

THE  
COLUMBARIUM

AT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



# THE COLUMBARIUM

## at First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville

The Columbarium at First Presbyterian Church will provide a place for urns of the cremated remains and in doing so reclaims the historic role of the church as a final resting-place for members.

This booklet has been designed to help you decide whether cremation is appropriate to your circumstances and provide answers to specific questions that you have about the Columbarium.

### CREMATION

*What has been the church practice with regard to cremation?*

Cremation is not new to your church. In recent years consideration of cremation among members is increasing. With the Columbarium the church provides a consecrated place for the remains of its members; enables families to extend their relationship with the church beyond the time of death of a loved one; encourages a closer relationship with the church for families over generations and helps us carry out our obligations as good stewards of the land and facilities provided for us by God through the blessings of this great church.

Because of the high cost associated with embalming and burial, and limited space cemeteries, cremation has become very common. Cremation is the rapid disposal of the body by intense heat, reducing the body to ash. People often question whether the practice of cremation is Biblical.

Concerning cremation, *Unger's Bible Dictionary* states:

**Interment** is the act of interring; to deposit a dead body; bury.

Interment in Bible times followed soon after death, as is evident in the narratives of the burial of Sarah (Genesis 23:1-20), Rachel (Genesis 35:19-20), and Rebekah's nurse (Genesis 35:8). The Hebrews did not normally cremate, except in most unusual cases of emergency, as in the case of Saul and his sons (I Samuel 31:11-13). Later Babylonians burned their dead and deposited their ashes in ornate funerary urns, as did Greeks and Romans. Hebrews in later time, indicated by the numerous ossuaries found in New Testament Palestine, also practiced cremation.

## **SPIRITUAL**

From the writing of Genesis 3:19, God tells Adam he was of dust and shall return to dust. Our soul is what is of real issue. The issue of cremation versus a natural process is a personal choice. Note, in interment and inurnment the results are the same, the body being reduced to dust and ashes. Interment process is slow and inurnment process is almost instantaneous. Ultimately, the results are as Scripture reads.

## **LEGAL**

*Who should my family contact to arrange for cremation?*

Contact a licensed funeral home or a crematorium.

The cremation process and care of remains is regulated under North Carolina statute. The statute seeks to regulate both the processes of cremation and care of remains.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLUMBARIUM

*Why has the church decided to provide a Columbarium on the First Church campus?*

There are several reasons. Churches have always had a great tradition of providing family burial places on their property. This tradition slowed with churches in central cities because of land cost and city transition. Today the only way for any downtown church to provide for keeping the remains of loved ones is through the Columbarium process.

*Who is eligible for inurnment in the Columbarium?*

Eligible persons include:

Members of First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville,  
Spouses of members,  
Children or stepchildren of members,  
Parents or step-parents of members and  
Current or former ministers at the church, their spouses, and  
children.

*What is the cost?*

The cost of cremation is determined by a licensed funeral home or crematorium. A one-time reservation fee for a double niche (two urns) is \$1,650.00. The engraving/opening and closing fee is included in the reservation fee.

*What does a niche reservation include?*

Niches are not purchased; rather, niche rights are reserved. The Policies and Operation Rules indicate that the reservation of a niche and the payment of a reservation fee confers only the right to use the niche in perpetuity and in accordance with the Policies and Operation Rules in effect and no title or right of ownership to the niche or any appurtenant real property becomes vested thereby. In addition to paying the reservation fee there is the cost of cremation, and the cost of the urn(s), which is usually paid to a funeral home. There are no other fees required.

*What is the maximum size of each urn that can be placed in each niche?*

Each urn's exterior dimensions shall not exceed 10½ inches in width and height.

*Are the spaces transferable?*

No. The right to inurnment is personal to and retained only by the person(s) designated on the Certificate of Reservation. No sale or other transfer of certificates of reservation of niches may occur by will, intestate succession, gift or otherwise, except upon approval by the church. The church has no obligation to approve the transfer. The church has no obligation to repurchase a Certificate of Reservation although the church will consider same upon request.

*How is a memorial service scheduled?*

Memorial services for the inurnment of cremated remains must be coordinated with the senior pastor. Only an ordained minister may conduct the inurnment ceremony.

*Can an urn be removed to another place?*

The cremated remains of a deceased person placed in the Columbarium may be removed by a next of kin or such person authorized by law upon written request reviewed and approved by the Columbarium Committee and only upon payment to the church of all expenses associate with such removal.

*What can be put on the cover of a niche?*

Each niche cover measures 13 ¼ inches by 13 ¼ inches; therefore, it is necessary that the engraving of niche covers shall be of uniform size and style as prescribed by the church. The engraving shall be limited to names and dates of birth and death of the deceased. No other inscription shall be permitted.

*What is the Memorial Tablet?*

The Memorial Tablet is included in the Columbarium of First Presbyterian Church and dedicated to the memory of eligible persons whose remains are buried or scattered elsewhere. The Memorial Tablet may be inscribed with the deceased's name, date of birth and date of death.

*Who is eligible to have names inscribed?*

The Memorial Tablet shall be restricted to use by “eligible persons” as defined for inurnment, and may be reserved only for those who are not inurned in the First Presbyterian Church Columbarium.

*How is the Columbarium maintained?*

The Columbarium is constructed quite simply of very long lasting materials that require little attention other than cleaning. The niche covers will be washed down periodically and the grounds around the Columbarium kept neat and clean by our church groundsmen.

*Are there any other things I should know?*

Yes. The church’s session has established a “Policy and Operating Rules” to ensure that procedures and inurnment are carried out in an orderly way. A copy may be furnished at your request.

*Who do I contact for more information?*

You may contact the Church Administrator by phone, fax or email:

Office: 910.483.0121

Fax : 910.483.3975

Email: [admin@firstprez.com](mailto:admin@firstprez.com)



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