

# The Columbarium Memorial Garden

The First Presbyterian Church Columbarium Garden was built in 1989 to provide a place on the church property for the permanent preservation of the ashes of cremation for church members, their immediate family, and others by decision of the Columbarium Committee. The garden has a total of 288 niches and is an answer to the age-old concern of the Christian community to participate in the proper disposition and identification of the earthly remains of those who have shared the fellowship. This is a place especially for those who love First Presbyterian Church and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve, even after death. It is hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those who have departed from our midst.

## Fees

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|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Single Niche      | \$ 1,500 |
| Double Niche      | \$ 1,800 |
| Scatter/Bury only | \$ 200   |
| Memorial only     | \$ 100   |

A bronze 3"x5" niche plaque or small memorial plaque, ordered by the church, is included in with the above fees.

## Contact Information

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To reserve your niche please visit the church business office. The pastoral staff is responsible for scheduling interments.



First Presbyterian Church

1621 East Garrison Blvd  
Gastonia, North Carolina  
Phone: 704-864-2651  
[www.fpcgastonia.org](http://www.fpcgastonia.org)

**The Columbarium  
Memorial Garden**  
of  
**First Presbyterian Church  
Gastonia, North Carolina**

## Interment Arrangements

Arrangements for interment can be made through the church office anytime. When possible, plans should be made well in advance of need, so that decisions can be calm and devoid of a sense of urgency.

**Interment can be in one of four ways:**

- 1. Placement of a (pre-approved size) urn in a niche**
- 2. Scatter ashes within the garden**
- 3. Bury ashes in a bio-degradable container within the garden by church personnel only**
- 4. Placement of a memorial plaque only (no ashes within the garden)**

One interment can be made in a single niche in a pre-approved urn. Two interments can be made in a double niche in a pre-approved urn. No interments can be made without prior consent of the church. All financial considerations must be paid prior to use.

## Rules and Regulations

The Columbarium Memorial Garden shall be managed by the Building and Grounds Committee, here and thereafter referred to as the Committee. The Business Administrator receives inquiries and will give out applications for the Columbarium Memorial Garden and maintain appropriate records of purchases, openings and removals.

Upon the purchase of Exclusive Right of Interment in the Columbarium, a Certificate of Purchase shall be delivered to the purchaser as evidence of his or her right to a niche and/or scattering of ashes and plaque in memory of one interred elsewhere, along with a copy of the Rules and Regulations. The Certificate of Purchase shall not be issued until the purchase price is paid in full and the Rules and Regulations signed and agreed upon.

Certificates of Purchase will be issued only to

## Rules and Regulations (con't)

members of First Presbyterian Church, their spouses, children, and parents; and to ordained ministers, their spouses, and directors of ministries who are serving or have served our church. The Committee shall decide the design and placement of all plaques. The exact location of an interment will be recorded on a Master Grid of the area. Since the area is not a cemetery, no parcels of land will be sold and no deeds will be issued.

The person arranging for each interment shall supply a container acceptable to the Committee for the cremated remains. The cost of the cremation and any attendant cost and expense shall be the responsibility of and shall be paid by the person or persons at whose direction ashes are deposited in the Columbarium Memorial Garden.

A niche may be opened and the contents removed only for good cause as determined by a majority vote of the Committee. Any expense shall be borne by those requesting such action. All such openings and removals shall be fully documented with the church being released from any and all further responsibility.

No Certificate of Purchase shall be transferred by a purchaser, by will, intestate succession or otherwise, except upon approval of the Committee, which consent if given, shall be documented by the Church, which restrictions shall be written on the face of each Certificate. If the Committee does not approve said requested transfer the purchase price shall be refunded. In the event of any unauthorized transfer, the Certificate of Purchase shall become null and void and the niche shall revert to the church. The purchase price shall be forfeited as liquidated damages.

The Columbarium shall be reserved for the following: Members of the congregation, their immediate family, and ordained ministers, their spouses and directors of ministries who are serving or have served our church. Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, and stepparents. Other family members by vote of committee.

Only an ordained minister or commissioned pastor serving First Presbyterian Church, or an ordained minister invited by the Moderator of the Session, shall be authorized to place the remains of any person in the Columbarium Memorial Garden niche or perform any scattering. The interment shall be at the convenience of the minister and the family.

## Rules and Regulations (con't)

All holders of Certificates of Purchase of Exclusive Rights of Interment shall be subject to these Rules and Regulations and any amendment.

Amendments to these Rules and Regulations may be made only upon recommendations by a majority of the Committee and subsequent approval by the Session of the Church. Any amendments will not be retroactive in effect.

Any and all matters arising in connection with the operation and maintenance of the Columbarium Memorial Garden not covered in the Rules and Regulations on the Certificate of Purchase issued shall be determined solely by the Session upon the recommendation of a majority vote of the Committee.

Flowers or plants may be placed in the Columbarium for the Committal Service and will be allowed to remain for 48 hours. After that time, flowers or plants may be removed by the family or will be removed at the direction of the Committee and will be disposed of without notice or liability to the owner.

The use of felt, crushed silk, or any other cloth in a Columbarium niche is not allowed. Also, the placing of any items such as flags, toys, signs, wreaths, ribbons, ornaments, writings, hooks/brackets, whether temporary or permanent, or any other article not provided by the Committee, shall not be permitted in, on or near the Columbarium area. These items will be removed by the Committee and disposed of without notice or liability to the owner.

Funds from the sale of niches, in excess of initial construction costs and associated expenses, as well as financial gifts designated to the Columbarium, shall be retained by the Church in the Columbarium Fund. Under the direction of the Committee, the Columbarium Fund is a perpetual care fund for the upkeep of the Columbarium which includes the following:

Routine Maintenance, Seasonal Plantings and Committee placed Floral Arrangements, Inscription and installation of engraved plaques on niches following inurnment, Insurance as required, Repairs, modifications or future additions to the Columbarium, Other uses at the discretion of the Columbarium Committee, subject to Session approval.

*Approved: October 5, 2020*