



## St. Andrew United Methodist Church Columbarium

A Columbarium by definition is an area designated for the burial of cremated remains (cremains). The cremains are stored (inurned) in niches. Cremation is a simple, dignified and inexpensive form of burial. For those persons who are Christian, it seems appropriate to provide a burial place for their ashes in a beautiful area near the church they have attended. To have access to a loved one's burial place at any time is a great comfort to family and friends of the deceased. The name "columbarium" is derived from the Latin word Columba, which means dove, the symbol of God's Spirit and peace.

### Questions Regarding the Columbarium

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#### **Why a Columbarium at the Church?**

During our lifetime, the church has been our spiritual home and is therefore an appropriate place to remain. The Columbarium is a modern version of the earlier burial in a church courtyard. Churchyard cemeteries were a tradition in Europe and America. They can still be found near historic places as well as small country churches. There is something very comforting about being laid to rest near the church in which you worshiped. Interment on church grounds is a statement of our belief in the resurrection, life everlasting and the church triumphant.

#### **Where is the St. Andrew Columbarium located?**

The Columbarium is located in the Good Shepherd Meditation Garden on the north end of the campus, just west of the pond. Each niche in the Columbarium will hold two 8-inch by 8-inch urns.

#### **Who can use The Columbarium?**

Subscriptions are open to present or past St. Andrew members and members of their immediate families, including spouses, parents and children. It is also open to our friends in the community.

#### **Can I choose where my niche will be located?**

The choice of the niche or niches is up to you, offered on a "first-come" basis. Your niche will receive perpetual care under the supervision of the Trustees of the church. Final niche assignment will be made upon payment in full.

#### **How much does a niche in The Columbarium cost?**

The cost is \$4,500 for a niche, whether for the remains of one or two persons. The niche fee includes the urn, opening and closing for inurnment, engraving and perpetual care. You must pay the full amount in advance.

#### **Can I buy a name plaque only and not a niche?**

No, we only have niches available for sale.

#### **Who handles the cremation?**

You will need a funeral home or cremation service to pick up the remains, cremate them, and deliver the cremains to the Church prior to the date of inurnment in an approved urn or the urn provided by St. Andrew.

**Can a memorial services be held in the columbarium area?**

Yes, inurnment services will be at the Columbarium, just as they are held at a graveside. A memorial service can be held in one of our worship spaces. You will need to contact Kay Richardson at [krichardson@standrewumc.org](mailto:krichardson@standrewumc.org) to schedule a time. We are never closer to our deceased loved ones than when we gather for worship - it is the place where God's heavenly kingdom and his earthly kingdom meet.

**What kind of identifying marker is on each niche?**

When cremains have been interred into the Columbarium, the name, birth date and death date will be engraved on the exterior of the limestone cover plate.

**What is the availability of visitation after the service?**

The Columbarium is accessible from exterior walkways and can be visited at any time between daylight and dusk daily.

**How do I reserve a niche?**

You may contact Kay Richardson at [krichardson@standrewumc.org](mailto:krichardson@standrewumc.org) or 214.291.8093.