



## Pastor's View on Cremation and Columbarium

As followers of Jesus, we rejoice with hope and great confidence believing that neither death nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord—nothing that might happen to our bodies can keep us from God (Romans 8:38-39). We know that someday our bodies will succumb to death and we can be sure that whatever the final disposition of our or our loved ones' physical remains may be—burial, cremation, those lost at sea, etc.—God is able to do far more than we can even imagine (Ephesians 3.20) and raise each person into a spiritual body for eternity (1 Corinthians 15.44).

Many churches have an interior columbarium as a final resting place for the cremated remains of faithful saints—a beautiful place, out of the weather, where loved ones can visit and remember. If cremation is your choice as you consider end-of-life arrangements, or if you want to memorialize family members already passed, this ministry provides perpetual care as an extension of the care ministries of McFarlin.

We have a wonderful McFarlin tradition every All Saints Sunday of honoring and remembering all those who have faithfully lived and died as part of McFarlin. Banners of remembrance are displayed, and candles are lit. A columbarium is yet another way to celebrate and remember that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before. If you have questions related to faith and this matter, your pastors are glad to talk with you.

Rejoicing in our eternal hope,

*Pastor Rockford*



### *How do I get more information or purchase a niche or memorial plaque?*

For more information, to see the official columbarium policy, or to purchase a niche or memorial plaque, you may contact our Business Administrator, Stephen Mitchell, by email at [smitchell@mcfarlinumc.org](mailto:smitchell@mcfarlinumc.org) or call 405-321-3484, ext. 177.

To speak with a pastor, please call 405-321-3484, ext. 128.



McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church  
419 S. University Blvd.  
Norman, OK 73069

(405) 321-3484 — [mcfarlinumc.org](http://mcfarlinumc.org)



## *Proposed* Columbarium & Memorial Wall

*This is a draft version used as part of our effort to promote the construction of a Columbarium.*



## About the Columbarium

### *Location?*

The McFarlin Columbarium is to be located in the beautifully renovated second floor room immediately east of the entry to the sanctuary and directly across from the elevator.

### *Why choose cremation?*

Christians have chosen cremation as a viable option for burial for thousands of years. In recent years, cremation has become a popular option due to decreased costs, a desire to be environmentally sensitive, and the understanding that cremation is compatible with our Christian theology of resurrection.

### *What happens to the ashes?*

Once the ashes are placed in a box or urn, they rest in a secure, enclosed structure called a “niche.” McFarlin plans to offer urns for purchase at a minimal cost that fit the size and other specifications of our columbarium niches. Urns can be acquired elsewhere but would also need to meet these specifications.

### *What about a service of committal at time of interment?*

A service of interment and committal may occur in the columbarium immediately following a memorial service held at McFarlin. If the memorial service is at a funeral home chapel or elsewhere, the date and time of interment may be arranged with the church in advance.



## Your Investment

### *What is the cost of purchasing a niche?*

The 12X12 niches cost \$3000, can hold up to two remains, and can accommodate larger urns. The 8X8 niches cost \$2000 and can hold up to two remains. The purchase price includes engraving on the stone front, opening and closing costs, and perpetual maintenance. There are no other fees. A written agreement outlines all the responsibilities of McFarlin for the care of the columbarium.

### *What payment options exist?*

You may pay in full at the time of purchase or arrange for an up to 24-month interest-free payment plan. A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to reserve the niche for payment plans. McFarlin will accept cash, checks or credit cards. An automatic withdrawal for monthly payments can also be set up from a checking or savings account.

### *What tax benefits are available?*

The purchase of a niche is tax-deductible for the full amount of the purchase, with the exception of \$200 for the engraving.

## Memorial Wall

### *What is the memorial wall?*

It is a way to memorialize persons who are buried in other locations or whose ashes are scattered or kept at home. The memorial wall with 8x8 engraved limestone units lists the names of persons not interred in a niche here. It provides a special place for family to visit, remember, and offer prayers of thanks to God for beloved persons who are now in the kingdom of heaven.

MARY O. UNRUH  
1924-2024

PETER O. UNRUH  
1924-2024

### *What is the cost for a limestone plaque on the memorial wall?*

Each memorial engraving costs \$500 for one line of text and up to \$575 for four—names & dates. The engravings will be placed on the wall in the order in which they are purchased. \$350 is tax-deductible.

