

## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CONROE'S COLUMBARIUM**

### **ANSWERS TO SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLUMBARIUMS**

#### **What is a Columbarium?**

The word "columbarium" comes from the Latin word "columbary", which is a structure for the nesting of doves – the dove being the symbol of God's spirit and peace. The related word, columbarium, refers to a burial vault for the containment of urns holding cremated human remains. It is an old term and an old tradition used for centuries here and abroad.

#### **Is cremation biblically sound?**

Cremation is widely recognized as a theologically valid process for the deceased, and essentially is a hastening of the natural process that occurs following death. This ancient practice has particular relevance for us today, with burial in cemeteries surrounding churches less readily available. Cremation makes it possible to continue the tradition of granting a place for God's children to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever".

#### **What are the benefits?**

Families who choose cremation for their departed loved ones rather than conventional burial will find FUMC'S Columbarium a wonderful option – dignified, convenient, and affordable. In addition, FUMC's Columbarium is very convenient for memorial services.

#### **Who may use FUMC's Columbarium?**

The Columbarium is reserved exclusively for members of the church, ministers of the church and their extended families.

#### **How is the property maintained?**

The Columbarium is the property of FUMC. The Columbarium will be maintained by a Columbarium fund administered by our Board of Trustees and a Columbarium Committee appointed by the Senior Pastor.

#### **Who do I contact for more information?**

A "Columbarium Information Packet" is available in the Church office. You may make an appointment with Chris Gurley to sign up for one of the Columbarium niches.

#### **How much does a Columbarium "niche" cost?**

Each niche holds two urns and the total cost is \$3000. A 2-year payment plan is available, interest free.

#### **When will the Columbarium start construction?**

Construction will begin when enough niches have been sold to support the cost. If enough niches have not been sold by May 31, 2016, construction plans will be cancelled. So, the sooner we sign up, the sooner construction can begin.