

## *Meditation Garden*



**From the beginning, God created nature as a way of rejoicing in God's creation.**

Getting in touch with one's own spirituality brings a sense of peace and balance to life – physically, emotionally and spiritually. Although we don't always consciously realize it, a sense of peace is central to our lives. The Meditation Garden provides a peaceful outdoor retreat where individuals can relax and reconnect with God and nature through prayer, meditation and private reflection. In a peaceful environment, we find sources of inspiration, renewal, solace and a connection to our inner spirits that nurture and support us in our day to day activities.

The Garden provides a natural campus link, unifying Fellowship Hall with the new sanctuary and enhancing both. It is designed to provide a focal point of beauty and serenity with year-round interest and low maintenance plantings.

### *How it began*

The idea for a Meditation Garden at Castleton United Methodist Church originated over six years ago with a suggestion from Catherine Newlin, then the Church's spiritual life director. She suggested that such a Garden on the Church's campus would provide a natural way for people to get in touch with their own spirituality. After gaining permission from the Building Committee to proceed with the location and obtaining money for the paved pathway from the Finance Committee, the Steering Committee eagerly set to work

designing and planning how to grow the dream of the Garden into reality.

One of the groups began as an environmental awareness group; from that sprang a couple of groups

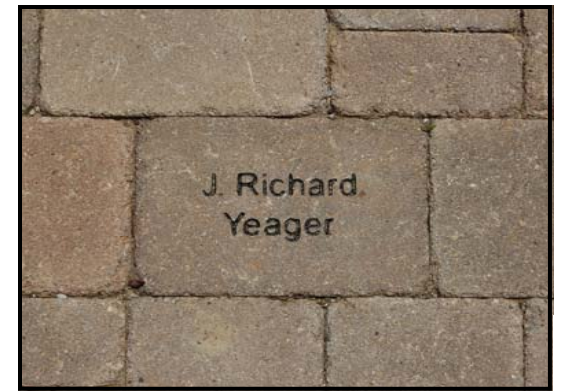


interested in gardening and ponds. After seeing plans for the new sanctuary, Jerry Okey and Chester Bailey approached Phil Myers (head of the Building Committee) about creating a garden in the small triangular niche between the old and new buildings, previously destined to be filled with gravel. Jerry surveyed the small interest

group of gardeners and found many who were excited about the idea and committed to the creation and long-term care of a Meditation Garden. Five passionate volunteers formed a Steering Committee in December of 2006. After gaining permission from the Building Committee to proceed with the location and obtaining money for the paved pathway from the Finance Committee, the Steering Committee eagerly set to work designing and planning how to grow the dream of the Garden into reality.

### *A Work In Progress*

Over the next ten months, the Steering Committee developed and followed a timetable for detail planning, interviewing vendors, grading and installation of the pathway and other structural details, preparation of the soil, digging, mulching, and selection and planting of trees and shrubs. The Committee prayed together and brainstormed ways to complete the Garden. Then a donor gave us enough to get started with the next phase. A "flower shower" was held to fill the Garden with perennials, grasses, vines and ground covers. At about the same time, some very generous anonymous donations were received and the "wish list" for the Garden was fulfilled.



### *Special Features*

A professionally installed pathway of tumbled cobblestone pavers runs from one end of the Garden to the other. The pavers are engraved with the names of 53 generous individuals who agreed to allow insurance to be purchased on their lives in order to fund the building of the new sanctuary.

A water garden was created to provide soothing background music. Several benches invite you to spend time resting, reading, or praying.

An irrigation system automatically waters the Garden as needed, and small lights line the path and highlight special plantings and features.

The Garden is filled with low-maintenance trees, shrubs, grasses, vines, ground covers and perennials and will be maintained year-round by a dedicated group of gardeners.



The Meditation Garden has been made possible by the generous people listed below who shared their time, talent, and treasure.

Lou & Marv Anderson  
Malcolm & Carol Applegate  
Linda and Chester Bailey  
Ann Buswell  
Julia Ann Byerly  
Samantha Craig  
Christian Crusaders Class  
Friends & Family of Gene Cinfel  
Rosemary Draga  
Joyce & Mac Hamon  
Susan Hollandbeck  
Linda Inks  
Jon & Noel Jansen  
Elizabeth Kroetz  
Karen & Ron Morse  
Jerry & Jack Okey  
Marjorie Parson  
Bruce & Becky Pearce  
Blythe Potts  
Corey Stevens  
Donna Tauriainen  
Rosie Adams Taylor  
Susan Toevs  
Judy & Meredith Wilson  
Louise Wilson  
Annie & Rush Yelverton  
Anonymous Donors

We would also like to acknowledge these vendors for their commitment to the success of the project:

Karen Arwood – Progressive Landscaping  
Joe Bumgarner – Aqua Engineering  
Kevin Clark – Aquatic Pond Supplies  
Will Evans -- Smith and Hawken  
Tinder Company -- Access Control

Steering Committee

Jerry Okey, Chair  
Chester Bailey  
Joyce Hamon  
Sue Maple  
Karen Morse

The Steering Committee will be ongoing, to oversee the Garden's care and maintenance. A fund is in place for perpetual care of the Meditation Garden and any future memorials and contributions to the Garden will be used for that purpose.

The mission of Castleton United Methodist Church through our two worship centers is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with one another, our neighborhood, our community, and our world.



**Castleton United Methodist Church**  
7160 Shadeland Station  
Indianapolis, IN 46256  
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**Castleton Worship Center**  
71st & Shadeland Avenue  
**Sunrise Worship Center**  
75th & Oaklandon Road

# Meditation Garden



**‘May the words of my mouth and  
the meditation of my heart be  
pleasing in your sight, O LORD,  
my Rock and my Redeemer.’**

**Psalm 19:14**

