

Sanctuary Restoration Update

Unlike Pilgrim Hall, the Sanctuary project is **restoration not a renovation**, so it won't look dramatically different when it's complete. As we move into August, the project is substantially complete, but there are many smaller tasks still underway.

The church and our contractors agreed to a mutual set of pandemic safety procedures that our clergy, staff and volunteers also need to follow. We adapted those from the UK and Australia because they have stronger standards than the US. These procedures served us well when we needed to shut down for several weeks.

Very little has been done to maintain the Sanctuary for 32 years so we are concentrating on restoring its beauty and adding functionality... while managing our cost.

So What's Been Done?

During the initial phase we filled the room with a 40-foot high scaffold in order to reach to the ceiling. It took a week to put up and a week to take down.

After 30 years, the old paint was so dingy and dirty it was difficult to cover. We had plaster and mortar falling off the walls. It's not the Sistine chapel, but the new paint really looks great and the bad areas were repaired. The **paint** is several shades lighter and that adds more light in the room. We also painted the frames around the side windows to define them better.

The **lighting** didn't change dramatically but we did add more lighting to the Chancel, shifted a light to the piano and music area and we changed the lighting for the pulpit.

One big improvement is the **lighting controls**. The control panel lives in the old organ vault below ground. In that same vault is a radiator that has been buried under discarded lumber for 32 years. That radiator was putting out 160 degrees and cooking the lighting controls. We moderated the temperature and replaced the control system.

We installed easy to use **touch screen controls** with pre-sets for different lighting settings. We need to finish programming it and learn how to use it properly.

The **smoke detectors** that have not functioned for 20 years, were replaced with new ones, including the ones in the organ lofts.

The traditional ceiling fans were replaced with **axial destratification fans**... which is a fancy way of saying they move the air off the ceiling. This is really important to keep the balcony temperate. It's 10 degrees warmer up there than down on the floor.

We installed a **new banner hanger system** that works with magnets. And, we put up more hooks for the cloud of witnesses banner because we believe the banner will continue to grow with the church.

The **carpet** color is similar - burgundy red. It coordinates well with the existing pew cushions and choir robes and all the wood. The floor under the carpet is the same as the pine floor under the pews. The good news is that there were only a handful of places where we had to repair it. The lumpiness we've been walking on for many years was caused by the pad underneath that had disintegrated.

The **Narthex and stairwells** are looking much improved. And, the **gallery** now has carpet that matches the Sanctuary and helps it feel like an integral part of our worship space.

The **air diffusers** were sandblasted and coated to match the carpet and they look great.

Adding **radiator covers** seems like a small detail but they change the look and take the industrial edge off the room.

Having been rebuilt several times over the years, we concluded that it's time for **new choir chairs**. They just arrived and they look great.

The **pews** were cleaned, lightly sanded, stained and given a new finish coat. They look especially beautiful.

We think the **grilles** in the organ lofts haven't been cleaned since they were installed. The dirt was a half inch thick in places. (Once we are finished, we'll be recommending a disciplined maintenance program.)

The **many, many doors and tons of woodwork** throughout the Sanctuary, the Narthex, the Chancel and the stairwells is all being cleaned, touched up and re-coated. The contractors did much of this work but we have volunteers doing a good deal of it in order to hold down cost. This work continues into August.

Audio/Visual Upgrades

Installation and training of the new audio-visual components continues.

The **video system** is being upgraded with **multiple cameras, a new control system and a new distribution system** that will make it easier and faster to deliver video online as well as to project video on a **retractable screen** hidden at the top of the Chancel. We anticipate using the new video capabilities to produce services starting sometime in September.

The **sound system** is being upgraded with **new controls**, some **additional speakers** and **new microphones** in several places.

We have installed a **new wireless hearing assistance system** that will broadcast to hearing aids as well as body packs that guests can use. It covers most of the main floor.

The **sacristy** has been cleaned and painted and the cabinets are re-finished and re-organized. The altars have new top surfaces.

Thanks to many volunteers and staff who have helped.

- Sherry Flugel, Laura Shellady, Kelley Kalinich, and others helped select colors
- The music ministry team selected the choir chairs
- Sharon Wussow repaired pew cushions (again)
- Rick Hokenson is working on the endowment tree, the choir step and the lighting control system
- Randy Briasco has been fixing and refinishing furniture.
- Jo Ann Ginger cleaned the folding doors and Randy Briasco repaired and stained them
- Ryan Dent help select the lighting control system
- Sharon Wussow and Deb Giampoli helped with the banner system.
- Maggie Fredricks helped us get the sacristy back to feeling sacred
- Deb Giampoli, Jeannine Kannegeisser and Sharon Wussow helped select new stairwell lighting fixtures.
- Tom Pulver helped unload the choir chairs