

Columbarium Evaluation

The word “columbarium” according to Webster’s Dictionary derives from the Latin word for pigeon and so the concept of “pigeon hole” sort of summarizes what a columbarium looks like. Today a columbarium is a series of small spaces designed to hold ashes after cremation. A columbarium can be either indoors or outside; both styles are in use in Hampton roads. A columbarium can also be “in the ground” as at Old Donation Church in Virginia Beach. There is no preconceived notion of what a columbarium would look like if the Vestry decides to proceed with one.

All Saints’ Vestry has decided to take an initial and very preliminary step in its evaluation of a possible columbarium at All Saints’. This initial step will, as a minimum -

- Review the experiences of other churches
- Identify long term care requirements
- Attempt to identify community concerns or issues
- Determine permit requirements
- Develop a time line for funding, permitting, design and construction

This initial phase is expected to take 2 – 3 months and will include monthly reports to the Vestry as well as monthly reports to the congregation via the newsletter. The Vestry will also identify a small committee of the congregation to review steps taken in this and any possible subsequent phases. It is expected that this committee will begin to review material in April or May.

A decision to move forward with further evaluation will be conditioned upon the outcome of this initial step and will be a decision that the Vestry may be asked to consider in the future.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact John Hadfield, Chair of the Evaluation Committee.