

St. Paul's

Episcopal Church

Mt. Lebanon,

Pennsylvania

Columbarium

*An Enduring Place for
Ashes after Cremation*

The Columbarium in the Good Shepherd Chapel

Christianity is concerned about “heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen” (The Nicene Creed). Christians affirm that Jesus is divine and human, both God and man, and that He lived and died. At His death, the Gospel tells us that the disciples took Jesus’ body and lovingly cared for His mortal remains. On the third day He rose from the dead. This is the foundation of our Christian faith.

Ever since Jesus’ Resurrection, we have reassured one another that we are dust, and to dust we shall return as we repeat “earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” in the Burial Office.

In historic cathedrals and village churches, the dead have been buried beside, or actually inside, the consecrated structures. As cities expanded their perimeters, and the development of land increased, it was impractical to surround a church with a burial ground. In addition, the need to return for burial the soldiers killed in the Civil War caused designated areas called cemeteries to be started close to city limits.

Here at St. Paul’s Church, a portion of the church property has been designated as St. Margaret’s Garden for the interment of ashes following cremation. The names of those interred in the Garden are mounted on the exterior wall of the Garden. This move is a contemporary adaptation of the desire to be buried beside the church building, and here at St. Paul’s Church, to be near to the Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at the Garden altar.

St. Paul’s Church now is able to offer the option of being buried inside the church, with the inurning of ashes in a Columbarium.

The Columbarium in St. Paul's Church is located in the Good Shepherd Chapel. It is within the existing oak doors, to the right side of the Altar. The bronze Columbarium module will contain thirty-six niches for one or two inurnments each, and nine niches for up to four inurnments each.

Each niche has a bronze face plate on which the surname is engraved, under which is engraved the Christian name and the birth year and death year of the deceased person(s).

The crematorium will present to the family the ashes, sometimes referred to as cremains, in an urn or container. If the urn or container is of the proper size and composition, it may be used in the Columbarium. St. Paul's can make available a proper sized bronze urn or a fabricated metal urn, at a reasonable cost.

Just as St. Margaret's Garden can be a quiet, lovely place for meditation and prayer, so the Good Shepherd Chapel can be open for meditation and prayer for the deceased. Memorial flowers may be placed in customary fashion beside the Altar, if prior arrangements are made with the Altar Guild.

Rules and regulations governing the licensing requirements, and the endowment of the Columbarium, have been prepared by the Vestry. Copies are available from the Church office. Some of the important provisions are summarized in this booklet.

Individual questions may be addressed to the Columbarium Trustees.

Jackson Foster 412-341-1171
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Highlights of the Rules and Regulations of the Columbarium

Inurnment License. After a written Application has been submitted to the Church and has been approved, the Church will issue an Inurnment License to the License Holder. A License Holder has no property rights in the Church building or the Columbarium. The Church retains sole jurisdiction and control of the Columbarium.

The License Holder(s) of a niche has the right, while living, to designate his or her successor as a License Holder, and, at death, to have his or her own cremains inurned in the Columbarium. Designations may be changed by application to the Church on forms obtained from the Church office.

Transfer of Inurnment Licenses may not be assigned or transferred without the prior written approval of the Church.

Records. The Church will maintain the original, authoritative copy of each Inurnment License.

Fees. The fee for an Inurnment License, as established by the Vestry, is payable to the Church at the time an Application for a License is submitted. After issuance of the License, fees are not refundable.

There are administrative fees to cover the cost of registering an approved transfer of a License, or preparing a duplicate License.

Exterior. The family surname of the License Holder, and the name(s) and year of birth and death of the person(s) whose cremains are contained within, will be engraved on the front bronze plate of the niche. Inscriptions are to meet the standards established by the Church. The License fee includes the cost of engraving the surname at the time the License is issued.

Memorial Flowers may be placed in the customary places beside the Altar, by prior arrangement with the Altar Guild. No other decoration may be placed on the front plate of any niche, or in the area adjacent to the Columbarium.

Interior. The maximum number of urns placed in a niche is specified on the Inurnment License. The Church may refuse to accept a container which may not be permanent. The Church can make available permanent urns of varying cost. No object apart from urns and their contents may be placed in any niche.

Access to the Columbarium may be obtained at any time the Church is open to the public, if access does not interfere with Church activities at that time. A niche will be opened only for inurnment. No urn or container will be opened subsequent to initial sealing.

Responsibility. The Church will exercise reasonable care in maintaining the Columbarium, but shall have no liability for loss or damage to the Columbarium and its contents as a result of any catastrophe of man or nature. In no event is the liability of the Church to exceed the amount of the License and Inurnment fees which have been paid to lease a particular niche.

Change of Circumstances The right of inurnment in the Columbarium will continue only so long as the building stands and is owned by the Church. In the event of demolition of the building or its sale by the Church, the Church will have the right to remove and make other provision for all cremated remains which are not removed by the persons who are legally entitled to do so. The Church may also alter or modify the Columbarium, or change its location in the present or future Church grounds, at its discretion.

ST. PAUL'S COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium is located behind oak doors to the right side of the Altar in the Good Shepherd Chapel. The niche bank has thirty-six niches accommodating up to two inurnments each for a total of 72, and nine niches accommodating up to four inurnment each for a total of 36 inurnments. The size of an urn or container must not exceed 5 1/2 by 5 1/2 by 7 inches. If an urn is used, an appropriate inscription may be made upon it.

Costs.

When the Inurnment License is issued

There will be a License fee of \$500 for the one or two inurnment size, and \$1000 for the up to four inurnment size. This fee includes the engraving of the surname.

Administrative Fees

If it becomes necessary to transfer an Inurnment License or to prepare a duplicate in the event of loss, there will be a \$25 fee for either of these requests.

Ministry to the Dying

St. Paul's Church seeks to serve the sick, and to serve the dying person and the family through prayer, the Sacraments of Unction, Reconciliation and Holy Communion, at home, hospital, or hospice.

The Funeral

It is important that the family of a person who wants to be cremated agrees to and understands their responsibilities.

When immediate cremation is chosen, nearby funeral establishments can serve with simplicity and dignity. The Celebration of Holy Eucharist, or the Burial Office alone, can be offered in the Church or the Good Shepherd Chapel, and followed by inurnment in the Columbarium at a time determined by the family and the Church.

Families may choose to have viewing and visitation in customary ways, with the Holy Eucharist, or the Burial Office alone, before cremation. The inurnment of the cremains would be on a succeeding day, determined by the family and the Church..

The Lydia Circle of St. Paul's Church can provide a reception in the Lounge or Undercroft following the funeral service. A donation to the Lydia Circle is requested.

Fees and Urn costs

Single Niche (one or two Urns)	\$500.
Double Niche (up to four Urns)	\$1000.
Engraving Fee	actual cost
Transfer Fee	\$25.
Duplication Fee	\$25.
Cast Bronze Urn "Prelude"	actual cost
Fabricated Bronze Urn "Harmonia"	actual cost

Urn are available through the church. Each Urn is actual cost, plus shipping and handling fee.

Any urn size or suitable container must not exceed 5-1/2" by 5-1/2" by 7" in size.

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