

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden



Bellevue United Methodist Church

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From the earliest of times, people have been concerned about their final resting places. Christians have, since the first century, buried their dead at their places of worship. This practice is connected to a belief in the communion of the saints, that the living and the dead are held together as one in the love of Christ. We affirm this notion each time we recite the Apostle's Creed or gather for worship on All Saints Day.

A columbarium is a place set aside for the interment of the ashes of the dead. The placement of a columbarium in a church helps to bring matters of death closer into the life of the Church and provides for a simple, dignified, ecological and economical means in which to honor those who have gone before us.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden at Bellevue United Methodist Church is located in the courtyard facing the Harpeth Parkway West entrance. The granite faced Columbarium holds 108 niches for interment of parishioners' ashes. Additional space is available in the courtyard should expansion be necessary.

The Memorial Garden and the Columbarium are administered by the Columbarium Committee and Trustees of Bellevue UMC.

Participating in the Columbarium Program

All members, clergy (past and present) and immediate family of members or clergy of Bellevue United Methodist Church are eligible to lease space in the Columbarium. Persons are asked to complete a registration form and sign a usage agreement which states the policies and procedures for Columbarium use.

Each niche in the Columbarium contains space for two urns of ashes. Each niche has a granite faceplate which will be engraved with the names, birth dates, and death dates of the persons whose ashes are contained in the niche.

The cost of a niche (two units) is \$1000.00. Members may lease a single unit for \$500.00 with the understanding that the other unit in the niche may eventually be used at the Church's discretion. A member may lease an entire niche for a single person by paying the full cost of the niche.

The fee includes the cost of interment, a bronze urn with an engraved brass name plate, and the engraving of the granite face plate. The cremation and any other costs are not included in this fee.

Niche locations will be assigned by the Columbarium Committee based on the date of death of the first person to be placed in the niche.

Cremation is an ancient tradition that has been practiced throughout the world from earliest times. The ancient Greeks cremated their dead and buried their ashes in large urns. Most Christian denominations consider cremation to be an acceptable, proper, and dignified way of treating the human body at the time of death.

The number of persons choosing cremation has increased significantly in recent years. Cremation is simply the process of reducing the body to ashes through the application of intense heat.

As the world's population increases, and as stewards of God's earth, we are called to be ecologically sound in our practices. Cremation offers an opportunity to conserve both land and natural materials. Cremation is typically more cost effective than burial, allowing loved ones to avoid the high cost of a traditional burial.

For more information...

...contact the church office at 646-4146 and make arrangements to speak with one of the members of the Columbarium Committee. Specific details about cost, space and other facts will be available.