

**1. Why is FBC building a Memorial Prayer Garden with a columbarium?**

*The Memorial Prayer Garden proposed will include a columbarium and memorial markers in a prayer garden environment to meet the request from some of our First Baptist Church members. As cremation grows more prevalent, inurnment of a loved one close to the spiritual home of the deceased can provide great solace.*

**2. How will this be funded?**

*This will be a self-sufficient project; as people purchase their niche (single or companion) or a memorial marker, the funds collected will pay for the structure. There will be no capital campaign to fund this project. The church will maintain the Memorial Prayer Garden as it currently does for the church campus.*

**3. Where will the Memorial Prayer Garden be located on the FBC campus?**

*Proposed location is on the west side of the FBC campus. . .located between the building and the railroad tracks. It will be an outdoor space or garden with walls and benches. This proposed wall will contain a water feature that will be viewed from the large windows of the Gathering Space. (The wall structure will contain both memorial markers and single or companion niches.)*

**4. What is a columbarium?**

*A columbarium is a dignified, sacred structure created for the purpose of the final committal and disposition of a loved one's cremated remains.*

*The Individual columbarium space is called a "Niche" (pronounced knee-sh).*

*Each "Niche" houses an urn containing a deceased individual's cremains.*

*The proposed phase one would include 320 niches, with the possibility for expansion with more niches added later.*

**5. What is an "Inurnment"?**

*An inurnment is the act of placing a sealed urn containing a deceased person's cremains into a niche of the columbarium.*

**6. When can an inurnment take place and by whom?**

*An inurnment can take place as soon as final legal arrangements for the deceased are completed, and the cremains are released to the family. As an example, this could occur immediately following a funeral.*

*Note: FBC does not perform the cremation, nor does it have a crematorium. A licensed funeral home will take care of all the arrangements for this process.*

*The inurnment must be performed by the family, or a family designate. FBC staff will assist in planning and scheduling for a FBC celebration of life or funeral service at the Memorial Prayer Garden.*

**7. Do other churches have columbaria?**

*Yes, Monte Sano Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church and Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, to name a few.*

**8. Who will build the Memorial Prayer Garden?**

*Following church approval, FBC trustees will retain a contractor(s) for the final design and construction of the Memorial Prayer Garden with the columbarium.*

**9. Who manages the Memorial Prayer Garden?**

*Management of the Memorial Prayer Garden with the columbarium will be governed by FBC trustees via a Memorial Prayer Garden committee.*

**10. Can a niche have more than one urn?**

*Yes. There is room for two urns. The price for a "single" niche is \$2,000.00 at this time, meaning that only one urn will be in the niche. The price for a "double" niche or Companion Niche is \$3,000.00, where two urns may be inurned in a single Niche. The inurnment of two urns in one niche does not need to take place at the same time.*

**11. Are urns provided with a niche purchase?**

*Yes. If cremains are in an existing urn, then the cremains must be transferred to the provided urn. (The Memorial Prayer Garden Committee will provide the Urn).*

**12. Are all the niches the same size?**

*Yes.*

**13. Can the niche location be reserved?**

*Yes. At the time of purchase of the policy, you will be allowed to select an available location.*

**14. Are flowers or decorations allowed?**

*Live flowers will be permitted in the area during the inurnment service but will be removed within 48 hours following the service. Otherwise, flowers and/or decorations are not allowed.*

**15. Will there be seating such as benches near the Memorial Prayer Garden?**

*Yes. This will be an area that anyone can enjoy the space for quiet contemplation or prayer.*

**16. Is the area only accessible through the church building?**

*No, the proposed plan allows for an open outdoor access to the Memorial Prayer Garden.*

**17. Further questions, please email: [Columbarium@fbchsv.org](mailto:Columbarium@fbchsv.org)**