

'THANKSGIVING'

Thanksgiving is a festive time with family and friends and pets gathering to share good food and fellowship and to remember and be grateful for all of life's blessings. Here at the Charles Baber Cemetery, there are many blessings to be grateful for as well. Foremost is the blessing of the land creation and formation by God. It was a creation of soft undulating grassy green hills, forested with a variety of trees and shrubs nurtured by many underground springs and a large reservoir. It was populated with many birds of the air and a multitude of creatures both large and small. When Pottsville was founded, it was a forested woodland with wolves, mountain lions, and deer. Many of the trees on the property today were still on the property 200 years ago- trees like the mighty White Oaks by the chapel, the tall stately Eastern White Pines, the Norway Spruce with their drooping branches looking like draped tinsel, the many Norway Maple encompassing the Mt. Laurel section, the Sugar Maple throughout the grounds changing to golden yellows in the fall, and a mixed assortment of Red Maples, Beech, Elm, and Ash.



The blessings continue to grow: there is the hard work of Committee and Board members for the preservation and the continued care and maintenance of the trees, the grounds, and the buildings. And friends like Joe O. and Frank S. with their Arbor Day tree replacement program, and their help with the Baber Day nature tours, and the Feb. tree pruning classes. There are the annual Arbor Day tree sponsors replacing the dying trees with new plantings, and Trinity Church's rector blessing the new plantings. The workers like Bob W., Tom D., and Randy S. who diligently maintain the grounds and buildings through all the seasons of snow, heavy rains, summer grass mowing, and fallen autumn leaves. Other friends like Carol F. and the Penn State interns who built the website and are adding descriptions of the beautiful trees, the spectacular seasons, the history, the varied and artistic memorial markers, and the architecture of the buildings and entrance gateway. And friends like Jay Z. who was instrumental in creating the endowment account, and gifting his time and talents in creating the preservation trust and the non-profit regulatory status, and who gives walking tours on Baber Day.



The cemetery is blessed because it provides a tranquil, natural burial ground for your deceased loved ones. A cemetery that allows the customizing of the size, style, and design of the markers to personalize and memorialize the loved ones buried there. A cemetery with a bronze columbarium for cremations. A cemetery that provides the mourners visiting the burial sites with comfort and solace in a serene, natural environment.

Blessings occur through the appreciation of the grounds by the joggers and dog walkers, and through the community residents who drive by or walk the property and enjoy the beauty of nature. It is blessed by the school children and members of the Veterans Assoc. who visit me on Memorial Day and replace the flags on the memorial markers. It is blessed when the special needs school children walk the property on their lunch because it calms them, and when the track team runs through, and even by the children who transverse the property to and from school.

Blessings come in the summer when Trinity Episcopal Church uses the chapel for summer services and for All Saints Day and funerals. And it is blessed by all the church parishioners, board and committee members, members of the community and even by out of state friends who care enough about it to make contributions for the continued existence for future generations to use and to enjoy. Thanksgiving is a joyful day and the garden cemetery is truly blessed and the Board is appreciative for all who care about it. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving!

