

# St. Andrew Columbarium

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a columbarium?**

A columbarium is a vault with niches for urns containing cremated human remains.

### **Where will the columbarium be located?**

The columbarium will be located midway along the Memorial Walkway north of our new sanctuary, within a masonry and granite wall.

### **Will there be an area for memorial plaques without cremains?**

The columbarium will dedicate a section to memorial plaques for those who wish to honor a loved one with a simple granite marker.

### **What is the view of the United Methodist Church on cremation?**

The process of cremation is not in conflict with the beliefs or doctrines of the church and is supported when it is the choice of the deceased or family. Cremation has found increasing acceptance as a manner of treating the body at death with appropriate reverence for the life that it contained.

### **What are the benefits of a columbarium for St. Andrew and the surrounding community?**

A niche in a columbarium is modest in cost and creates a link between a person's life and death. Cremation is also a sound ecological choice. The setting of the Memorial Walkway invites contemplation and is a peaceful place for families and friends to gather in prayer, love and remembrance.

### **Who may be accepted in the columbarium?**

The columbarium is open to all members and constituents of St. Andrew, as well as the community at large.

### **How many urns can the niches hold?**

Each niche can hold either a single or double urn. The urn(s) must fit within the standard 12" x 12" x 12" niche space

### **What are visitation times?**

The columbarium will be accessible for visitation seven days a week, from 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

### **Can niches be purchased before they are needed as well as on an as-needed basis?**

An individual may purchase a columbarium niche before death. Or a family, following the death of a loved one, may purchase a niche.

### **How do I pay for a niche or memorial plaque?**

Payment for a niche or plaque is required to be made in full at the time of purchase. No partial deposits will be accepted.

### **How do I make purchase arrangements?**

Purchase will be available through the church. Niches and memorial plaques will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. All payments will be held in a secured account until there are sufficient funds to begin construction. If by July 1, 2012, it is determined that there are not enough funds to build the columbarium, all payments will be refunded in full.

### **Can I donate money to help build the columbarium?**

Yes. In addition to selling niches and plaques to raise funds, St. Andrew will gratefully accept monetary gifts for construction.

### **What is included in the cost of the niche?**

The cost of the stainless steel niche, granite facing plate, engraving of name(s) and dates, and perpetual care of the columbarium is included. A member of the church will be available to open and close the niche during services.

### **What is not included in the cost of the niche?**

Purchasers may buy urns from the church or provide urns of their own choosing. The cost of a funeral service provided by the church or by others is not included.

### **What about maintenance?**

St. Andrew will pay for and maintain the columbarium from funds set aside from niche and memorial plaque sales. Perpetual care is assured.

### **Will records be kept of those who are placed in the columbarium?**

The church will maintain a record of those whose ashes are placed in the niches. A memorial book will also be kept for those who want to record information about the deceased.

### **What if the church moves in the future?**

The granite facing plates and the stainless steel niches containing the urns are designed to be removable and can be relocated to any new facility.

### **Can my pet remains be included?**

Only human cremains may be interred.