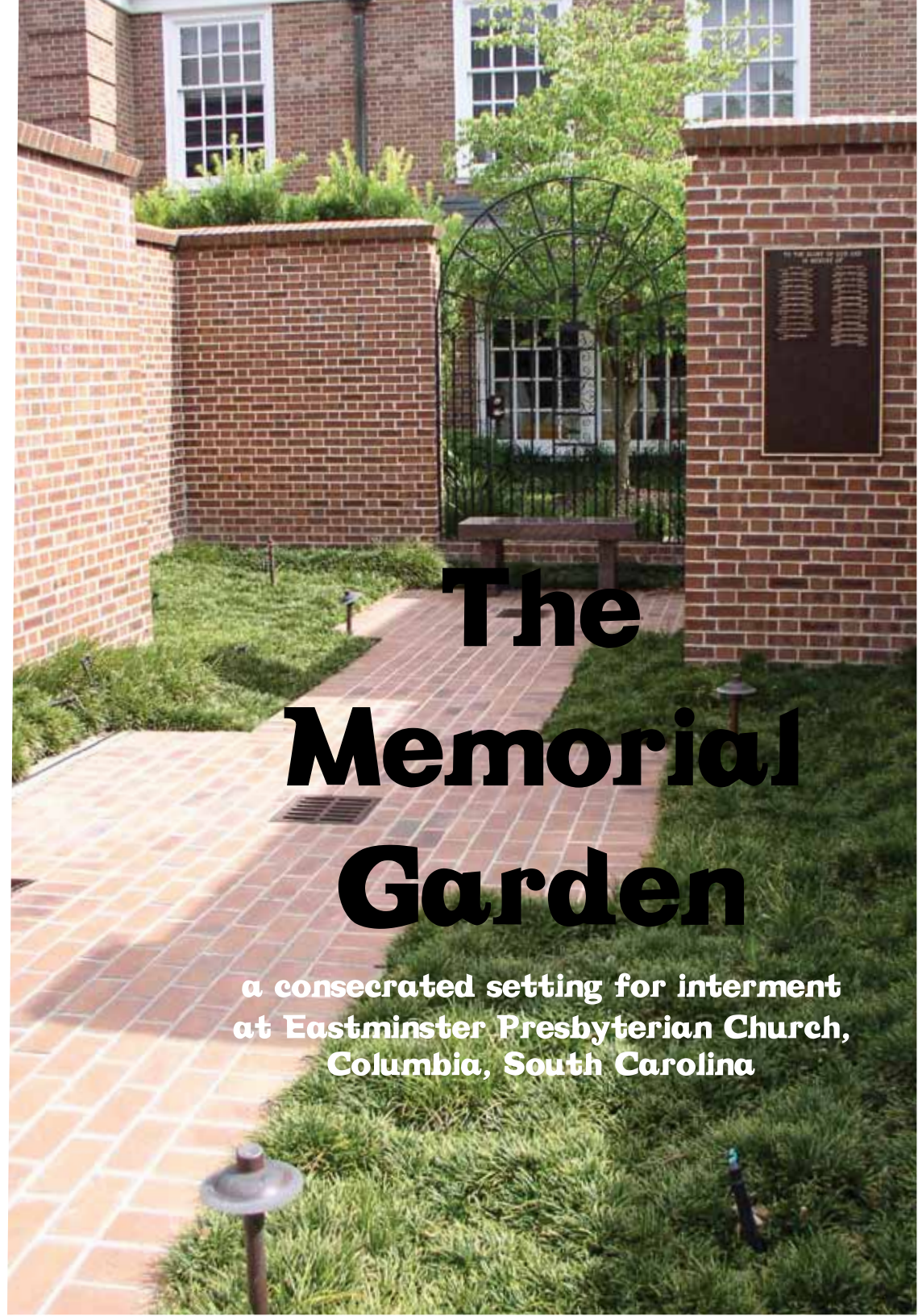




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Updater 02/09/16



The Memorial Garden

**a consecrated setting for interment
at Eastminster Presbyterian Church,
Columbia, South Carolina**

Glossary

*O Lord,
support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then in Thy mercy
grant us a safe lodging,
and a holy rest and peace
at the last through Jesus Christ.*

The Book of Common Worship

Columbarium: A structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns.

Cremation: The process of converting a dead body to ashes by burning.

Funeral: A service of remembrance and celebration for the life of the deceased, with casket or urn present, conducted by pastor(s) before burial or inurnment.

Graveside service: A service of remembrance and celebration for the life of the deceased at the site of the burial niche or plot, conducted by pastor(s). Can be held before or after burial or inurnment.

Interment: The act of placing a dead body in the earth or in a tomb.

Inurnment: The act of placing an urn with cremated remains in a niche or in-ground plot.

Memorial service: A service of remembrance and celebration for the life of the deceased, without casket or urn present, conducted by pastor(s). Can be held before or after burial or inurnment.

Niche: A recess in the columbarium wall to hold an urn.

Pall: A cloth which drapes a casket or urn.

After the service

- The urn will be placed in the niche or in-ground plot. If time and circumstances allow, the stone marker can already be inscribed and permanently placed within approximately a half-hour of the inurnment.
- Hold the visitation hour if you have chosen to do so afterward. Friends and family can visit the garden during this time. If the marker has been engraved by this time, it will be in place.
- Remember that the Memorial Garden is always open, so family and friends who could not attend the memorial service may visit anytime later. Remind visitors that flower arrangements or other mementos should not be left behind in the garden but rather could be given in the deceased's memory to the church for use during a worship service.
- Likewise, memorial gifts to the church can be designated to the Memorial Garden's maintenance fund, a church ministry or program, or gifts may be undesignated as desired by the donor.

The Memorial Garden of Eastminster Presbyterian Church Columbia, South Carolina

Throughout the history of Christianity, the church's ministry includes baptizing us when we are born and burying us when we die. However, churches in recent times have encountered space limitations and as a result largely abandoned their accustomed role of providing a place for burial. Commercial cemeteries are filling this void, and funeral parlors often serve as the location of the funeral or memorial service – totally removed from the context of the church. This commercial trend has prompted burial to become more expensive and threatens to remove its religious meaning.

In 1992, Eastminster decided to join other churches across the nation in providing a memorial garden for interment of the cremated remains of deceased members and their families. This garden serves as a consecrated setting close to our sanctuary and is located in the church's courtyard beneath the parlor's bay window. Completed in 1999, the Eastminster Memorial Garden is a beautifully landscaped, peaceful place to visit and reflect on lives past and present.



What is the 'memorial garden'?

Many churches in America are designating areas on their grounds to be used as final resting places for the cremated remains of deceased members and their families. Eastminster offers both columbarium niches and in-ground burial spaces for urns containing cremated remains.



Eastminster's garden features wrought iron gates, brick walkways and walls, granite niche face plates, granite in-ground markers, a memorial tablet and a stone bench. Below the parlor window grow clematis vines and gardenia shrubs. A tranquil setting, the Eastminster Memorial Garden presently has space for some 500 interments. This space may be increased as the need arises. The natural setting is meticulously maintained, and the garden is always open.

Choosing interment at Eastminster's Memorial Garden



Memorial Garden

Eligible for interment are the cremated remains of members, former members, pastors and former pastors of Eastminster; their spouses, children, grandchildren and parents; and others by decision of the Memorial Garden Association.

The niches and plots will be assigned at the time of use in chronological sequence and order of interment. The only exception to this rule of assignment in sequence is that at the time of interment of the ashes

of the first spouse to die, the surviving spouse may reserve the adjoining niche or plot.

□ A Christian service of worship must be held to be inurned in the Memorial Garden. Therefore, a pastor will contact you and your family to follow up on the form you have provided for your membership file which indicated preferences for a funeral, memorial service or graveside service. Another choice is a private service, usually held for family and close friends. It can be before or after inurnment, in the sanctuary or garden.



□ Another consideration unique to inurnment in the Memorial Garden is how you would prefer the urn to be moved from a sanctuary service to the garden. The urn will be placed on a tray with handles which is situated on a pedestal. A pall provided by the church will be draped over the urn for the service. Consider a family member who would be appropriate for carrying the tray with the urn to the garden. If you wish, an Eastminster usher can perform this service for you.

□ Before or after the service, you may wish to hold a visitation at the church. The parlor in the sanctuary building, the Adult Reception Room in the Christian Education building or Thompson Hall would be appropriate places depending on the number of those attending and the need for refreshments or a meal. To reserve this space, please convey your interest to the Eastminster pastor or staff person. A fee may be charged for set-up and cleaning, and additional costs will be incurred for any food preparation on site.

❑ Discuss with the funeral home exactly what your wishes are so that you are charged only for what you have chosen. For example, keep in mind that if embalming is chosen so that the body can be viewed at the time of the service, this cost will be extra and added to the cost of cremation.

❑ Be sure that family members are aware of the decision to be inurned in Eastminster's Memorial Garden.

At time of death

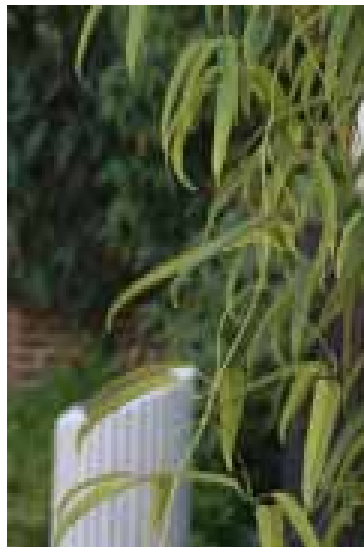
Eastminster should be informed that the inurnment has been prearranged for the Memorial Garden.

Next steps:

❑ Alert the chosen funeral home, and remind it that arrangements are already preplanned there.

❑ Eastminster will transport the urn to the funeral home or crematory (if local) and will also transport the urn with remains back to the church if so desired.

❑ The Memorial Garden Association will assign the niche or burial space at this time. Niches are assigned in chronological order. The adjoining niche will be assigned to the surviving spouse if two niches have been reserved.



A Christian service of worship must accompany interment in the garden and must be conducted by one of Eastminster's pastors or another ordained pastor invited by the Moderator of the Session. The last word spoken will be the word which reveals the promise of eternal life which is ours in Jesus Christ. Therefore, no fraternal order, secret society, or brotherhood will be allowed to conduct their own rites either during or following the service of worship.

How to apply for the Memorial Garden

An agreement form must be completed for reserving a niche or plot or placing a name inscription on the memorial tablet. The fee schedule can be found at the bottom of this page.

The niche and plot fees include the cost of the urn for the cremated remains and the inscription of the decedent's name and dates of birth and death. Transportation of the urn to and from a local crematory/funeral home can be provided by the church if desired.

The memorial tablet is a 2 x 3 foot brass plaque mounted on an inside wall of the garden. Names inscribed on the tablet are of church members or loved ones of church members who are buried in other cemeteries.

Once you have completed the agreement and paid the fee, you will not be charged any additional costs by Eastminster to be inurned in the garden. On the following pages is a checklist of items to consider and complete to reserve space in the Eastminster Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden Association is honored to answer any questions and assist you in your decision.

Fees to be paid to Eastminster are:

***\$1,200 for a columbarium niche**

***\$1,600 for an in-ground plot**

***\$400 for a name to be inscribed on the memorial tablet**

*Fees subject to change

A Checklist

Preplanning

Decide about Garden's niche/burial space vs. cemetery location for burial. If choosing the Memorial Garden:

- ❑ Contact the Eastminster Memorial Garden Association through the church office to indicate your decision and request application information and/or a visit by representatives of the association.
- ❑ Upon receiving the packet of information, complete the agreement form and read the regulations and information provided. Call the church to make an appointment to select an urn (samples available). At this time, you may return the completed agreement form with a check made payable to Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Consider reserving two niches or plots at this time for you and your spouse. The cost includes the urn, inscription of the decedent's name and dates of birth and death on the granite marker and transportation of the urn and remains to and from a local crematory/funeral home if desired.
- ❑ Thoughtfully consider the form in the information packet about planning your funeral, memorial or graveside service. This form asks you questions about your preferences (such as favorite Scripture, hymns, etc.) and will be kept in your membership file at Eastminster. This form may be updated at any time after it is submitted.

- ❑ Soon after returning your completed agreement, you will receive confirmation indicating acceptance.
- ❑ Keep your agreement in a safe location with your other important papers but not in your safety deposit box. A copy of this agreement will also be on file with the association.
- ❑ Contact a funeral home of your choice to begin your plans. At this time, you will be able to lock in the funeral home fee rather than be charged the likely higher fee later at the time of death. A funeral home **MUST** make the arrangements to cremate the body, and the funeral home will furnish you with a form that declares your intention to be cremated. Have this form signed by the individual whose remains will be inurned in the Memorial Garden so that any family disagreement will be superceded by this form. Keep this form with your important papers.

