

Sanctuary Renovation – RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO WORSHIP

Part 4 – Musical Instruments and Musicians

This article is part of a series of articles to help the congregation understand what to expect when re-entering the Sanctuary. (See previous Guidelights articles for information about the Central Focus of the room, Communion Rail, Seating, and the placement of the Cross.)

The areas used by Musicians – both singers and Instrumentalists – is intended to be completely flexible. Though usually set in a semi-circular arrangement beyond the Communion Table, the Choir arrangement can easily change as needed to make more room for other musicians, artists and worship participants.

With the Chancel Choir singing to the length of the room on beautifully resonate hardwood floors; they should not need to be amplified into the room with microphones. This enables much more energized, vital and natural sounds from the choir and also allows them to hear each other well as they work to blend their voices for the praise of God and for the encouragement of the congregation. There is also plenty of room to arrange the choir seating to allow for the Chapel Bells to play in this area. Additionally, there is room to assemble large choirs for special concerts and events where multiple choirs are ministering.

The organ console is turned to allow the organist to see the director more easily as well as to see what is happening in the room and the piano has plenty of room to move around in various positions without blocking the fire exit. There is plenty of room for other instruments to be in the room without them overflowing into seating areas or important exit areas.

All this flexibility will greatly enhance our use of the space and will even encourage us to be creative as we plan worship for our faith community.

—Stephen Marshall-Ward