

**ST. MARK'S**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Worship Space Meeting Summary**  
**August 27, 2008**

Present: Christine Boardman, Joyce Avery, Lee Avery, Jim Campbell, Bonnie Campbell, John Tennefoss, Mary Venske, Lorraine Dierick, and Corby Varness.

The meeting was held in the Sanctuary part of the Worship Space. John offered the opening prayer.

**Summary of the Worship Space Discussions (8/27/08)**

- There was a sense of good sharing of ideas and that we wanted to make changes that: 1) are practical and useable (example—altar guild working well and safely with the altar, candles and flowers, and the communion elements), 2) consider overall safety and access/age of the users, 3) consider our main purpose for this space—worship God and also worship as community (closeness).
- There was some sharing and discussion of information from the book provided by Bonnie, titled "Re-Pitching the Tent", that told and showed why the worship space has evolved as it has over the last 2000 years and what our issues are in dealing with a long and narrow worship space (68' x 21').
- Some ways to think about this issue of the worship space are: 1) think of the space as blank and then add into the space what we really want to have, 2) think about how to make changes with sensitivity to all concerns, and 3) focus on what we like and what we don't like.
- Areas discussed for changes:
  - **Back Wall with the Large Wooden Cross.** It was recognized that the cross is a piece of art as well as an icon that we should work out how to display well. Various ideas of what to do with the back wall—painting a lighter color(s), wood trim around the cross in various ways, backlighting of the cross, and even draping of fabric around and behind the cross. This needs much more discussion to consolidate ideas but basically this was agreed really needs to be worked on for improvement.
  - **Organ/Keyboard/Sound System.** John wants to move the organ to the back of the nave, and would like to get this done soon as an experiment to see how it sounds back there and how he works there with the clergy and congregation in front of him. A large issue with its present location is that it blocks the view of people sitting on the right side of the nave (especially with the lamp on top of it). The keyboard and sound system would naturally move back there too and this would help free up taking out the large pulpit on the left side of the Sanctuary, which blocks peoples' view on that side of the nave. As part of this move we would relocate a few pews to fit in the organ at the back. We also need to look into a new sound system that can accommodate wireless microphones and capability for speakers in the parish hall.

- **Altar.** There was surprisingly little issue with cutting down the altar to be able to remove the dais behind it for safety reasons, or even getting rid of the present altar and getting a smaller, lower, moveable table. (It was agreed that it is not a really nice piece of furniture, just a box with some veneer on the front and it is way too large for the size of space it is in.) If we go with a new smaller altar table, there would be the need to obtain frontals that fit the new table size, but the diocese could offer help with this. We would like to cut down/lower the present altar height soon to see how well the lower altar works and eliminate the dais. We would also like to move the altar forward some (to be tied in with the floor space revisions), but not so much as to leave a large wasted space behind the altar.
- **Back Wall Candles and Plant Shelves.** It was agreed that these could be placed on independent stands near the altar moved further away from the wall as part of a larger sanctuary remodel. This would eliminate any ongoing concerns with the candles being too close to the wall.
- **Sanctuary Floor Space.** It was agreed it would be great if we could make this space one level (likely by lowering the upper floor space where the present altar sits). This would involve less work overall than raising the whole sanctuary floor space up to the higher level and would be less of a problem with steps and the window on the right side.
- **Altar Rail.** Tied to the change with the Sanctuary floor space, this would involve removing the large pulpit and moving/rebuilding the lower rail for the sanctuary space as an altar rail with sufficient space to be able to kneel correctly (12-14" of kneeling space as opposed to the 8" we have now). We could also make or purchase kneeler cushions for the altar rail.
- **Lectern/pulpit.** Remove pulpit, keep the lectern as an ambo (the older nicer looking one we read the Readings from now).
- **Baptismal font.** Move over where the organ sits now or to the back of the church.
- **Old Pews.** Move the 2 old pews in the back to the Sanctuary space to replace the single chairs—more comfortable for the clergy, and more useful for setting programs and books on while seated there. Could do this as part of the Organ move to the back.
- **Walls and Rafters.** Look at painting all walls and the rafters new colors, that match and compliment each other (not just all white). The rafters should get darker and the walls should be light but not pure white. (The rafters used to be a dark wood color, and the architecture of them is lost with them the same color as the walls.) Part of this effort would be to repair any cracks and improve the walls and ceiling with a uniform smooth or slight textured look.
- **Natural Lighting.** Look into the feasibility of skylights or solatubes or more windows in the Sanctuary area, to get more lighting into this still darker space.

Actions after this first meeting:

- 1) Continue discussions with the rest of the congregation over the next few weeks to get more inputs on all items above.
- 2) Verify no real issues with the congregation with the organ move experiment or cutting down the altar a few inches so the dais can be removed, then implement these two items in the next 2 weeks.
- 3) Jim to look at the underfloor/crawl space at the front of the Sanctuary area to see how close the dirt is to the floor joists, and also to see if there are any pipes or other items that would need to be moved if we lowered the floor by 10 inches.