

From the Archives continued...

Recently discovered vestry minutes indicate that another change was contemplated during the Pullin years—the replacement of our altar. You’ll recall that Pullin’s predecessor, Fr. James Pearson after whom our Pearson Hall is named, had died suddenly in the rectory in 1968. He had been well-regarded by parishioners, and a fund had been established in his memory. There was \$1200 to be spent, the equivalent of \$9000 in 2020 dollars, and rector and vestry set about deciding how to spend it. Fr. Pullin proposed the purchase of a new altar and the vestry concurred. Months passed as information on replacement altars was gathered. One of solid stone was considered as well as a variety of wooden structures. What to do with the old altar? Relocate it to the undercroft, Pullin suggested, where it could be used for Church School and confirmation class instruction.

As a newcomer to St. Andrew’s, it is perhaps understandable that Pullin did not appreciate the significance of the existing altar, which was/is a beautiful structure and part of the church’s “original equipment,” created for the new St. Andrew’s in the workshops of the N.O. Nelson Company. What is surprising is the vestry’s willingness to support Pullin’s proposal, perhaps a reflection of its members’ reluctance to challenge a new rector. Ultimately, good sense and respect for an important part of St. Andrew’s material history prevailed, and the vestry voted to rescind its original motion of support. For that, we can be grateful. In addition to usurping the place of an honored artifact, a ton or more of stone altar might have gone crashing through the sanctuary floor to join its predecessor!

-Jim Weingartner