



Westminster Memorial Garden and Columbarium

Until the early nineteenth century, it was typical for churches to provide burial within their premises. Large city cemeteries eventually replaced the traditional churchyard burial ground. During the past several decades, many congregations have reclaimed the church's traditional role in providing for burial of the dead. Such a practice closes the circle of ministry from birth through life and death, while providing a continuing physical relationship with the church.

This renewed understanding to celebrate God's gift of resurrection and to memorialize the lives of those who have died lies behind the development of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

3900 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
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Westminster Presbyterian Church
Memorial Gardens



*“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
John 11:25-26*

Inurnment

The East Columbarium, completed in 2020, is beautifully situated in front of Harwell Chapel and offers burial spaces in the walls and the common area. It is grounded by the Alpha and Omega symbol embedded in the sidewalk, and provides a peaceful area for reflection and for visiting the resting places of loved ones.

Following cremation, ashes may be interred in one of the following ways:

- Urns containing ashes may be placed in the brick walls of the East Columbarium.
- Ashes may be interred in approved biodegradable containers or scattered in the common area of either the East or West Columbarium.

For those interred in the East Columbarium, the name of the deceased, along with the years of birth and death, will be placed on the bronze plaque that is mounted on the Sanctuary wall. For those interred in the West common area, names and dates will be on the bronze plaque on the colonnade. All interments are also permanently recorded in a memorial book.

Arrangements and Costs

The Columbarium is for the interment of cremated remains of members of Westminster Presbyterian Church and their immediate families, and current or past staff members and their immediate families. Immediate family includes spouse, partner, child, parent, or grandparent. Under appropriate circumstances, exceptions can be made with approval of the Session.

Individuals or families may purchase up to six interment spaces. It is not necessary at the time of application to designate the name of the person or persons to be interred, but an application form must be completed for each space requested. The cost of interment in a niche is \$2,000 and in the common area \$1,000. An additional cost for plaque engraving and an urn (if applicable) will be charged at the time of interment. Only urns provided by Westminster may be used, and if burial is in the common area the biodegradable container must be approved by the church.

To request interment, please fill out an application form, which is available from the church office. A minimum deposit of \$100 is required with each application, and the balance is to be paid within five years.