

# *The Columbarium*

## **at First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro**

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 our church. In recent years consideration of cremation among members has increased. 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 obligation 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 in 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.

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

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 Hebrew did not normally cremate, except in most cases of emergency, as in the case of Saul and his sons (1 Samuel 31:11-13). Later Babylonians burned their dead and deposited their ashes in ornate funerary urns, as did Greeks and Romans. Hebrew 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, internment and inurnment the results are the same, the body being reduced to dust and ashes. Internment 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 our 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 best way for a church to provide for the keeping of the remains of loved ones is through a dedicated Columbarium.

*Who will be eligible to reserve a place or a memorial marker?*

Eligible persons include:

- members of First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro,
- spouses of members,
- children or step-children of members,
- parents or step-parents of members and
- current or former ministers at the church, their spouses and children.

*What is the reservation fee for a Memorial Maker plaque?*

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 500.00. The engraving/opening and closing fee is included in the reservation fee. After construction of the Columbarium the reservation fee for a double niche will increase to \$1750.00

*What does a niche reservation include?*

Niches are not purchased; rather, niche rights are reserved. The Policy and Operating Rules indicate that the reservation of a niche and the payment of a reservation fee confer only the right to use the niche in perpetuity and in accordance with the Policy 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 10 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 reservations 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 re-purchase a Certificate of Reservation although the church will consider same upon request.

*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 received and approved by the Memorials Committee and only upon payment to the church of all expenses associated with such removal.

*What words may be inscribed on a Memorial Marker Plaque?*

It is necessary that the engraving of niche covers be uniform in size and style as prescribed by the church. The engraving shall be limited to only the names of each deceased person and his or her dates of birth and death.

*How is the Columbarium maintained?*

The Columbarium will be 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 the church.

*Are there any other things I should know?*

Yes. The church's session has established Policy and Operating Rules to ensure that procedures and inurnment are carried out in an orderly way. A copy will be furnished upon request.

*What is the purpose of a Memorial Marker?*

Memorial Markers have been provided to memorialize eligible persons whose remains are either scattered within the Columbarium gardens, or buried or scattered elsewhere. The term "eligible persons" is defined elsewhere in this booklet.

*What is the reservation fee for a Memorial Marker?*

The reservation fee for a Memorial Marker is \$250.00 for each eligible name. This fee will include cost of engraving.