

**Gardiner- Stanford Memorial Garden & Columbarium**  
**Church of the Trinity Metropolitan Community Church**  
FAQs

**What is the history of the garden? Why is this project important now?**

A columbarium has long been part of the vision for the campus of Church of the Trinity. Rev. Robert Pierce, and later Rev. T Edward Helms presented plans for a columbarium project. Originally, the center of our courtyard was the considered site. Over the years, especially during the height of HIV/AIDS deaths in the late 80's and early 90's, cremains were spread on various parts of our church grounds. Over time, cremains have been brought to Church of the Trinity and housed in our chapel space. After more than 25 years, we are now able to give our church members and leaders a final place of rest. The garden and columbarium are open to the community as a sacred space to inter and remember loved ones.

**How was it paid for?**

The project has been paid for entirely by a generous gift from the estate of Frank Stanford. The gift was given in loving memory of his partner Craig Gardiner. Craig was a dedicated volunteer at Church of the Trinity for many years. It was the final wish of Frank and Craig to be interred together on the campus of Church of the Trinity. It's important to know that general operating funds (our Sunday offerings, pledges, gifts) were not used for this project.

**How can I reserve a niche? Are payment plans available?**

Niches are available on a first come first served basis. We are now accepting cremains for interment. The church office is also accepting pre-need reservations. All documents, including reservation forms are online at [TrinityMCC.com/remember](http://TrinityMCC.com/remember). Forms are also available through the church office by contacting Lori Babyak at 941.355.0847. Members can set up a monthly payment plan (\$100 monthly minimum) with their credit card or make three installment payments by check or credit card. Engraving is included in the price of the niche/ memorial pavers.

**Will cremains be allowed to be spread/ housed in other areas of our church grounds?**

No. All cremains will be interred in the Gardiner-Stanford memorial garden per Board policy. The space includes an engraved paver or niche as a way to remember our loved ones. A portion of all sales will be placed in a designated fund for perpetual care and maintenance of the garden.

**What are the ways to be remembered? Who can purchase niches?**

There are two ways to be remembered. One is through a columbarium niche and the other is direct internment of cremains in the garden. Both options include engraving. Niche purchases are open to members of the church as well as the community at large.

**I have already made final arrangements. What options are available for my family?**

Our sanctuary memorial wall is a perfect way to remember loved ones who have passed on. Photographs can be included in the memorial book located at the back of the sanctuary. In addition, courtyard pavers are also available. To discuss these options, please contact Lori Babyak at the church office 941-355-0847

**Pricing for niches:**

Single urn \$2,000

Companion niche \$3,000 (two urns)

Includes engraving

**Pricing for direct internment:**

Direct Burial in the Memorial Garden \$500

Includes Memorial Paver

