

**GENERAL INFORMATION
REGARDING THE
COLUMBARIUM
at FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Lakeland, Florida**

The Columbarium was designed by John Curtis of Swilley, Curtis Architects, Lakeland. John is a member of First UMC, Lakeland.

Rodda Construction of Lakeland prepared the site and built the structure in the spring of 1994. The contract was a standard AIA contract for \$ 36,500 (this did not include the cost of the eco-niches themselves).

We purchased our first section from the Oregon Brass Works now doing business as York Bronze Company, 1-800-556-6688, at a cost of \$ 11,475. This included the niche grid work, the actual "plastic" containers, and 96 light colored fronts and 57 dark color fronts (allowing the "cross" appearance.)

One hundred and twenty three (123) niches were purchased prior to actual construction, which generated about \$ 49,000. Pre-construction niches were sold for \$400; post construction niches are \$500 each. These cumulative funds covered the construction and first section prior to signing the contract to construct. By the time construction was completed, the first section was sold out except for just a handful of niches (generating an additional \$10,000). Prior to near sellout of the first section, we began selling niches in the second section. By the time we sold another 4 or 5 niches in the upcoming second section, there were funds available to purchase the second section. This same procedure was followed leading into the addition of the third section in 2003.

The monies received for sold niches are invested, and these funds insure the upkeep including periodic painting, new plantings, etc. on a regular basis. The purchase price of \$500 includes the name plate in bronze at the time of death, and all perpetual care.

Other local churches with Columbariums include:

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Lakeland and First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland (Memorial Garden)

The congregation, pastors and Board of Trustees of First United Methodist Church are pleased to offer this important service as a ministry of First Church. We hope that our congregation finds solace in knowing that the remains of their loved ones are laid to rest in a special place at their church.

*Harriet S. Mayes, Church Administrator
February 27, 2002*