

**Features
of the
Memorial Garden**

Bell Tower – The tower reaches toward the heavens and lifts our eyes beyond this earth. The three bells of bronze color will remind us of the Trinity. At the top of the bell tower, the point may appear at some angles as “folded” hands which remind us to pray.



Memorial Garden – The garden surrounds the columbarium building, patio, and bell tower. It changes with the seasons and reminds us of the gardens to which Jesus retreated to pray. The garden calls us to reflect upon God’s gift of the good earth and invites us to “walk and talk” with God.



Linear Labyrinth – Symbols of the Labyrinth and how one might use the Labyrinth are discussed inside this brochure.

Carillon – The Carillon rings out hymns of faith at various times of day. They will remind us to pray, giving thanks at all times. They will inspire us when we are discouraged. The bells of the carillon will ring out joyously at Christmas, Easter, and weddings; or they may toll sorrowfully at the passing of loved ones and on Good Friday.

Columbarium – Each niche contains space for two urns or the remains of two of our loved ones. The columbarium provides both ecological and economic advantages to the disposition of our remains at the end of life. “From dust we came, to dust we shall return,” reminds us of the finality of life for us all. The images of the cross and other faith symbols remind of the hope we have in Christ Jesus.



Stone and Wood – The many stones remind us that we are “living stones” making up the body of Christ. The wood reminds us of over three hundred Biblical references to wood or trees. Jesus used the example of fruit bearing trees. The tree of life in Revelation 22:2 represents healing. The tree of life in Proverbs 3:18 is figurative for an exhilarating experience.

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Information Brochure

**GREYSTONE
BAPTIST CHURCH
Memorial Garden**



*Dedicated to the Glory of God
September 20, 2009*

**Mission Statement
of Greystone Baptist Church**

With Christ as the cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones, where each member is a minister and is equipped to express God’s love by word and deed to all people.

Based on 1 Peter 2:5,6

Greystone Baptist Church
7509 Lead Mine Road
Raleigh, NC 27615

The Linear Labyrinth at Greystone Baptist Church

The Greystone Baptist Church Memorial Garden contains a linear labyrinth on the patio of the columbarium.

Traditionally, a labyrinth is a way of praying and walking and is symbolic of our life's pilgrimage. It represents a spiritual journey, through which we may walk in unpredictable and circuitous paths toward the eventual end. We often lose our way, find distractions in our journey, and may even need to start the journey again or back track.

The linear labyrinth of the Greystone Baptist Church Memorial Garden and Columbarium is symbolic of our Christian pilgrimage. We begin with baptism, the official beginning of our journey of faith and commitment, then follow the paths which lead us through life. Each "station" of the linear labyrinth is an opportunity to pause and reflect.

Since this labyrinth is unique from any you may have experienced before, below are some suggestions on how you might utilize this model labyrinth for spiritual enrichment and meditation:

1. Stand at the beginning symbol (baptism). Reflect upon your baptism. What do you remember about it? What were you told about it? What does it mean to you?
2. Follow the lines to each of the symbols, pausing and reflecting on each. What do each of the following symbols call to mind for you as you remember the life of Christ: The cup/towel? The lamb? The Bible? The dove? The loaf? The triquetra? The fish? The alpha and omega?
3. Take your time as you visit the linear labyrinth. Feel free to walk back to a previous symbol and retrace your steps. After finishing the journey, walk back the way you came, or a different way altogether. Sit upon a bench and reflect on your journey.

Symbols in the linear labyrinth

Water - A symbol of grace. Water is experienced as cleansing, purifying, life-giving, and sometimes destructive. In baptism all of these meanings and uses come together as a Christian is led from death to life.



Lamb - A sign of God's deliverance as in the Passover. Later, the Lamb of God is a reference to Jesus. Lambs also symbolize us-Christians who gather as God's flock. Jesus is the Good Shepherd.



Bible - Symbolizes the word which bears testimony to Christ, who is "the word or *logos*". We depend upon the narratives of the Bible to point us toward the salvation God intends for us.



Wine - A symbol of joy, conviviality, life, and suffering. In Holy Communion Jesus chose to use wine to symbolize the pouring out of himself for us. The "cup" represents the new covenant of Christ: the forgiveness of our sins.



Dove - Symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit. It also recalls the dove that returned to Noah as a sign of life. It also stands for peace and forgiveness.



Loaf - Bread is the symbol of nourishment. In Holy Communion, bread is the very presence of Christ. We are reminded to eat the bread and remember the body of Christ, broken for us. We remember our own brokenness.



Triquetra - This symbol for the Trinity is formed by three equal arcs that have been interwoven to suggest continuous flow. The points of the arcs are the points of an imagined equilateral triangle, another symbol of the Trinity. Notice how there are three distinct figures in the triquetra, yet the three form one unique design.



Fish - *Ichthus* is the Greek word for fish and is comprised of the initials of Jesus, Christ, God, Son, Savior. The fish was a common symbol for Christians and was often placed upon doors and thresholds of early Christian homes. (Inside the columbarium is another *ichthus* mounted on the wall beside the memorial plaques).



Alpha and the Omega - The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Jesus is referred to as the "alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end."

It is appropriate that the Alpha and the Omega is in the center of our columbarium, reminding us that death is both an ending and a new beginning.

