wished to clarify the proper channels of communication with the cemetery and the process for finalizing the sale of sites. The cemetery staff have been going through a year-long process of changing their electronic records system and verifying their records against the hard-copy files they have on-site. At the same time, our committee is attempting to create a centralized system for maintaining our own records. This is a work in progress.

Led by our own Lana Gerich (of gift corner fame), the St. Nicholas Cathedral sections are lovingly maintained, cleaned up, prayed over, and wreaths are laid at Christmas time. The committee welcomes anyone who has interest in helping with data entry, site visits to include cleaning brush & debris away from graves, seasonal planting, the laying of Christmas wreaths, and generally remembering and praying for our brothers, sisters, and their families who have gone on before us.

Lastly, if you are interested in planning ahead and purchasing a site(s) for yourself or your family, kindly see one of our clergy to discuss.

Sincerely,
Bob Cowgill, Chair
Alyssa McCrea
Lana Gerich