

Questions we have been asked...

1. Why are we remodeling? We aren't actually "remodeling," just re-arranging furniture.

2. We haven't changed things before, why change them now? We have made many changes to the interior of the church over the decades. We believe this is perhaps the 12th interior project done to our church since the "new church" opened in January of 1903. Some of those projects include our wonderful Morgan altar (1905), addition of the Narthex (by 1910), new pews (1915), the conversion of the baptistry to St. Peter's chapel and memorial lights (1947), a much larger organ (1967), chancel handrails (1980s), carpet (1990s), sanctuary lighting (2010s), and the addition of upgraded video and sound equipment and the removal of unsightly mirrors in the chancel (2020).

It is not even the first time our altar rail has been moved. We have architectural drawings that indicate the altar rail was moved backwards from the first set of support posts to its current position at the arch sometime before WWI to make room for a larger choir (and shortened 12' in the process.) That was an easy move to make as the rector at the time, Rev. Fitz-James Hindry, served at the altar alone, until introducing an acolyte during the Depression. We also had Morning Prayer three Sundays a month and Holy Eucharist only once each month. Giving more room for the choir by taking it from the altar area made sense then, just as opening up the space in our every-week Communion service does today. The space was designed for a different format of worship, one in which the altar was used one time per month by one person. Today, on a usual Sunday we have 6 people in the altar area. We are as Sandy Goode says, "running into each other."

Some changes to our church were greeted with excitement (like central AC and heat), others have been quite controversial. One of those was the Tiffany window in 1905. "Cornelius and the Angel," is one of 40 known signed Tiffany windows (and recently restored by the generosity of Clark and Alice Alger). When George Hewson donated the window, reports were that it created a minor scandal as it so departed in style from the other windows in our church.

We may be moving our holy things about, but they are still **our** holy things, just placed in a way that helps us help people to the feet of Jesus. We will do this by bringing the altar rail to the people, placing the choir in the current sanctuary (so that the choir and musicians can see the music director), and by seating the clergy (who move all service) in the area in which they move (altar and pulpit near one another).

3. What will this do to our lovely historic worship space? We believe it will improve both our church's usability and beauty. The project will be completed in such a way that the interior of our church will still look original and improve the congregation's view of the cross, triptych window, and especially our altar. It also will remove the non-operational air conditioning units that were cut into the back paneling of the sanctuary wall in the 1960s and restore the paneling to its original beauty.