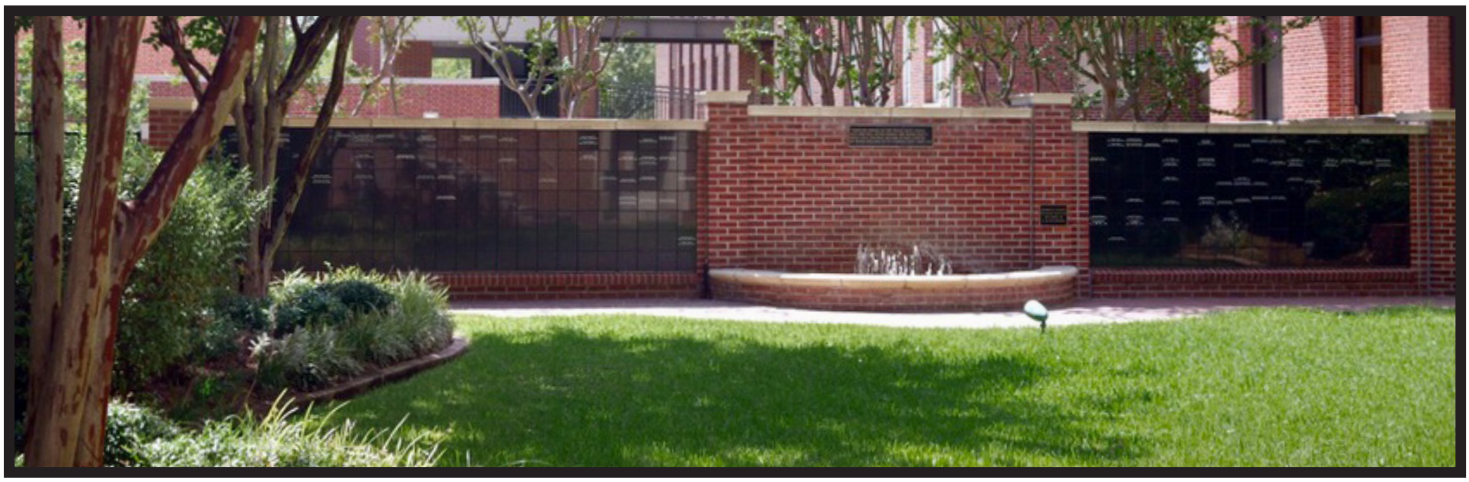
MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT

2025-2026 Annual Report



All Saints Day is the occasion for memories of persons whose completed lives we now gratefully acknowledge. In 2026, ***All Saints Day***--the First Day of November--occurs on Sunday, prompting even more individual and congregational remembrances. Preceding generations received heavenly blessings and contributed to multitudes of associations through numerous decades of meaning life. Succeeding generations, although in fewer decades, provided relationships which we continue to cherish. On ***All Saints Day*** First Methodist Church and other Christian denominations encourage the living to join in spirit in the one Church with all who now rest from their labors. In his 1759 hymn, Charles Wesley, envisioned unity of "***all servants of our King in earth and in heaven; one family we dwell in Him, one Church above, beneath. .***"

The Memorial Columbarium of First Methodist provides inurnment of one hundred members of our extended family. This structure in the Memorial Garden between the Sanctuary and Couch Chapel enables our meditation on their lives and on our continuing Christian service. ***All Saints Day***, November 1, 2026, begins the twelfth full year of Memorial Columbarium availability.

Inurnments. We honor in our lasting memory the life of each person inurned in the Memorial Columbarium during the 2025-2026 reporting year. Among these memories are guidance enabling our inclusion in the family of our Lord described in the hymn "*The Communion of Saints*" by Charles Wesley centuries ago.

Mr. James Slater Blewett
Mr. Marvin E. Brossette
Mr. Michael Augustus Davis
Mr. William Arthur Grammer, Jr.
Mr. Danny Carl Hale
Ms. Donna Jane Bryan Hale
Ms. Carolyn Rogers McIlwain
Ms. Carobeth Fuller Richardz
Ms. Betty Lou Crews Smith
Mr. Charles Raymond Wilson
Mr. Thomas Gayle Wren

The one hundred persons inurned are memorialized on Page 4.

Governance. An integral part of the Church, the Columbarium is owned by the Church. The Church Council governs the Columbarium Ministry and implements through an appointed Committee--in 2025-2026 consisting of one Clergy and four laity. The Business Office performs statutory, financial, and administrative functions and maintains permanent documents specified by Louisiana *Revised Statutes*, Title 8 and by Louisiana Cemetery Board regulations. Provision of a columbarium and operation thereof are specified in *Policies for the Memorial Columbarium*, enacted April 13, 2014 by the Church Council. Subsequent votes by Church entities and by the membership are interpreted to include reenactment of original Columbarium Policies and updating, text of which is available on the Church internet site: https://firstshreveport.com/about/memorial-columbarium.
On June 14, 2015, the Columbarium dedication concluded with a congregational reading:

"We dedicate this Columbarium and ourselves to Christ's service until that day we are joined together with the saints in glory."

Statutory Compliance. The Church received from the Louisiana Cemetery Board on July 24, 2015, an "Exempt Certificate of Authority" to operate the Columbarium. Change of Methodist affiliation necessitated receiving from the Board on September 26, 2023 an updated "Exempt Certificate of Authority." The Church is acknowledged by the Board to be in compliance with Louisiana *Revised Statutes*, Title 8 [Cemeteries], Sections 78C, 78D, and 78E [Exemptions]. Title 8, Section 78E specifies renewal of "Exempt Certificate of Authority" on a three-year cycle. In February 2025 a renewal application was submitted to and approved by the Board. In 2025-2026, relevant Louisiana *Revised Statutes* were not enacted or amended; relevant Board regulations were not promulgated or amended.

Subscriptions. *Policies for The Memorial Columbarium* provides for acquisition (Paragraphs 4b and 4c) and termination (Paragraph 5e) of niche subscriptions.

Acquisition. "A Subscriber may obtain the right of inurnment for one or two eligible Decedent(s) in a Columbarium niche, from those niches that are available at the time, by paying the Subscription Fee, whereupon the Certificate of Inurnment Rights is executed by the Subscriber and the Church. This right of inurnment in a niche does not create ownership or title of the Columbarium physical space to the Subscriber or to the Decedent's heirs." "Subscription of a niche requires a one-time fee of $2,500 paid when the Certificate of Inurnment Rights is executed by the Subscriber. The fee consists of $1,000 for value obtained through niche usage and $1,500 for non-refundable, tax-advantaged donation to the Columbarium Fund."

Termination. "Prior to inurnment, the Subscriber (or representative thereof) may notify the Church to terminate obtained usage of the niche. The Church will refund the Subscriber's niche usage fee without interest but not the donation and will cancel the Certificate of Inurnment Rights."

Subscription Status. The Columbarium Ministry was established to be financially self-supporting. In 2014, Church Trustees authorized capital construction and operating expenses funded from existing Church resources, with subsequent reimbursement from subscriptions. In mid-2018, receipts exceeded inception-to-date expenses, including construction, operating, and administrative outlays. In January 2019, Church accounts, from which Columbarium advances were obtained, were reimbursed. From initial availability in 2014 to October 31, 2026, 141 subscriptions (49.0 percent of 294 dual-capacity niches) were acquired. On February 9, 2023 and October 11, 2023 two subscriptions were terminated with authorized refund of $1,000 each, Thus, subscriptions as of October 31, 2026 totaled 139. Original gross receipts of $352,500 were decreased with $2,000 refunds, yielding $350,500.

Continuance. In receiving authority to establish a columbarium, the Church accepted the statutory definition of a columbarium and, accordingly, the obligation to provide a structure for the permanent inurnment of cremated remains [Louisiana *Revised Statutes* Title 8, Section 1(13)]. If circumstances prevent continuation of approved columbarium usage or if an inurnment is to be removed, then statutory requirements pertain [Louisiana *Revised Statutes* Title 8, Section 306B and Title 8, Section 659A and B].

> *"§306.B. Property dedicated to cemetery purposes shall be held and used exclusively for cemetery purposes unless and until the dedication is removed from all or any part of it by judgment of the district court of the parish in which the property is situated…"*
>
> *"§659.A. The remains of a deceased person may be moved from a cemetery space to another cemetery space in the same cemetery or to another cemetery with the consent of the cemetery authority and the written consent of one of the following, in the order named ...:*
>
> > *(1) The surviving spouse, if there is no pending petition for divorce filed by either spouse prior to the death of the decedent spouse.*
> >
> > *(2) A majority of the surviving adult children of the decedent.*
> >
> > *(3) A majority of the surviving adult grandchildren of the decedent.*
> >
> > *(4) The surviving parents of the decedent.*
> >
> > *(5) A majority of the surviving adult siblings of the decedent."*
>
> *"§659.B. If the required consent cannot be obtained, a final judgment of the district court of the parish where the cemetery is situated shall be required."*

Policies for The Memorial Columbarium addresses removal (Paragraph 4k) and obligation of continuance (Paragraph 5b).

Communications. Supplementing ongoing personal and media communications, on ***All Saints Day*** the Church, through the Columbarium Committee, reports Columbarium Ministry milestones. The Church internet site is the principal resource. During 2025-2026, Clergy counseled families on occasion of death. Committee members assisted prospective subscribers. One resource is a video designed and produced by Communications staff in 2025 on the tenth-year anniversary of the Columbarium Ministry. The video with narration traces development of the Columbarium from concept, pre-construction, construction to current installation. The video is available on the Church internet site (reference above).

"I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,..."
John 11:25

Inurnments

Date of Inurnment

Baxter Grant Adams, Apr 28, 2023
Mary Anna Rees Adams, Dec 20, 2021
William Tolbert Adams, Aug 31, 2019
John Alvin Andrews, May 15, 2022
Bill R. Bain, Jul 1, 2020
Jo N. Miller Bain, Oct 27, 2025
William Gregory Bain, May 1, 2021
Myra Merle Stovall Beeson, Mar 27, 2020
Dina Lynn Bennett, Jul 13, 2019
Charles Spencer Black, Jul 16, 2017
James Slater Blewett, Sep 25, 2026
Johnny Sayles Brock, IV, Feb 16, 2016
Peggy Jane Tolbert Brock, Jul 10, 2021
Dianne R. McCollum Brossette, Sep 15, 2015
Marvin E. Brossette, Oct 5, 2026
Mary Edna Adams Brossette, Sep 3, 2016
Marguerite Anne Shaw Buckley, Oct 7, 2018
Ralph Spencer Carey, Feb 5, 2023
Samuel William Caverlee, Nov 24, 2021
Stuart Grantham Couch, Apr 23, 2021
James Pat Cox, May 1, 2021
James Patrick Craig, Mar 3, 2019
Ben Neal Craton, Jr., Aug 16, 2016
Tressie S. Craton, Oct 26, 2017
Bobby Jack Daniel, Jan 18, 2022
Anita Joy Davis, Sep 25, 2015
Michael Augustus Davis, Jun 9, 2026
Karen McCulloh Dorsey, Mar 1, 2021
Jane Traylor Drake, Mar 18, 2018
Donald G. Easterwood, Jr., Jan 20, 2017
Lydia Scarlett McGlathery Ehrhardt, Jul 15, 2024
Peggy Strong Folds, Jul 6, 2018
Evelyn B. Friday, Nov 29, 2020
Howard J. Friday, Nov 29, 2020
Jim G. Gibson, Sep 11, 2022
Joy Proctor Gibson, Jul 24, 2018
Stephen Adger Glassell, Jr., Apr 19,2025
William Arthur Grammer, Jr., Oct 4, 2026
Danny Carl Hale, Jul 19, 2026
Donna Jane Bryan Hale, Jul 19, 2026
Donald Lloyd Hall, Sr., Mar 26, 2016
Leona Hanselman, May 28, 2017
Delores Threlkeld Harbuck, May 10, 2021
Edwin Charles Harbuck, Jun 12, 2016
William Kendrick Hayes, Jr., Oct 7, 2018
William Thomas Head, Aug 19, 2017
Barbara Mendell Hobbs, Jan 2, 2020
Owen Rigby Hollingsworth, Sep 22, 2016
James E. Huggins, May 24, 2016
John Patrick Johnson, Jun 20, 2019
John Morris Kirkland, Jr., Mar 30, 2022
Eleanor Diane Richardson Kirspel, Jan 27, 2019
John Conrad Kroner, IV, May 11, 2021
Larry Wayne LaBorde, Sep 28, 2022
Georgiann Chandler Lamb, Sep 15, 2016
Jack Rollin Lamb, Jun 2, 2025
Jasper Newton Lynn, Mar 26, 2019
John Cullum Marshall, Nov 25, 2018
Johnette Walden McCullough, Nov 12, 2015
Carolyn Rogers McIlwain, Aug 7, 2026
Charles Melvin McIlwain, Dec 19, 2021
George Douglas Middleton, Nov 30, 2018
Winifred Lang Middleton, Nov 30, 2018
June Anderson Miller, Mar 16, 2019
James R. Nichols, Sep 22, 2019
Donald Keith Payne, May 6, 2023
Charles Brinkmann Peatross, Dec 15, 2015
August William Peterson, Feb 16, 2023
John E. Powell, Nov 16, 2019
Mary Joan Haddox Powell, Nov 16, 2019
Harold David Reed, Oct 19, 2015
Vesta Guinevere Reed, Jun 16, 2023
Ann Powell Rhoads, May 19, 2021
Carobeth Fuller Richardz, Nov 13, 2025
Billy James Sanders, Jr., Jan 21, 2024
Melvin Earl Simmons, Sep 3, 2022
Tommie Blackbourne Simmons, Feb 17, 2025
Benjamin Elliott Moore Skerrett, IV, Oct 9, 2016
Marian Way Skerrett, Oct 26, 2019
Betty Lou Crews Smith, Oct 3, 2026
Daniel Crews Smith, Nov 21, 2016
Daniel Joseph Smith, Sep 29, 2016
Onice Maye Cook Spells, Mar 13, 2022
Robert Edward Taylor, May 26, 2016
Andrew Walker Teekell, Jul 13, 2024
Byrum Webster Teekell, May 9, 2023
Jan Gray Teekell, Aug 16, 2021
Scott A. Teekell, Oct 22, 2020
William F. Tucker, Jun 13, 2017
John Stark Turner, Aug 28, 2020
Billie Victoria Bozeman Van Hoose, Aug 11, 2017
Benjamin Vickers, Nov 10. 2019
Betty Jowers Vickers, Feb 6, 2021
Emily Martha Stewart Walker, Jan 4, 2019
Carolyn Craig Webb, Aug 27, 2022
Jerry R. Webb, Aug 11, 2024
Nicholas Ervin Wibben, Apr 7, 2025
Charles Raymond Wilson, Apr 21, 2026
Robert Tate Wolcott, Nov 05, 2015
Thomas Gayle Wren, Jul 20, 2026