

## **Garden Team Annual Report - 2020**

Our gardens are thriving thanks to the efforts and support of the UBA community and some of our Bon Air neighbors.

One neighbor made a significant memorial contribution which enabled resurfacing walkways with crushed granite as far as the gazebo. This has made our gardens more accessible to wheelchairs, walkers and dress shoes for weddings. In addition, it funded gravel to reinforce the washed out pathway past the gazebo. This memorial gift will also provide funding for a well for irrigation, a new fountain, resealing the Promenade stamped concrete and stone edging for part of the garden. Behind the Gazebo, the foundation for a labyrinth has been laid. Another memorial contribution provided for an Arborist to prune the trees that were planted as part of the building expansion, for some irrigation enhancements and for gravel for parking lot islands.

Our gardens are maintained by volunteers. Some volunteers have adopted an area of the garden that they care for on their own schedule. Others regularly water the 7 Promenade planters. Several with trucks or trailers take loads of branches to the dump. Weed control continues to occupy a significant amount of volunteer time. Fall Sacred Service Saturday focused on leaf cleanup. Because we are currently limited to groups with a max of 10, Spring Sacred Service Saturday was not held. However most of the fertilizing, planting and pruning shrubs that we traditionally have done on Spring Sacred Service Saturday have been accomplished by garden volunteers practicing social distancing.

Our fish pond is cared for by a team of 3 dedicated volunteers. A hungry heron has discovered our fish pond and enjoyed consuming all of our fish. So they will be replaced soon.

Some free mulch has been donated and spread. Additional mulch still needs to be acquired and spread in multiple areas, both around the parking lot and in the Meditation Garden .

Because people are permitted to exercise outdoors under our current "Stay at Home" requirement, garden visitation has significantly increased. A couple neighbors have even helped with weeding and azalea pruning!

Coming soon: A Donation box to be placed near the garden entrance.

For the upcoming year, the Garden Team requests that garden and tree care expenditures be funded as budget line items.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many volunteers who have created the beauty that surrounds our church building and for the ongoing support of the UBA community.