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OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
**First Baptist Church**



INTRODUCING

# THE COLUMBARIUM AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## A NEW MINISTRY FOR MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST

The Columbarium was completed in September 2008, as a ministry to members of First Baptist and their immediate families. The Columbarium contains 150 niches, designed to hold one or two cremation urns each.



## IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

The cost of each niche is \$2,000 for a single urn, and an additional \$1,500 for a second urn. Two methods for obtaining a niche are offered.

Members may pay the entire amount for a niche intended to hold either one or two urns.

Members may enter into a contract with the church to pay for a niche over time by paying 10% of the total cost as down payment and then \$100 per month until the total amount has been paid.

Those interested in purchasing a niche should contact the Church Administrator at 216 932-7480.



## THE HISTORY OF THE COLUMBARIUM

From earliest times, people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place, especially that it be near the gathering place of their families so that each may be held in lasting, loving remembrance. In Christian times, preferred burial space was within the church itself where the faithful gathered for worship and prayer. When space within the church was no longer available, the churchyard cemetery was developed. Only in recent times have burial grounds, far removed from community centers of life and prayer, been used.

Both in ancient and in Christian times, the dual tradition of burial and of cremation was preserved. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and practical aspects of cremation and inurnment within the church itself has led to a revival of this aspect of the tradition. The cremated earthly remains are preserved in niches in a columbarium fittingly designed and prepared. The word Columbarium is derived from the Latin *columbia*, meaning "dove," the traditional symbol of the Holy Spirit and of Peace.

## THE DESIGN OF OUR COLUMBARIUM

When members of the First Baptist family began inquiring about the possibility of interring the remains of their loved ones on the property of the church, a task force was appointed to study the possibility of bringing a columbarium to our church. A little used room adjacent to the sanctuary provided the perfect place for our Columbarium.

In setting out to find professional help for the project, the task force in charge of the project looked for someone with experience in creating new spaces that would reflect the artistic and architectural style of historic churches like ours. John Winterich and Associates came highly recommended. They are a nationally renowned liturgical art



studio based in Cleveland with a 95 year history of working exclusively on the interior of churches.

One of the many objectives for the design of the new Columbarium was to develop a design concept that was in keeping with the architecture of the building, as well as the architectural woodwork and furniture that is located in the sanctuary. After submission of four different design concepts, one was chosen and then further refined. Classical columns define the space and support a canopy over the Columbarium niches. A sense of prominence and reverence is present when you enter the room.

The facade of the canopy is embellished with carved rosettes and custom carved moldings that mirror the triangular design motif of the ornamentation in the chancel furniture. These elements lend integrity and continuity to the design, and, as a result, create the impression that the Columbarium has always been there. Premium grade, select, rift-sawn red oak lumber was used for its smooth "comb grain" appearance. The existing dark walnut woodwork is complimented by the new red oak that is finished in a warm medium walnut.

Lighting enhancements, preservation paint colors and multi-colored slate flooring from India add sophistication and importance to the space. Refinished brass on the vent grilles, the original light fixtures and new brass accent light controls, provide richness to the details.

The Columbarium will be decorated with a cross being created especially for the room by artist Kathy Skerritt, and a silk flower arrangement by Christine Norman.

