

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the new President of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. I joined the Board in 2023 to help to preserve our historic cemetery, and meet its unique challenges as an active burial place. The Trustees' mission is to honor the cemetery's 200 years of rich history, while remembering all of the loved ones interred here. Because you are an important part of our cemetery family, we thought you'd want to know about our big plans for this year.

First, we have been working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to have the cemetery officially recognized as the amazing treasure that it is. On June 20th, the Virginia State Review Board agreed that the cemetery is eligible for nomination to the **National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register**. This designation would be a game-changer in terms of tourism and public support for the Presbyterian Cemetery, so we're excited to move forward with the next phase of the nomination process. We'll keep you posted!

Second, we've hired a new **groundskeeper** to maintain the park-like atmosphere of our 15+ acres. There's a lot of ground to cover, with the cemetery's rolling landscape and thousands of unique tombstones and monuments. We are pleased with the dedication and care **Joe Ramsey** has shown since joining us in April. Thanks, Joe!

The cemetery is also undertaking two educational projects this fall. One will highlight the 120-year-old **Diuguid Keeping House**, and the other is focused on the burial sites of more than 700 United States Veterans. We are currently accepting donations that will make these exciting new projects possible, and we ask that you consider supporting these efforts. Your donation will be greatly appreciated, and we invite you to become a part of this new chapter.

Lastly, we hope that you and your loved ones will join us for several **FUNraising events** planned for September and October. Details will be listed on our website's Upcoming Events tab, so please check often for the latest updates. If you'd like to contribute, you may visit our website at presbyteriancemeteryva.com or mail a check to: 2020 Grace Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504. Feel free to reach out to me by email at erwilliams1619@gmail.com if you have any questions about our fundraising initiatives.

Have a blessed summer, and we hope to see you very soon!

Sincerely,

Beth Williams

SPRING CLEANING!



For the past several years the cemetery has been scheduling its annual **Spring Clean-up Day** to coincide with Liberty University's day of service, and now it's one of our favorite community-building traditions!

On April 27th, our friends and families joined forces with **28 student volunteers** to give the grounds a well-deserved spruce-up. Volunteers tackled all manner of landscaping projects, from weeding and raking, to planting and pruning. Thanks to the most energetic and enthusiastic group of students we've ever had, there was an undeniable "whistle while you work" vibe throughout the day.

A special thank you goes to Noel Thomas for coordinating the teams and assignments. What a difference a day makes!



SPREADING THE WORD!

DID YOU KNOW...

that the Friends of the Presbyterian Cemetery board hosts a variety of tours throughout the year?

In honor of **Women's History Month**, the cemetery held its "Remarkable Ladies of Lynchburg" tour on **March 3rd**. Guests learned about some of the many amazing women who are buried here, from renowned artists, poets, and musicians, to ladies with family links to America's founding fathers Patrick Henry and George Washington. **Strong women = impressive stories!**

Then to cap off **Lynchburg's Historic Garden Week** on **April 28th**, visitors strolled amongst the cemetery's freshly-blooming buds as well as its centuries-old "Flowers in Stone." Tour guides Lisa Edmunds and Beth Williams explained the symbolism of the many floral motifs featured throughout the cemetery, like a broken stem for a life cut short. Hidden meanings are everywhere, if you just know where to look.



GET INVOLVED...

Are you an avid gardener? History buff? Just like to hang around cemeteries? There are plenty of ways you can make a difference by volunteering your time or talents! Drop us a line at office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com and let's chat!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL **FUNRAISER** at Burnbrae Vineyards SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Please mark your calendars for an enchanting evening of fine wine and delectable food at **Burnbrae Vineyards** in Forest, VA!

You can sample a variety of delicious, locally-produced wines, groove to live music, and enjoy decadent hors d'oeuvres in an intimate country setting. And if idyllic scenery is your jam, landscape artist Rodney Laughon is creating a stunning painting just for this event! **Raffle tickets** will be available on site *and* online, so you don't have to be present to **win** this original work of art. **FUNraiser** reservations are limited, and must be purchased in advance. See our website for details!



SAVE THE DATE!
GHOST TOUR
OCTOBER 17-19, 2024

**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME
CHILLS AND THRILLS?**

For the first time ever, the Presbyterian Cemetery is partnering with the **Lynchburg Historical Foundation** to host its howlingly popular **GHOST TOUR!** Join us for a weekend of history, mystery, local lore, and perhaps just a touch of mayhem and misadventure...? **Bring your boo** and find out *who's whooooo!* Please check our website's EVENTS tab for ticketing info and tour schedules.