

## What about St. Paul's Columbarium?

The Columbarium has 96 niches that are covered with bronze plates. The inscription on the plate may be engraved with name, date of birth, and date of death. The choice of niches is by order of purchase. The price for a single niche for St. Paul's members and their family is \$1,750. The price for a single niche for non-members is \$2,750.

A non-refundable deposit of 1/3 of the purchase price is required to reserve a niche and will be held up to one (1) year pending full payment.

Applications for purchase and policies governing the Columbarium may be picked up at the Church office or mailed upon request

- Yes, I am interested in purchasing a niche. Please send materials.
- I wish to receive a call from the clergy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**COLUMBARIUM  
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH  
BROOKLINE**

15 St. Paul Street  
Brookline, MA 02446  
(617) 566-4953



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## The Columbarium Ministry at St. Paul's Church

The time of death is a difficult time of grief and transition. A goal of St. Paul's is to provide families with pastoral care directed toward healing and hope.

A columbarium is a permanent structure composed of a collection of niches designed to house cremated human remains. The final disposition of bodily remains signifies our respect for the body of the one we have loved. We commit the body to the grave or columbarium niche, but, more importantly, we commit our loved one to God. In our Christian faith the church is where all events and seasons of life are taught, celebrated, lived and honored: birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, worship of God, spiritual growth, and finally death.

### Benefits of a Columbarium

**Spiritual Site for Final Resting** – This affords church members and their families the opportunity to select their final resting place within the church that has been central to their lives.

**Pastoral Care in Perpetuity** – St. Paul's provides a sacred site of beauty and dignity where loved ones can visit and meditate at anytime they visit the church.

**Simplicity of Planning** – The purchase of a columbarium niche eliminates the pressures of choosing a burial site, casket, vault, and monument. It also eliminates the need to plan for interment and memorial services at different locations and times.

**Substantial Financial Savings** – When using our columbarium, significant costs are limited to cremation, the niche, and the obituary.

## What about cremation?

Cremation became more common among Christians in the nineteenth century and continues today. The deceased's body passes from our sight but never from God's. Contrary to popular notions about cremation, the body is not burned, but heated so that water evaporates, leaving only solid matter; thus cremation simply speeds up the natural processes that take place after death.

Theologically, cremation is not a new invention and does not discount our understanding of the resurrection and life everlasting. Since there is little difference between the remains of one who has been buried and one who has been cremated, there is no reason to favor one over the other from a theological point of view. According to the Bible, at the resurrection we are given a "new body," which also means that we will still be our own unique, individual selves. The decision whether to bury or cremate is one that must be made with sensitivity toward all members of the family and their feelings.

Many people have become generally comfortable with the fact that they will die at some point. They would prefer that that "point" be far off in the distance, but they know that it will eventually come. Being able to select one's final resting place where they have received the church's spiritual blessings and comfort allows people to reach beyond their death in a definitive way.

Cemeteries were commonly found in churchyards, allowing churches to minister to the spiritual needs of their members from baptism, through life, to death. Urban churches cannot build cemeteries today. The modern alternative that more and more churches are offering their members is the columbarium.

Whatever burial method or location we may choose, we understand that the gift of eternal life is assured to all who believe. At St. Paul's, we are creating a place to entrust those we love to the presence and love of God.