

To: The Vestry of All Saints'

Greetings from the Labyrinth Discernment Committee, and thank you for your time this evening.

Jennifer Cobb was a beloved and spirited member of All Saints'—full of life, filled with the Spirit, and deeply devoted to Jesus. She was known for her sense of humor and playfulness, often bringing laughter and light wherever she went. Jennifer passed away unexpectedly on September 22, 2015, due to a heart-related illness, at just 38 years old and on staff as the church administrator of All Saints' as well as one of the Youth Advisors working with our teens.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of her passing, a discernment committee was formed to explore the idea of a permanent memorial in her honor—a labyrinth at All Saints'. The project was spurred by an anonymous donation of \$10,000 made to All Saints' in late 2024.

All parishioners were invited to participate in discernment around this project via Weekly Word and announcements in worship services. The following parishioners participated:

Nancy & Joe Hunter, Dick Whitfield, Michelle Bohrer, Fran Burkett, Rachel Berg, Beth Simpson and Chuck Collier. Rev. Nancy and Deacon Jackie were also participants.

In the Christian tradition, a labyrinth symbolizes the spiritual journey: filled with twists and turns, ups and downs, yet always centered on God's presence and salvation. Walking a labyrinth offers a space to pray, reflect, breathe, and find peace. It can be a deeply healing and inspiring experience.

The Committee Considered:

- Possible locations on the property
- Appropriate size and scale
- Design options
- Site preparation requirements
- Estimated costs
- Funding sources

With prayer guiding our process, the committee walked the grounds in search of a suitable location. When Mark Robinson learned of our vision, he and the Gardens Team recommended a site within the Gardens—where the Learning Circle is currently located. It was a beautiful and fitting suggestion, and we agreed.

### Scope of Work for Excavation:

With guidance from the creation Care/Gardens Team, we determined the labyrinth could be no larger than 40 feet in diameter. The excavation will include:

- A 3-foot stepped retaining wall with proper drainage
- Site leveling and the addition of two types of gravel to improve drainage
- Two new, wider gravel paths connecting the lower service road (from the lower parking lot) to the labyrinth entrance
- Widening the existing path from the Gardens to the Learning Circle

The new pathways are an expansion of the original project scope and are undertaken to support the mission and ministry of All Saints' especially through the care of this part of God's creation entrusted to us. The pathways will:

- Allow emergency vehicle access (a vital consideration given the tragic accident several years ago)
- Make it easier for the Gardens Team to maintain the space
- Provide accessible entry to the labyrinth from the lower lot, with an exit toward the upper roadway and service road

All gravel paths will have proper edging and tamped gravel. Excavated soil will be removed, and the existing stone wall around the Learning Circle will be dismantled, palletized, and stored near the shed. The Gardens Team have agreed to handle the removal of irrigation lines. A silt fence will protect the large oak tree's root system.

### Labyrinth Design and Materials:

Each committee member committed to walking at least three labyrinths to study different styles and materials. After discussing our experiences, we considered three design options:

1. Stamped/etched concrete – Beautiful, but costly and potentially prone to moss/mold due to the shade.
2. Pavers – Visually appealing but may allow weed growth unless professionally installed and set in concrete.
3. Combination of gravel and pavers – A cost-effective, natural-looking option that fits the aesthetic of the Gardens.

We chose the gravel-and-paver design: a gravel base with pavers marking the path borders. This maintains a natural appearance and minimizes long-term maintenance issues.

### Timeline and Cost:

We solicited three bids for excavation, and Tesh Troxler provided the most competitive estimate. While we do not yet have a confirmed start date, our goal is to have the labyrinth installed by September 22nd, in time for the 10th anniversary of Jennifer's passing.

The total project cost will be approximately \$30,000, which will be covered entirely through donations made specifically for this project.

We, the committee, prayerfully ask for your blessing to move forward with this meaningful memorial project.

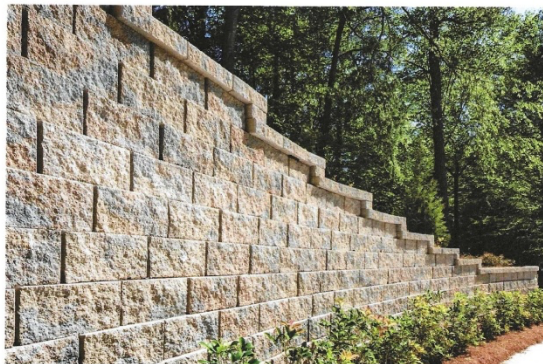
# The Visuals

## Site Representation



## Stone for Retaining Wall

*Diamond Pro 99*





Our Labyrinth will be approximately 35', with 7 circuits or pathways similar to this one from Grace Episcopal Church in Morganton. Comparing our design with this picture, where you see dark flagstone, we will have pale grey gravel similar to the gravel in the current Learning Circle. Where you see the light grey of the borders, those will be done with a stone paver similar to the one in the next picture.



This stone will sit flush with the gravel and define the edges of each path. This is from my yard so you can better see how the stones lock together. The color may be different.





Gravel pathway connecting the current path to the upper part of the access road.



2<sup>nd</sup> Gravel pathway connecting the Labyrinth entrance to the Access Road



JENNIFER COBB

If you didn't know her, let me introduce you to Jennifer Cobb. If you did know her – you know why this memorial is so important.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, God whispered to Jennifer: 'Grab your bookbag! Have I got an adventure for YOU!' She had just turned 38 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

(From her Facebook Page.) This is who Jennifer was:

Today is the feast day of Hildegard of Bingen, my favorite saint! "Hildegard tells us how to bring light to the dark places in our lives, and thus to our world. She urges us to 'be useful,' to nurture nature, to speak up against injustice wherever we find it. But she also reminds us to sing, to dance, to be creative, and to celebrate life." -Matthew Fox, Hildegard of Bingen: A Saint for our Times



Pentacost was her FAVORITE church holiday. And one of her favorite places to be was with her family. Here, she was hiking in Rocky Mountain State Park just a week before her death.





AND she was the consummate prankster. She could get anyone to do just about anything! Ask Michelle or Deacon Jackie, or Nancy or Brian.



She loved having dinner with her peeps, and doing 'churchy things' with the youth



Jennifer Cobb. Her light never left us.

