

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT COLUMBARIUMS**

### **What is a Columbarium?**

A Columbarium is a repository to house the ashes from a loved one's cremation. The ashes are placed in a container that fits in a small compartment called a niche. Columbariums are not a new option when it comes to burial - it could be thought of an alternative to the old-fashioned "church cemetery," only vertical and compact. One positive aspect of a Columbarium is that an individual's family can move the cremains very easily if needed or preferred.

### **Why does a Columbarium belong in a church ministry?**

Historically, the church has been the final resting place of deceased members - either within the church building or an associated burial ground. Burial inside the church was at one time reserved to honor the noteworthy clerics, nobles, and other important citizens. A Columbarium allows God's people, so desiring, to be buried within the church building or grounds.

The Columbarium fulfills the obligation of the church to serve its members from baptism to death; provides a faithful stewardship option; and offers a final homecoming for church members.

### **What are the benefits of a Columbarium?**

A Columbarium provides a safe, comfortable, ecologically sound, theologically appropriate, and economical way to honor the dead.

A Columbarium provides an additional ministry to the people and relieves much stress at the time of death about what to do with the remains of the departed.

### **Will the Columbarium be appropriate to our ministry?**

Theological – It reinforces the ministry to the dead and gives comfort to the bereaved. Burial or inurnment within the property of worship is not only a telling witness to the faith and hopes of those who have died, but also an ever present reminders, as the psalmist says, that we are dust, but God's love will last forever.

Liturgical – It sets aside a place for remembrance and love for the departed.

### **Can the Columbarium be relocated if we move or rebuild?**

The *Certificate of Ownership* given to the owner provides authorization for Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center to make any necessary changes in location. There will be no additional assessments or future charges. The exclusive right use the reserved niche may not be sold or otherwise transferred by any individual. It can only be surrendered back to Casowasco Camp & Retreat Center without refund of any portion of the original sum, or as determined by special provisions.