



The larger circle

2006 Edition

Strengthening the community of faith

A newsletter for churches from Eickhof Columbaria, LLP

“It’s a beautiful focus....”

St. Paul’s Cathedral (Episcopal) | San Diego, California

“It’s a beautiful focus.” This is the way Christine H. Spalding, Cathedral



The baptismal font stands in front of the columbarium at the rear of the church.

Administrator, describes the Eickhof columbarium in St. Paul’s Cathedral (Episcopal). It is located at the back of the church, behind the baptismal font.

The Cathedral’s Dean, the Very Reverend Scott E. Richardson, says, “The pastoral possibilities have become clearer to us since the columbarium was installed. Being able to go directly to the niche at the end of a memorial service and conclude the service there, completes that portion of the act of remembrance for the family in a way that is quite holy. There is a dignity and solemnity to the ritual that is obviously moving for those gathered around the final resting place of their loved one.

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“The caring community”

Christ Presbyterian Church | Minneapolis, Minnesota

When asked how they came to the idea of having a columbarium in their church, the responses are often the same. “It began when one of our older members was visiting a church where they saw a columbarium....”

That’s the way it started at Christ Presbyterian Church in suburban Minneapolis, a congregation that’s celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. “The next step was establishing a team to look into the possibility,” says Dan Bowles, Administrator and Chief Operating Officer.

The idea of a columbarium was a perfect fit for “the caring community” part of the church’s mission statement.

After interviewing several colum-

The entrance to the Memorial Garden of Prayer



barium companies, Eickhof was selected.

Installation of the 200 niches was completed in March 2004 and the dedication took place in June.

The columbarium is part of a Memorial Prayer Garden setting that includes a dedicated area for ashes to be scattered and a memorial wall where

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Building a tradition



Paul Eickhof
Founding Partner, Eickhof Columbaria, LLP

Over the past 20 years, our company has completed more than 400 columbarium installations in churches across our country. Each one is very special. Most importantly, each one is making a valuable contribution to enriching the life of these congregations.

If there is a thread running through each of the installations, it is the belief that a columbarium is another way for a congregation to be “a caring community,” in the words of the mission statement of Christ Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Over the past 20 years, the simplicity of our company’s patented concealed locking mechanism has made it easy and convenient for churches to conduct inurnments.

At the same time, we are indeed fortunate to work with skilled craftsmen who take inordinate pride in the quality of our work.

What is most satisfying, however, are the stories we hear about how much having a columbarium in the church or on the grounds means to people. There

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“It’s a beautiful focus....”

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The phrase that we had inscribed at the center of the columbarium, ‘Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints’ no doubt adds to their depth of feeling.”

The columbarium was carefully designed to take advantage of a magnificent rose window and three lancet stained glass windows depicting Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As Ms. Spalding indicates, the columbarium actually enhances of appearance of the church.

There are currently 140 niches, of which 43 have been acquired so far. The acquisition cost is \$4,000 and the niches are available to church members and those who are related to them.

An encompassing ministry

While reviewing the plans for the new Cathedral in Los Angeles with Cardinal Roger Mahony, Spanish architect



Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, and Paul Eickhof at The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Professor Jose Rafael Moneo indicated that the space below the expansive nave could be utilized for storage. “That’s a lot of room for storage,” the Cardinal commented.

It was then that Cardinal Mahony conceived of the

idea of a mausoleum beneath the Cathedral, a tradition that has a long history in Europe. Recognizing that many Catholic cemeteries were running out of space, the vision of the mausoleum became a significant element of the overall plan for the Cathedral.

At the dedication in 2002, the public discovered a rare, but supremely effective blending of the Cathedral’s dramatic contemporary architecture with the richness of the mausoleum’s traditional design. There are 4,794 niches for urns for cremated remains and 1,275 crypts for full-size caskets.



The columbarium plays a significant role in the life of the congregation. “It’s such a comfort to people,” says Ms. Spalding, who points out that it’s particularly meaningful to those who have acquired spaces. “They appreciate knowing their final resting place will be in their church.”

The original concept was to have a traditional crypt beneath the church in the tradition of European cathedrals. But the construction costs and access issues

made it prohibitive, according to the cathedral administrator.

The contribution of a single donor funded the preparation work and the cost of the columbarium.

The cathedral has an extensive agreement with those who acquire niches. “Our goal is to be clear and complete, not legalistic,” says Ms. Spalding, who was on the team responsible for creating the document.

When asked about working with the Eickhof company, Ms. Spalding was most enthusiastic. “The craftsmanship is excellent and the installation team was considerate, responsive and showed great care in its work.”



The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

Eickhof Columbaria, LLP, was selected to supply the columbarium niches and the concealed hardware for the stone fronts. Eickhof craftsmen trained the Los Angeles-based contractor to install the niches and hardware. The patented Eickhof system was also used to secure the stone fronts of the crypts.

“The mausoleum takes visitors into a warm, Old World setting,” says Fred Balak, Director of the Cathedral Mausoleum, “especially with all of the beautiful stained glass windows from the old Cathedral. People are overwhelmed by the concept. It is truly an inviting and prayerful place.”

The symbolism of having the mausoleum as part of the Cathedral is dramatically clear to everyone. “It sends

the message that the deceased are not forgotten. It helps connect the living with those who have gone before us,” says Mr. Balak, “and creates an encompassing ministry.”

With many cemeteries running out of space, Fred Balak sees a growing interest in having a mausoleum within a church. “We have inquiries from Catholic churches across the country,” he notes. Representatives from the Cathedral in Oakland, California, have visited the mausoleum and are planning to include a facility in the design of their new Cathedral. He also reports that others are seeking ways to utilize space with existing church facilities.



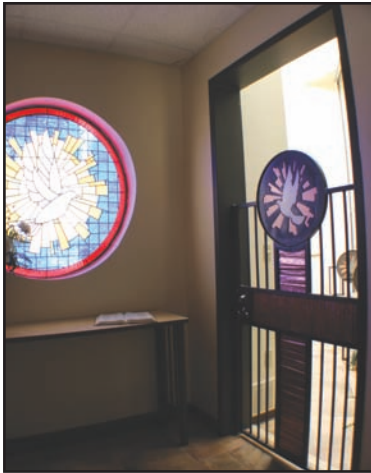
The 6000 crypts and niches feature the Eickhof patented mechanism.

“A handsome facility”

Christ the King Catholic Church | Fort Smith, Arkansas

Because of her personal interest in having a columbarium at Christ the King Catholic Church, Rachel C. Smith joined other parishioners in exploring the feasibility of undertaking such a project. She then became the co-chair of the columbarium committee.

She reports that the members of the parish like having the columbarium as part of the church itself. “It is such a handsome facility that it has a strong appeal,” she says, pointing out



The columbarium entrance.

that it is convenient for family members and others to spend a few quiet moments there.

Mrs. Smith emphasizes the value of having the columbarium as part of the church itself. “Having it within the building helps create the feeling of always remaining a part of the church,” she says. “This has a strong appeal to our people and is reflected in subscriptions for the niches.”



Christ the King's columbarium offers a dignified setting for families and visitors.

As the committee was planning the columbarium, they heard about a church in the community that had gone through a less than satisfactory experience with its columbarium project. “After learning about what happened, we knew we wanted to work with a company that would be here to do the installation and not leave it up to us to find someone to handle it,” says Mrs. Smith.

“Not only did the Eickhof company do a superb job building and then installing the columbarium, but their people worked hand-in-hand with our architect and contractor throughout the planning and construction process,” she reports.

The Christ the King columbarium was financed by a combination of donations, along with a number of pre-construction sales. The committee was responsible for raising the necessary funds as well as planning and overseeing the construction. Now completed, trustees from that committee oversee the columbarium.

Building a tradition

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is a deeply felt closeness.

While much of our work is with committees, architects and contractors, there is another dimension that is equally important. We want to share our knowledge and experience; we want to be a resource for churches by providing ideas and assistance in the planning of a columbarium.

The new “Consider the Possibilities: A planning guide for a church columbarium” is now available without charge. And this newsletter is designed to provide ideas and suggestions, as well.

Together, we are building a tradition.

Exceeds expectations

The Eickhof columbarium “actually exceeds our expectations in every way and it will certainly enhance the already quiet dignity of our landscaped *Garden of Prayer* in the years to come.”

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

A serene and dignified resting place

“We have received many favorable comments from the congregation on our columbarium's appearance and they know their loved ones will have a dignified and serene resting place....Long hours of effort gave us a finished product of which we are justly proud.”

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Bowie, Maryland

A breathtaking setting

“...It's an absolutely breathtaking setting that invites all to enjoy the peace of repose that our deceased parishioners now enjoy.”

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
Maggie Valley, North Carolina

Just what we ordered

“We particularly appreciate the columbarium having been preassembled before delivery to our site....This saved installation time and helped in a major way to assure our getting just what we had ordered. It has been good working with you.”

Church of the Incarnation
Dallas, Texas

Superb workmanship and materials

“Now that we have had time to reflect and consider, we realize what superb workmanship and material went into the Eickhof columbarium in St. Peter's Chapel. It is a beautiful addition to St. Peter's Church. It offers a choice of burial in the church that is comforting to many people. Sixteen spaces have been reserved...”

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Sheridan, Wyoming

“The caring community”

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church members can have the names of departed loved ones who are buried elsewhere inscribed on tiles. “This serves to bring the families of faith together,” says Bowles.



The church's Memorial Prayer Garden includes an Eickhof columbarium.

The columbarium was funded with contributions from church members and pre-construction sales of about 30 niches. “At that point, we saw our way clear to initiate construction,” Bowles notes.

Currently, about 70 niches have been sold.

Niches are available to church members and members of their families. There have been a couple of instances in which niches have been made available without cost, a decision that can be made by the Senior Pastor or Bowles.

The cost for a single niche is \$2,000 and \$2,500 for a double niche. It is \$200 to have ashes scattered and \$250 for memorial wall tile.

Dan Bowles is quick to express the church's appreciation for the work of the Eickhof company. “Paul spent time with us. At every step of the way, he was helpful, patient and thorough.” Needless to say, Christ Presbyterian Church is pleased with the work of Eickhof company.

FAQ

Paul Eickhof answers frequently asked questions.

- Q.** “How much space is required for a columbarium?”
- A.** Imagine a 4' by 8' sheet of plywood. It will accommodate 72 Eickhof 8" by 8" niches. It is helpful if you can send photographs of areas you are considering for a columbarium. We can then provide recommendation for a columbarium design. It can be helpful if you have parishioners or a design professional who can assist with the dimensional sketches.
- Q.** “What size niches should we select?”
- A.** A majority of churches select the 8" by 8" niche. This size holds two Eickhof bronze urns. This means a niche can be offered to a couple or a single person. The 8" by 8" niche is space efficient and economical. If desired, larger niches such as 12" by 12" are also available.
- Q.** “Where is an appropriate location for a columbarium in a church?”
- A.** There is no right or wrong location for a columbarium. If it is to be inside the church, some columbarium committees choose a place where the parishioners worship or in an adjacent area where the columbarium can have its own identity. Outside columbaria are often in a garden-type setting. A columbarium can be a focal point demonstrating a church's commitment to the family of faith.
- Q.** “Can Eickhof design a columbarium?”
- A.** Eickhof makes design services available to churches. Where churches elect to install a columbarium of a rather straightforward design and where cost is a consideration, these services are generally available as part of Eickhof's full service program at no additional charge.

Now available

Consider the possibilities
A planning guide for a church columbarium

Through this booklet, Paul Eickhof shares more than 20 years of experience working with churches in planning and building columbaria.

Whether it's “Getting Started,” “Pricing” or dozens of other important issues, the planning guide offers meaningful suggestions.

The planning guide is free. Call 1-800-253-0457 or email paul@eickhofcolumbaria.com for your copy.

CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES

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a church columbarium



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