

THE COLUMBARIUM



at

Christ Episcopal Church

Roanoke, Virginia



PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

Christ Episcopal Church in Roanoke, Virginia offers to members and friends the advantages of a place for permanent committal of cremated remains on consecrated church grounds.

Cremation is an old tradition and has been widely practiced throughout the world from earliest times. The ancient Greeks, as long ago as 1200 B.C., cremated their dead and buried their ashes in large urns. It has been the practice of the church to dispose of things that have been blessed and set apart for the glory of God by burning. By common Christian consent, we believe that when the breath of life has left our bodies, cremation is an appropriate way to return our bodies to God.

The columbarium at Christ Church is an outdoor garden surrounded by a high brick wall. Niches for interment of ashes are located in the wall and in a raised platform next to the church. There are 268 wall niches and 32 platform niches. Each niche may hold the remains of up to two people. Bronze plaques with the names of those interred and dates of birth and death will mark each niche. Ashes of individuals may also be interred directly in the ground in the grassy area of the columbarium. A memorial wall is available for plaques for these individuals, as well as for others whose remains may be located elsewhere.

COSTS OF RESERVATION

Wall niche for two people	\$1,100*
Wall niche for one person	\$900*
Platform niche for one or two people (<i>sold out, no longer available</i>).....	\$700
Ground space for one person.....	\$200
Memorial wall space for one person	\$100

***Prices includes mason fee of \$200 for opening and closing of niche for each interment.**

COSTS AT TIME OF INTERMENT

(Subject to Change)

- Wall niche plaque and mounting (up to two names)..... \$475.00*
- Platform niche plaque and mounting (up to two names) \$350.00*
- Memorial wall plaque and mounting (1 name, DOB , DOD)..... \$135.00*
- Ground space intermentno cost

(*Price subject to change)

The above costs do not include charges for cremation, which are the responsibility of the family or estate of the deceased.

RESERVATION

Reservations for niches, ground spaces, and memorial wall space may be made in advance of need by application and payment of the costs of reservation in the parish office. Payments in installments can be arranged for niche purchases through the Columbarium Committee. Niche location may be selected at the time of reservation. If desired, plaques may also be ordered and paid for at this time. (Wall niche plaques would be put in the safekeeping of the subscriber(s) until time of interment, and the committee reserves the right to assess mounting costs at time of interment.)* Otherwise, plaques will be ordered by the church at the time of interment upon payment of the then current fees.

** If mounting of plaque prior to interment is desired, additional mason fees will apply.*

IF NO ADVANCE RESERVATION

If no advance reservation has been made, all fees must be paid within six months of interment. The plaque and mounting fees and cost for opening and closing the niche must be paid before the plaque will be ordered.

URN SPECIFICATIONS

Urns for wall niches must be 6 ½ X 3 ½ X 9 inches or smaller unless otherwise arranged with the Columbarium Committee and noted on the niche certificate. Urns for platform niches must be 8 ½ X 6 ½ X 4 3/8 inches or smaller unless otherwise arranged and noted. Urns used for ground spaces must be biodegradable.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

- 1. AUTHORITY:** The use and care of the columbarium and the memorial garden in which it is located are subject to the control of the vestry of Christ Church. All rules and regulations are established by the vestry, which reserves the right to make, amend, and repeal such rules and regulations when and as it deems proper.
- 2. OWNERSHIP:** All columbarium niches and ground spaces remain the property of Christ Church. Reservation of a niche or ground space and payment of the established fee therefore entitle one person, the “subscriber,” to the privilege of use but not the right of ownership. Niches or spaces may not be assigned by anyone other than the vestry or the columbarium committee elected and functioning under the authority of the vestry.
- 3. USE OF NICHES:** Each niche or ground space may be used for the ashes of the eligible person(s) (one for a ground space and up to two for a niche) designated by the subscriber, or, after his or her death or incapacity, by his or her representative. Any exception must be approved by the clergy member in charge and the columbarium committee.
- 4. ELIGIBILITY:** The ashes of any past or present member of Christ Church, his or her spouse, parents, or children, and others who, in the opinion of the clergy member in charge and the columbarium committee, have a sufficient connection to a member or the parish, shall be eligible for interment in the columbarium or garden.
- 5. RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCLAIMER:** Christ Church will endeavor to protect the ashes and their receptacles both before and after they are interred in the columbarium but it shall have no responsibility for failure to do so. The subscriber understands that the surrounding church yard is used for many purposes and will continue to be so used.
- 6. COLUMBARIUM REMOVAL:** Christ Church reserves the right to move all or part of the columbarium to a different site if deemed appropriate by the vestry. The subscriber agrees and understands that ashes, if interred directly into the earth, may not be recoverable or preserved intact.
- 7. RITES AND SERVICES:** All rites and services in connection with the interment of ashes in the columbarium or garden shall be those prescribed by the clergy member in charge of Christ Church.

8. AUTHORIZED OFFICIANT: All such services shall be conducted by a minister designated by the clergy member in charge of Christ Church.

9. CERTIFICATE: Each subscriber shall execute and receive a copy of a certificate substantially in the form attached hereto. [Certificate is omitted here.] Subject to the rules and regulations existing at the time of any designation or change, the subscriber shall retain the right and authority (1) to designate or change the designation of the eligible person or persons whose ashes shall be placed in the niche or ground space, subject to the consent of the columbarium committee, and (2) to designate or change the designation of the person who, upon the subscriber's death or incapacity, shall have such right and authority.

10. PLAQUES AND INSCRIPTIONS: Each niche shall be marked by a bronze plaque. Ground spaces will be unmarked. In order to insure uniformity, only niche plaques authorized by the vestry or columbarium committee may be used. Inscriptions shall likewise be uniform in style, size and structure and may include only the name of the decedent and year of birth and death. In case of use of a niche for the ashes of a second decedent, the original plaque shall be replaced by one bearing the names and dates for both decedents, or an additional date shall be put on the original plaque. Except for approved designated plaques, no markers, individual plantings, or floral arrangements will be permitted. In lieu thereof, floral memorials for the church or chapel may be arranged with the parish office.

11. URNS OR CONTAINERS: All urns or other containers of ashes shall be of dimensions and construction approved by the columbarium committee. If used, all urns and other containers for interment in the ground must be biodegradable. While it is intended to allow the decedent's family latitude in the selection of an urn, it is the policy of Christ Church that the interment process should be modest in cost.

12. RESERVATION OF NICHEs AND GROUND SPACES: Niches and ground spaces shall be available upon payment of the fee in effect at the time of reservation. (As stated in Article 2, the reservation of a niche or ground space and payment of the fee give the subscriber the right of interment of cremated remains, and do not convey ownership of the niche or ground space.) No transfer of reservations may be made. In the event a subscriber desires to cancel a reservation, he or she may do so in writing addressed to the clergy member in charge or columbarium committee, in which event a refund of one-half (1/2) of the amount paid for the reservation shall be made to the subscriber, or his or her estate, payable upon the next reservation of the same type of space. Thereafter the niche or ground space shall be available as an unassigned space.

13. MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Memorial plaques in memory of those whose ashes are interred in the columbarium garden or whose ashes or remains are scattered, maintained or interred elsewhere may be purchased and mounted in the space designated for that purpose. They shall be uniform in material, dimension and style of inscription as specified by the columbarium committee and shall be inscribed only with the name and dates of birth and death.

14. FEES AND CHARGES:

Reservation of niche.....	\$700
Reservation of ground space	\$200
Memorial plaque space	\$100

Fees for opening and closing the wall niches must be paid at the time of reservation for the number of people to be interred. In addition, the family or estate of a decedent shall be responsible for the costs and charges for plaques (both those used for niches and those used in the memorial plaque space), for opening and closing of platform niches or ground spaces, and for the mounting of plaques. All of these items and services shall be furnished and rendered only by persons or businesses approved by the columbarium committee. Promptly after interment (or ordering of a plaque) the church shall render to the responsible party a statement for all charges made through Christ Church, using estimates where necessary. While the parish clergy will counsel about the use and cost of the services of a funeral director, any such use is the sole responsibility of the family or estate of the decedent. Likewise, the cost of cremation is the sole responsibility of the family or estate of the decedent.

15. ACCOUNT FOR OPENING AND CLOSING FEES: All fees received in advance for the opening and closing of wall niches shall be kept in a separate liability account which shall be administered by the treasurer of the church and used solely for this purpose.

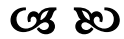
16. COLUMBARIUM FUND: All other funds received from reservation of niches and ground spaces and the purchase of memorial plaque spaces shall be deposited in a special account known as the columbarium fund which shall be administered by the treasurer of the church subject to vestry direction. The cost of reservation of a niche or ground space, or purchase of memorial plaque space may be changed from time to time by the vestry so as to assure sufficient funds to pay in reasonable time the initial cost of construction, including any loan used to pay for same, and the cost of maintenance and beautification of

the columbarium and memorial garden. At such time as the initial costs of the columbarium and any loan in connection therewith have been paid in full and the balance remaining in the columbarium fund is sufficient, in the judgement of the vestry, to maintain and beautify the columbarium and memorial garden, all funds from reservations of niches and ground spaces and the purchase of memorial plaque spaces shall be deposited in the Christ Church Perpetual Memorial Fund.

17. COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE: Subject to the authority of the vestry, clergy, and these rules and regulations, all matters in connection with the construction, maintenance, regulation and use of the columbarium shall be the responsibility of the columbarium committee. The committee shall consist of the four members of Christ Church elected by the vestry for terms of four years each. The vestry shall fill vacancies as they occur. The committee shall maintain appropriate records of the subscribers, niches and ground spaces reserved, persons whose ashes are to be interred in each niche and ground space, persons whose ashes are interred in each niche and ground space, appropriate biographical data with respect to each person whose ashes are interred and each person for whom a memorial plaque is mounted, and such other matters as may be deemed appropriate by the vestry or columbarium committee.

Revised February of 2020

*“May the souls of the faithful
departed rest in peace and may
light perpetual shine upon them.”*



Current Columbarium Committee:

Kerry McCarty, Chairman

Joyce Freed

Ron Nemura

Ellen Urbanski