

FSA Public Meditation Garden

Garden Planning Committee
Congregational Meeting, February 11, 2018

How did this come about?

- ▶ This started with the Planning Committee (responsible for short and long term planning) under the leadership of Stephen Elson.
- ▶ With the strategic intent to examine FAITH, SERVICE and ARTS, we have been looking at weaving a more significant “web of connections” with: other churches, the faith community as a whole, the community as a whole.
- ▶ We had been looking at our strengths, including our assets. Our beautiful church has both interior and exterior features which can be used to greater advantage.
- ▶ The garden project came about as an opportunity. The City of London announced that it would be awarding \$250,000 neighbourhood enhancement grants: \$50,000 maximum to each of 5 defined areas of London.
- ▶ There was a very short time-line to make the application. We considered options and felt that a garden would fit the mandate of the grant as it would enhance the Woodfield Community.
- ▶ We were successful in receiving a grant of \$30,000 following a process of voting by the community on the 60+ proposals that were submitted.



So what is the Vision for the FSA Garden?

- ▶ Palm trees, exotic plants, removal of trees planting a desert succulent plants, waterfalls



JUST KIDDING!

We don't have a design yet!

Proposal to City of London

- ▶ Downtown improvement a priority for the
- ▶ There are few public gathering spaces in the immediate area
- ▶ A place to provide quiet reflection and respite from a busy working day: the concept can be described as a “Public Meditation Greenspace”.
- ▶ Design guided by suggestions listed in the environmental ideas section of the City Neighbourhood Improvement website.
- ▶ \$30,000 requested for landscape architectural design and implementation

WORK TO DATE

- ▶ Developed Terms of Reference for Planning Committee:
 - ▶ Rev. Michelle Down, Barrie Evans (Chair), Bob Swartman (Planning), Stewart Bailey (Congregation Member), Russ Gonder (Trustees), Nancy Quinn (UCW), Carolyn Burke/Katie Van Den Berg (DevaTree), Kerry Hill (Planning), Tim Miedema (Facilities Maintenance), George Jolink (Property, Council)
- ▶ Developed a Project Charter including Principles to guide our planning
- ▶ Fanshawe College, Environmental Planning and Design Class of 2019 (graduation) has selected this project as the Class project for this Semester. 38 students will be forming teams of 2-3 students, each presenting their ideas for a design. This takes place under the supervision and guidance of Professor Andrew Wilson

Project Charter

The Committee is tasked to create an inspiring space, comprising the church grounds, which reflects the beauty of God's creation; which enhances the historical architecture of the church; which enhances the neighbourhood; and which offers a destination for all to pause and stay a while to engage in mindful reflection and meditation.

Principles

12 PRINCIPLES (CONDENSED TO 4 THEMES HERE)

1. **ADHERENCE TO PROPOSAL:** Public, place for quiet reflection, design may go beyond what is funded by the City
2. **COMPATIBILITY WITH SURROUNDINGS:** Architecture, streetscape
3. **ECOLOGICALLY SOUND:** Respects nature; includes Permaculture, low maintenance, native trees and plants, preserves shade trees, does not disrupt natural ecology (e.g. Chimney Swifts)
4. **WELCOMING/FUNCTIONAL SPACE:** variety of paces to sit, walk, meditate, pray and engage all the senses, accessible for people with limited mobility, child friendly, venue for worship, art and music.

What might be included in the design?



BUTTERFLY GARDEN



RAIN GARDEN



LABYRINTH (example)



Williamsburg cemetery near Kitchener that incorporates a labyrinth.

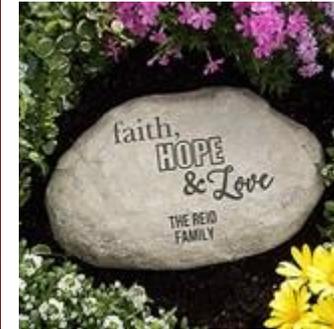
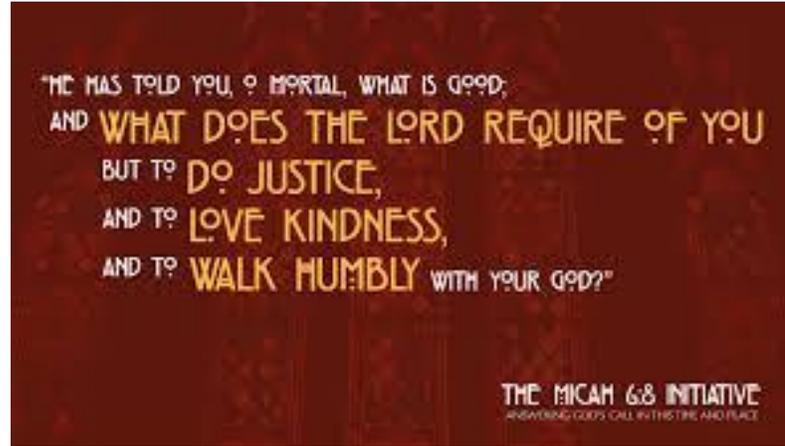
Possibly a platform or gazebo ?

To conduct an outdoor service or provide a “stage” for outdoor musical performance



Possibly use textual material: Bible, hymns, poetry?

- ▶ VU 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre VU 374
- ▶ VU 296 This is my Father's World (Terra Beata) VU 296
- ▶ VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth
- ▶ VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly
- ▶ VU 703 In the bulb



Example: poem embedded in wall (Queenland, NZ)

What is the idea of a Garden?

- ▶ What does a garden in our grounds personally mean to you?
- ▶ How might you connect to the garden?
- ▶ How will a garden add to your faith experience at FSA?
- ▶ How might a garden enhance our visibility and connection to the community?

WHERE TO START?

**Question: HOW MANY GARDENS ARE
FOUND IN THE BIBLE?**

Answer: POSSIBLY 4 SIGNIFICANT GARDENS?

GARDEN OF EDEN



GARDEN OF GETHSEMENE



GARDEN BESIDE GOLGOTHA



John 41 *At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.*

GARDEN OF GOD Revelations 22

Eden Restored: *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

What do each of these gardens represent?

- ▶ EDEN - CREATION, AWARENESS, FALL FROM INNOCENCE
- ▶ GETHSEMENE - REFLECTION, OPENNESS TO WHAT BEFALLS US, SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL, A PLACE TO REVEAL INNERMOST THOUGHTS AND FEARS
- ▶ GARDEN NEAR GOLGOTHA - SADNESS, DESPAIR, LOSS, AND ENDING AND A NEW BEGINNING
- ▶ GARDEN OF GOD (REVELATIONS) - NEW LIFE, HOPE, HEALING

Next Steps

▶ SEEK OTHER RESOURCES

- ▶ No Fundraising Campaign; however individuals may wish to contribute to specific parts of the garden if they wish
- ▶ APPLY FOR TD/CT “Friends of the Environment” Grant
- ▶ Reforest London
- ▶ Donations of materials from businesses
- ▶ Volunteer time

▶ ASSESSMENT OF TREES (City of London Forestry to look at trees on City Property)

▶ “PERMACULTURE” PRESENTATION TO COMMITTEE

- ▶ Presentation by Becky Ellis on February 22 (Also featured in “Nature in the City”, February 13, 7:00 pm, Wolf Hall)

▶ MEET WITH FANSHAWE STUDENTS

- ▶ Presentations on February 28 and March 1 to the Committee

Thank you for coming!

▶ IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR WISH TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS TO PONDER, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT:

▶ bevans@uwo.ca

▶ 519 438 7893

▶ Or any other Committee Member