

## Introduction to The Columbarium at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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Our columbarium is a place which reminds us of all the sacraments we celebrate as Episcopalians. The burial liturgy and interment of the urn are the culmination of a person's earthly life in our shared community in Christ.

**What Is A Columbarium?** A columbarium is a group of niches, typically within a stone wall, which contain the cremated remains of the departed. The Columbarium at St. Timothy's is much more than that simple description. It is a place for healing and renewal. The water flowing in the fountain bespeaks of the rite of Baptism and the lovely, serene setting invites us in for meditation and prayer.

**Why Have A Columbarium?** The church has traditionally been the natural repository and final resting place of deceased members of the Christian community. Burial within the church, or in the adjacent church yard, was once common practice. The amount of land necessary for a burial ground is no longer available to most churches and a myriad of laws and regulations make it extremely difficult to establish a burial site. In recent years, cremation with interment of the ashes, rather than burial, has become more common. In this way, the remains of the deceased can stay on at the church that played such an important part in their lives.

**What Are The Benefits To Our Congregation?** A niche in a columbarium is modestly priced, aesthetically pleasing and ecologically sound. The ambiance of the columbarium creates a comfortable meeting place for families and friends to gather in love and remembrance, a consoling link between life and death.

**Can Anyone Be Entombed in The Columbarium?** No. The Columbarium at St. Timothy's is reserved for the use of members of the congregation and their families, as defined in the Rules and Regulations (available upon request). **What Will It Cost?** Each niche will hold up to four urns of the size provided by the Church. A donation of \$4,800 will reserve an entire niche. If you wish to reserve only one space, i.e. one urn, the cost is \$1,200. The donation covers the cost of the urn, in which the ashes are kept, the bronze name plaque and perpetual care. No future assessments will be made.

**May I Reserve A Particular Niche?** Yes. Upon receipt of your donation for four spaces, the niche of your choice will be reserved on a first come first served basis. Please note that if you reserve fewer than four spaces, you may select the wall you desire, but not a specific niche. Space will be assigned by the Columbarium Board and you will be sharing space with others. Also, the urn provided by the Church must be used so that the niche will accommodate four urns. A schematic of the columbarium is kept in the church office, indicating the previously reserved spaces. **Does The Cost Vary According To Location?** No.

**How Do I Reserve Space?** Fill out the License to Reserve Space form and attach your check for the appropriate amount. Make the check payable to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Please note on the check that it is for the Columbarium Fund. **What If I Move Out Of The Area?** If desired, you may receive a full refund of your donation, as soon as the Church can relicense the niche you reserved. **Further Questions?** Please call the church office at (925) 837-4993. You will then be referred to a member of the Columbarium Board to answer any questions you may have.