



# All Hallows Guild

## Report to Buildings and Grounds Committee

May 9, 2018

The gardens of Sayre House are beginning to look like something much more appropriate for the Cathedral Close grounds than the construction moonscape they have been for many months.



Working in a compressed time schedule, All Hallows Guild Garden Committee collaborated with our outstanding horticulturists to transform that wasteland into a very promising, though still incomplete, garden landscape.

Representatives of the Guild and Director of Horticulture Sandra Flowers met with Dean and Mrs. Hollerith, and with Jim Shepherd and his assistant Patrick Smith to review some preliminary thoughts on the gardens. The challenge of the proximity of a busy South Road, the accessibility ramp, the steep slope of the back yard, and potential drainage problems did not make the design simple. Sandy Flowers worked with Bishop's Gardener Addie Schopf on a preliminary design that was then presented to Garden Committee and revised and refined with suggestions from Guild members.





The cold weather this winter and spring made the specified plants hard to source at various nurseries and adjustments had to be made. Sandra Flowers has done heroic work to obtain what we now have in the ground, although some plants will not be available until later in the spring or even in the fall. The problem of erosion of the steep back hillside was combatted with very large stones making a rustic set of steps and holding the soil in place. At the moment with spring-flowering trees and an abundance of green foliage, the site is transformed and as it is completed will afford more privacy and restful views for both the Holleriths and their guests inside as well as fortunate passersby.

All Hallows Guild is pleased to be able to fund the stonework and all the new plantings, as well as pay for some contracted help with installation to relieve the burden on our staff.

