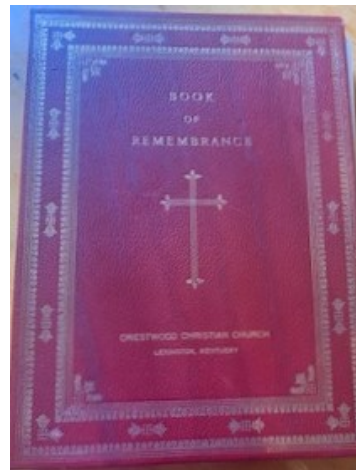


#### Spotlight on Crestwood The Memorial Book - Book of Remembrance

The lost is found! The often-mentioned missing Memorial Book (now known as Book of Remembrance) has been recovered. Reverend Bill McDonald can be credited for the final search. He said Rev. Trish Standifur and Office Manager Jennifer Smith opened many doors for him at church, both literally and figuratively. The search, involving many earlier suggestions, was kind of laughable at the end. Like most things, the answer was obvious. He called Fran McKinney who directed him to the historian's cabinet where it was safely kept from earlier years. What a treasure it is!



There is much to discuss, but I don't know whether to start our Spotlight conversation with a Hallelujah or a Mea Culpa in today's account.

Let's begin with Hallelujah and the book itself. It is a larger book than I expected. The cover is red leather, trimmed with an ornate gold border, and centered with a gold cross. The words, "Book of Remembrance" and "Crestwood Christian Church" are embossed on the cover, also in gold.

The inside is what is remarkable. The church history unfolds with multiple pages of names of people who have contributed in many extraordinary ways over the decades. It is written in gorgeous calligraphy, all penned over the years by Susan Brown, according to Bill McDonald. The skill of it really is astounding. Her talented contribution needs to be added to the book.

The Book of Remembrance was a gift from charter member John S. Kennoy, and was placed in the sanctuary on April 9, 1972. The second page quotes from Malachi 3:16. "Then they that feared the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE was written before him for them that feared the LORD and thought upon HIS name."

The contents are fascinating for those interested in history. Some of the highlights are five pages of signatures of those who were present at the dedication service for the new sanctuary on May 16, 1971. According to materials in the book, the dedication was a week-long process. There are three pages, double columns, of the names of those who contributed to the sanctuary. There are three pages of names of those who donated to the Lollis chapel. The walk through Crestwood history continues throughout the book, listing all the senior and associate ministers. But it abruptly stops in 1995. Obviously, we must figure out how to update it from there.

Immediately upon finding the book and reading the contents, Rev. McDonald was off on another search. In the book, he found the list of all the items that were donated to the Lollis Chapel, some of which were missing from the chapel. His search was successful, and some of the items were right under our noses. The Sunday after Rev. McDonald's weekday hunt for the book, he casually glanced at the back of the sanctuary, and there stood the lectern from the Lollis Chapel! The only item now missing is the stand for the Remembrance Book which he insists he will find. When it is located, the book will be available for all to see and to carefully thumb through. Thanks to him for all his sleuthing activities.

Now it is time for Mea Culpa. The book shows that the present-day Patrick Gaines Lafferty Memorial Garden developed in a different sequence than I reported in the last article on the garden. The Remembrance Book (and several emails received) made it clear that the

development of the current garden area was begun before the wooden Garden Chapel was designed and built. Former members Allison Buckley and Christy Harris were key in getting interest aroused to refurbish the garden, and a long-standing Garden Committee was formed. For years it was led by Judy Cowgill. I learned this week of her great organizational skills that kept the gardening women working regularly and hard. I am told she was the key to the long-term success of the committee, and thus the development of the garden, which was dedicated June 4, 2006.

I was also informed (and the Remembrance Book confirms) that there were many more donors, both large and small, to the garden project and the garden chapel in addition to the generous estate donation from Will and Barbara Rouse.

Regardless of the names of the donors and size of their contributions, the body of the story remains the same and is enhanced. The garden chapel and its surrounding gardens have a long history. They are the result of an active congregation involved both monetarily and with the sweat of their brows over many years. It started as a dedication to young Patrick Gaines Lafferty in 1970 and has grown to its current state to still honor him, but many others as well.

I have received inquiries about the unmarked benches that were donated to the garden. With help from the book, we can soon add those names of dedication to the benches. The wooden benches will be moved inside for the winter, but in the spring, look for shiny new brass plates on each, honoring members of the congregation by loving friends or family.

It has been quite a journey to revisit the history of this memorial garden. Rev. McDonald wisely concluded at the end of his search, "The Church is always moving forward, but it travels on the foundations established by the past."

We are fortunate to have past ministers, Rev David Blondell and Rev. Bill McDonald, as current Crestwood members to help keep us in touch with our founding past while Rev. Kory Wilcoxson helps us keep moving forward.

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If there is some area of the church you would like to know more about, please share your ideas with me. Let's explore together.

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