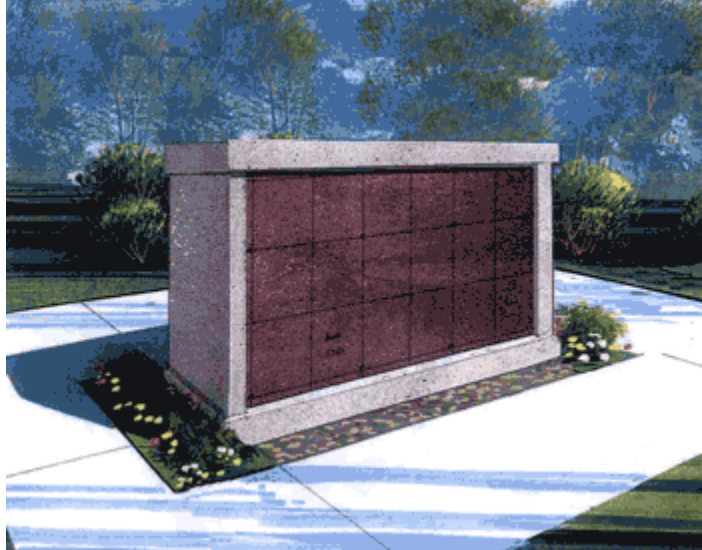


The Memorial Columbarium

First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, West Virginia



Columbariums are vaults, or sometimes simply walls, with niches to store remains for those who have opted for cremation. The word comes from the Latin name for the dwelling place of a dove (columba), which Christians believe is the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The Memorial Columbarium at First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, WV is a place that will remind us of the sacraments we celebrate as Christians. The burial liturgy and interment of the urn are the culmination of a person's earthly life in our shared community in Christ.

The church has traditionally been the natural repository and final resting place of deceased members of the Christian community. Burial within a church or in an adjacent churchyard was once common practice. The amount of land necessary for a burial ground is no longer available to most churches, and a myriad of laws and regulations make it extremely difficult to establish a burial site. In recent years, cremation with inurnment of the ashes, rather than burial, has become more common. In this way, the remains of the deceased can stay on at the church that played such an important part in their lives.

Our Columbarium will consist of a grouping of niche units which will contain the cremated remains of the departed. In addition, there will be a Scattering Garden; persons electing to use The Scattering Garden may be memorialized on a communal plaque located within The Memorial Garden.

The first phase of The Memorial Columbarium will begin with the installation of two units similar to the above picture. Each unit will contain eighteen niches arranged three high by six wide. Each niche is approximately 12" x 12 x 24" and can accommodate one or two urns. The niche fronts will be polished rose granite and the sides, bottom and cap will be of Indiana limestone to provide continuity with the architecture of our church. Allowance for future expansion is included in the garden design.

A niche in the Memorial Columbarium is reasonably priced and aesthetically pleasing. The ambiance of the Columbarium creates a comfortable meeting place for families and friends to gather in love and remembrance.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church approved the installation of a Columbarium and Memorial Garden at their March 2010 meeting. Construction will begin this summer. The Columbarium is a stand-alone project and once established will be a self-supporting project. Financed by niche purchasers and benefactors, funds will be maintained in The First Presbyterian Church Memorial Columbarium Fund. Funds may be donated to the Columbarium Fund at any time and are a caring and wonderful way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Funds may be used for the purchase of columbarium units, associated furnishings and benches, installation and construction, landscaping and landscaping maintenance and upkeep and renovation of the columbarium.

Eligibility, assignment of niches, ownership and other rights are explained in detail in the Columbarium Rules and Regulations. A copy may be obtained in the church office. Also included is a Columbarium Use Agreement. To reserve a niche the Columbarium Use Agreement must be filled out, signed, witnessed and submitted to the columbarium board with your check. If you are interested in purchasing a niche, please make an appointment with Jackie Lilly, the church business administrator.