

WHEAT

The Wheat is used to suggest the bounty of the earth and also symbolizes the bread of Holy Communion. It shows the human nature of Christ. This interpretation is based on John 12:24 "Verily Verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die. It abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Anyone interested in reserving a niche or desiring more information about the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church columbarium may contact Columbarium Trustees.

 I am interested in additional information about reserving niche space at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church Columbarium. Please contact me.

 Name

 Address

 City State Zip

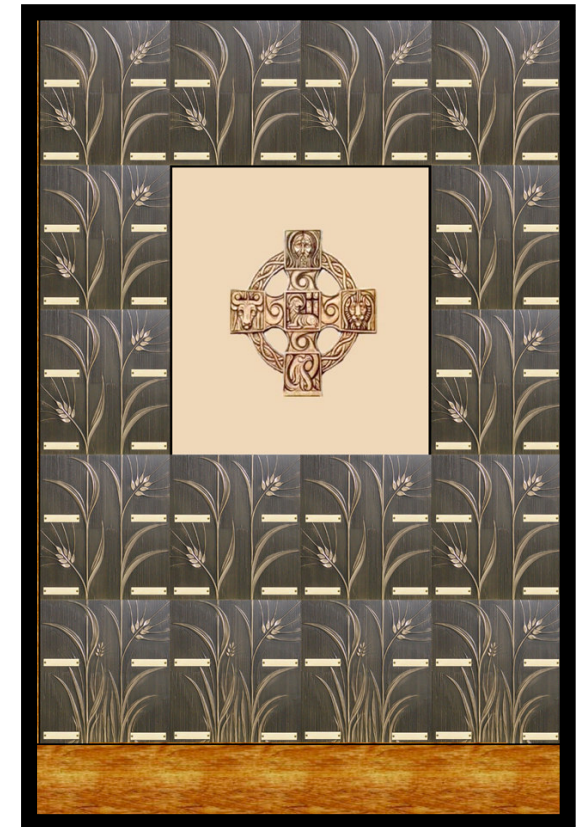
 Home Phone Work Phone

Mail this form to:

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church
 227 West Woodlawn Ave.
 San Antonio, Texas 78212



*The Columbarium
 of
 Laurel Heights United
 Methodist Church*



***227 W. Woodlawn Avenue
 San Antonio, Texas 78212
 (210) 733-7156***

WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

The word “columbarium” is derived from “columba”, the Latin for dovecote, a compartmented house where doves, the symbol of God’s Spirit and Peace, come to roost. In modern terms, a columbarium is a consecrated structure used for the inurnment of the deceased ashes after cremation.

The Columbarium serves as an appropriate place for earthly remains of any member or former member of the church, ordained Methodist ministers, employees and former employees of the Church, and spouses, parents, children, and grand-children [natural, adopted, foster or step] of the above-mentioned persons.

There seems to be no more fitting place for the remains of a Christian than a columbarium within his or her church. Set in the peaceful surrounding of the church structure, it is also a place for quiet meditation and prayer. The Columbarium is located in the Church’s Sanctuary, northwest entrance.

WHAT IS CREMATION?

Theologically, cremation is not a modern concept and in no way discounts the Christian understanding of resurrection of the body and life everlasting. It simply speeds the natural process by which the body decomposes in burial. Cremation does not change God’s plan for our earthly bodies and cannot equate our love for the deceased.

As far as the Christian faith is concerned, what is important - the remains are treated with respect and dignity.



WHY A COLUMBARIUM?

In early Christian times, preferred burial space was within the church itself where the faithful gathered for a memorial service.

The most important reason for having a columbarium is the comfort, peace, support and witness this facility provides for the members of the church family. The concept of interment in consecrated church property is an old one, dating from the very beginnings of Christianity and is sound for both theological and practical reasons.

For many, the church is a Christian’s spiritual home on earth, the place where families in Christ meet to worship God and have fellowship with each other. They become members of the Body of Christ through baptism, are confirmed, married and ultimately enter eternal life with the prayers and remembrances of their congregation. Interment in church property is a recognition of belief in the communion of saints, both living and dead and is a witness to faith in the resurrection to eternal life.

Church interment provides a permanent link between the deceased and their place of worship while enabling their surviving family members, friends and fellow worshippers to pay frequent respects during regular church visits and worship. Another practical consideration is that cremation and inurnment in a columbarium is considerably less expensive than burial in the ground.



SCRIPTURE

“...For dust you are and to dust you shall return...”

The Jerusalem Bible
Genesis 3:17



“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”

King James Version Romans 14:7,8,9

Jesus said: “I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25

LAUREL HEIGHTS UMC

DESCRIPTION OF COLUMBARIUM

The LHUMC Columbarium is located indoors in the northwest entry of the Sanctuary. The Columbarium placed in the wall contains 64 niches. Each niche can hold one urn. The cover is bronze with a wheat design. In the center is a 15 “ x 15” Celtic Cross. A brass name plate is engraved with name, date of birth and death will be placed on each niche.

The cost for each niche includes one urn and the engraving. A portion of the cost may be considered a charitable contribution to the Columbarium Endowment Fund.

The area allows space for meditation at anytime except when services are held in the Sanctuary.