

# *Resurrection Memorial Garden Q&A*

## **Why are we building a new Memorial Garden?**

A memorial garden provides a sacred final resting place for loved ones that proclaims our faith in the resurrection. The Church of the Resurrection has had a memorial garden in the courtyard of Building C, adjacent to Wesley Covenant Chapel, since 1999. We have added to it over the years to accommodate the growing need. All available niches in the existing garden are sold, and we currently have a waiting list.

## **Why inurnment in a columbarium instead of burial?**

Many people choose inurnment in a columbarium rather than burial in a cemetery because of a desire to be laid to rest on the grounds of the church that they loved and served. The cost of inurnment is usually considerably less than the cost of a burial in a cemetery.

## **What does the Scripture say about cremation?**

Israel's first king and his sons were cremated following their deaths in battle, but otherwise the Bible is silent about the practice. Throughout history there were Christians whose physical bodies were consumed by fire, including first century martyrs and those who die in fires and war. The destruction of the physical body has no bearing upon one's resurrection to eternal life. The scripture does teach that our physical body, after death, will return to dust, but we will receive a new spiritual body in heaven.

## **Do I have to be a member of Church of the Resurrection to own or use a niche in the Garden?**

Membership is not a requirement, but the memorial gardens are built for those who consider Resurrection their church home, and their immediate family members.

## **When will the Resurrection Memorial Garden be built and open?**

The Resurrection Memorial Garden will take approximately 10 months to complete. Construction will begin after we have received payments for at least 700 niches. Based on interest surveys earlier this year, we anticipate construction beginning this summer.

## **Can I reserve a niche now and pay later?**

Unfortunately, no. Because the Resurrection Memorial Garden is self-funded, payment in full is needed at the time you select your niche(s). Future phases will be completed as needed.

**Is my purchase of a niche tax deductible?**

You are purchasing the niche at fair market value, therefore IRS regulations determine the purchase is not tax deductible.

**What if I have family members who want niches together?**

Each niche accommodates one individual. Adjacent niches may be purchased if you select and pay for them at the same time.

**What will happen to the current Wesley Memorial Garden in Building C? Will additional niches be available?**

The current Wesley Memorial Garden will continue to be beautifully maintained and open. Some additional niches may become available for sale after Resurrection Memorial Garden construction is complete.

**My loved one's remains are in the Wesley Memorial Garden; can I have them moved to the Resurrection Memorial Garden?**

Yes, that's possible, but there may be a cost, dependent upon the circumstances when you purchased the niche. Please contact the Memorial Garden Administrator for additional information.

**What if I purchase a niche and then decide to be inurned elsewhere?**

If you own a niche and decide later not to use it as you intended, you may gift it to a family member or donate it back to Church of the Resurrection.

**I own an unoccupied niche in the Wesley Memorial Garden. Can I trade it for one in the Resurrection Memorial Garden?**

Purchased niches cannot be transferred, but you may donate your niche back to the church as a charitable contribution and purchase a niche in the Resurrection Memorial Garden.

**Can I supply my own urn for inurnment?**

No, the niches and urns are specifically designed to fit within the columbarium and withstand the elements.

**If you have additional questions,  
please contact the Memorial Garden Administrator,  
memorialgarden@cor.org or 913-897-0120.**