

WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM ??

The word "columbarium" is derived from Latin and translates as a compartmented house for doves, the gentle birds mentioned in Scripture and recognized internationally as symbols of peace.

"Columbarium" means a consecrated area reserved for the interment of a deceased's cremated remains.

Set in the dignified and beautiful surroundings of a church structure, the columbarium can also be a place for quiet meditation and prayer.

ST LUKE'S COLUMBARIUM STUDY

Over the past several years, because of:

- 1. Environmental concerns**
- 2. Cost of land**
- 3. Declining land availability**
- 4. Disappearance of family/church graveyards**
- 5. Increasing cost of conventional burials**
- 6. Migration of families**
- 7. The desire of families to maintain connection with loved ones and with their church**
- 8. The flexibility of cremations/columbaria**

the number and use of church columbaria has increased significantly.

EXTERIOR LOCATION

Advantages

- 1. Easiest way to get started**
- 2. Potentially easiest installation if pre-assembled unit**

Disadvantages

- 1. Remote from sanctuary/services**
- 2. Weather dependant**
- 3. Grounds maintenance critical**
- 4. Security**
- 5. Potential easement restrictions**
- 6. Short term building plans unknown**
- 7. Limitation on urn options**

MEMORIAL GARDEN LOCATION

Advantages

- 1. Security**

Disadvantages

- 1. More difficult installation (may require crane)**
- 2. Weather dependant**
- 3. Places restrictions on use of Memorial Garden**
- 4. Short term building plans unknown**
- 5. Limitations on urn options**

INTERIOR LOCATION

Advantages

- 1. Potential to be close to sanctuary/services**
- 2. Independent of weather**
- 3. Minimal limitations on urn options
(depends on niche design)**
- 4. Security**
- 5. More personal if glass faced niches selected**
- 6. More meditative environment**
- 7. Minimal maintenance required**
- 8. Potentially more easily expanded**

Disadvantages

- 1. Current location options limited**
- 2. Short term building plans unknown**

RECOMMENDATIONS
COLUMBARIUM STUDY COMMITTEE
MAY, 2006

After studying the location and design options for columbaria at St. Luke's, it is concluded that a glass-fronted, interior columbarium/meditation area would be the best option.

Since there is no "free" space available in the church entirely suitable for this purpose, and since there is a Building Committee currently engaged in the planning phase for building upgrades/construction, it is recommended that:

SHORT TERM: the Building Committee include a meditation area with a glass fronted columbarium wall in the current ongoing planning process

AND

LONG TERM: once building plans are established, a permanent Columbarium Committee with rotating members be established and authorized to develop costs and operating guidelines and conduct a pre-construction membership survey to determine interest and potential market/participation.