

Mr. Don Miller has agreed to be the custodian of the Columbarium. He will open the niches for all inurnments and close them following the committal service from The Book of Common Prayer. Arrangements for all funerals must be made with the Priest in charge of the Church of the Advent.

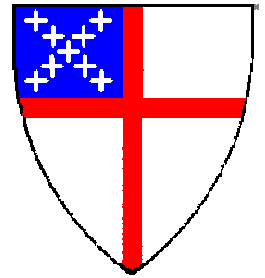


Those who are interested in purchasing a “**Right of Use**” or want to know more about the Columbarium should contact a member of the committee listed below.

Mrs. Philip (Nancy) Jones  
Mrs. David (Ellen) Cole  
The Reverend Richard Morris

It is recommended that all persons make their wishes known to family members about arrangements in the event of their death.

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT



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## COLUMBARIUM

What is a Columbarium? The name is from the Latin word Columba or Dovecote. A dovecote is distinguished by those small openings in the gable face of an out-building that open into small niches in which the doves rest and are protected. The dove is the symbol of God's Spirit and peace.

In medieval times the word referred to niches that were carved into the walls of subterranean space as a repository for the burial urns containing human ashes.

Here at the Church of the Advent in the early 1900's the priest-missioner Guy Miner was an advocate of cremation after death at a time when only one tenth of the population of our country practiced it. There were three parishioners of this church who obviously agreed with him and decided to be cremated after their deaths. They were: George Doane Lowe, one of the founders of Shreve, Crump and Lowe jewelry store, Mary Elizabeth Goddard Williams, an artist, and Abigail O. Williams, a school teacher, her sister. The urns containing their ashes were placed in a special compartment in the first altar. When the building was enlarged the original altar was removed. At that time, many years ago, the urns were removed from the altar and stored in another place in the building. No one seemed to know where that was or even spoke about it. Recently the urns were found, accidentally, by a person doing some work in the attic of the building. This was our first knowledge of them and it was decided to find a suitable place for the urns containing the cremated remains as our legal and proper responsibility.

The suggested answer to this need was a simple and attractive columbarium that now has been installed in the entrance area of the handicap access ramp to the church. The décor and furnishings of the small space invites meditation and quiet...

If you were to visit the majority of village church buildings in the British Isles, for example, you approach them with a walkway through the burial ground that often surrounds the church building.

A columbarium today reflects that same tradition in a time when it is estimated that 25% of persons in the United States opt for cremation and it is reported that by 2020 that number will be 50%.

## "RIGHT OF USE"

The Columbarium was established from the Endowment Funds of the Church as part of the fabric of the building that houses The Church of the Advent.

The present Columbarium contains 21 niches, three of which are occupied by the cremated remains of former members of the parish. Eighteen niches remain to be reserved.

A niche can contain one or two urns and is reserved by persons buying a "Right of Use." This is a legal term that reflects the fact that a person cannot "buy" any portion of church property under the Canons of The Episcopal Church. You do not own the niche you only purchase the "Right of Use."

A Double niche will contain two urns. These urns will be provided by the church and must be used, as they properly fit the dimensions of the niche. The price of a Double is \$2000, and includes the two urns and an engraved bronze plate with names and dates, and the opening and closing of the columbarium at the time of inurnment.

A Single niche is the same size as the Double but will be used for only one "Right of Use." The price for a Single is \$1500 and includes one urn and all of the above for a Double.

Provisions for expansion of the Columbarium when the "Right of Use" of the present one is fully reserved has been considered and would occupy the same space. We have made an effort to create a space that is quiet, dignified and contains the symbols of our life in Christ from birth to death. The original Baptismal Font of the parish shares space together with the Paschal Candle that is present both at our baptism and at our Burial. God's Spirit is with us and in us always.

The purchase of a "Right of Use" is available to any adult member of the Parish of the Church of the Advent and who is a communicant in good standing as defined in the Canons of The Episcopal Church.