

WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

Simply described, a columbarium is a wall of niches for urns that contain the cremated human remains (cremains) of members of the faithful community of the church.

Columbaria have grown in numbers in recent years as more and more people are choosing cremation for disposition of final remains. While some public cemeteries have constructed columbaria, the vast majority of these facilities are located at churches. Cremation is recognized by virtually every Christian denomination as a viable option to traditional burial.

WHY A COLUMBARIUM?

The church has traditionally been the final resting place of the deceased members of the Christian community. It is considered a blessing for a Christian to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. In many ways, a columbarium is an updated version of the old-time rural church cemetery. Our columbarium provides a quiet and peaceful place for times of remembrance, meditation and prayer.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

There are several benefits to having a columbarium at our church.

- **Theological:** There is an inherent religious significance when an interment site is located at a church. It recognizes that our loved ones are members in the community of saints, living and dead.
- **Economic:** The niches are moderately priced. Cost savings are significant when compared to earth burial.
- **Pastoral:** Visitation and remembrance is much more convenient. It is a visible link between deceased Christians and their church community.
- **Environmental:** Land use is minimized and ashes are virtually free of all environmental hazards.



WHAT IS THE COST OF A NICHE?

Niches are available to church members and friends of the church at a cost of \$2,000 each. Each niche can accommodate 2 urns. These are commonly referred to as companion niches, typically a husband and wife, but other configurations are an option.

There will be an additional cost (currently \$250) upon need (death) which includes a memorial granite faceplate, sheet bronze urn, urn identification plate.

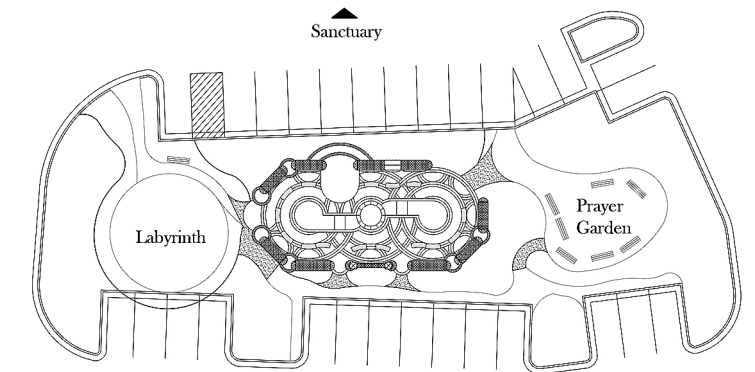
This cost does not include cost of cremation or other funeral home expenses.

WHAT IS THE MEMORIAL WALL?

In addition to the columbarium, the structure includes a memorial wall. Stone wall plaques that match columbarium facing stone will be placed on the wall in memory of family members who do not choose the columbarium option but wish to be part of the garden. The memorial wall will also be available to memorialize former members and/or loved ones who are already interred elsewhere. The memorial wall plaques are \$750 each.

WHERE IS THE COLUMBARIUM?

After reviewing several possible locations and following discussion with the church architect, it was decided to place the memorial garden/columbarium on the south side of the sanctuary adjacent to the labyrinth and the prayer garden. It is a lovely and tranquil site to memorialize loved ones.



BEING FUNDED?

Funding came from the pre-sales of columbarium niches. Construction of the initial phase of the columbarium was completed in March 2013. Additional phases are planned and will be added as additional space is needed and funding allows.

Garden of the Saints

The Garden of the Saints offers a place of peace and serenity where church members and friends can inter and remember loved ones.

More and more frequently members of our church or their family members and friends are choosing to be cremated. This columbarium is the result of many member requests for First Church to create a space where cremated remains could be placed.

A columbarium fulfills the obligation of the church to serve its members from baptism to death; provides a faithful stewardship option, and offers a final homecoming for church members.

col•um•bar•i•um

noun

a room or building with niches for funeral urns to be stored.

- a niche to hold a funeral urn.*
- a stone wall or walk within a garden for burial of funeral urns, esp. attached to a church.*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:1-3

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Experience Love. Spread Hope

Garden of the Saints



THE COLUMBARIUM

AT
FIRST UNITED
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