



Centennial Building Committee Update

History, Vision, Projects, and Timeline

May 17, 2026

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, pg 811)

Christ Church has been shining God's Light into the larger community for 95 years. We look forward to our 100th anniversary in 2031.

The Holy Spirit has used the beauty of our space and the varied gifts of our people to create the largest Episcopal Church in Wisconsin by a wide margin. This parish should have an enduring presence in the community for another 100 years.



Confirmation
July 2023

Inspired by a new lighting system at All Saints' Cathedral, and remembering projects surfaced during the 2016 Good Shepherd Project that could not be completed, I created a Centennial Building Committee with the approval of the vestry. I announced its formation at the January 2025 Annual Meeting. The group has been meeting monthly since early 2025.

Committee members include: Randy Dean (chair), Pat Algiers, Beth Durant, Bill Foote, Katie Hermann, Meredie and Tom Scrivner, and Lyn Slater.

Early in the process we pulled in Paul Barribeau, the architect who helped us with the 2017 renovation and who is also a Lutheran pastor.





After a brief history of our space, we will walk through the projects this committee has identified as top priorities. The projects improve safety, accessibility, and contribute to the experience of sacred worship.

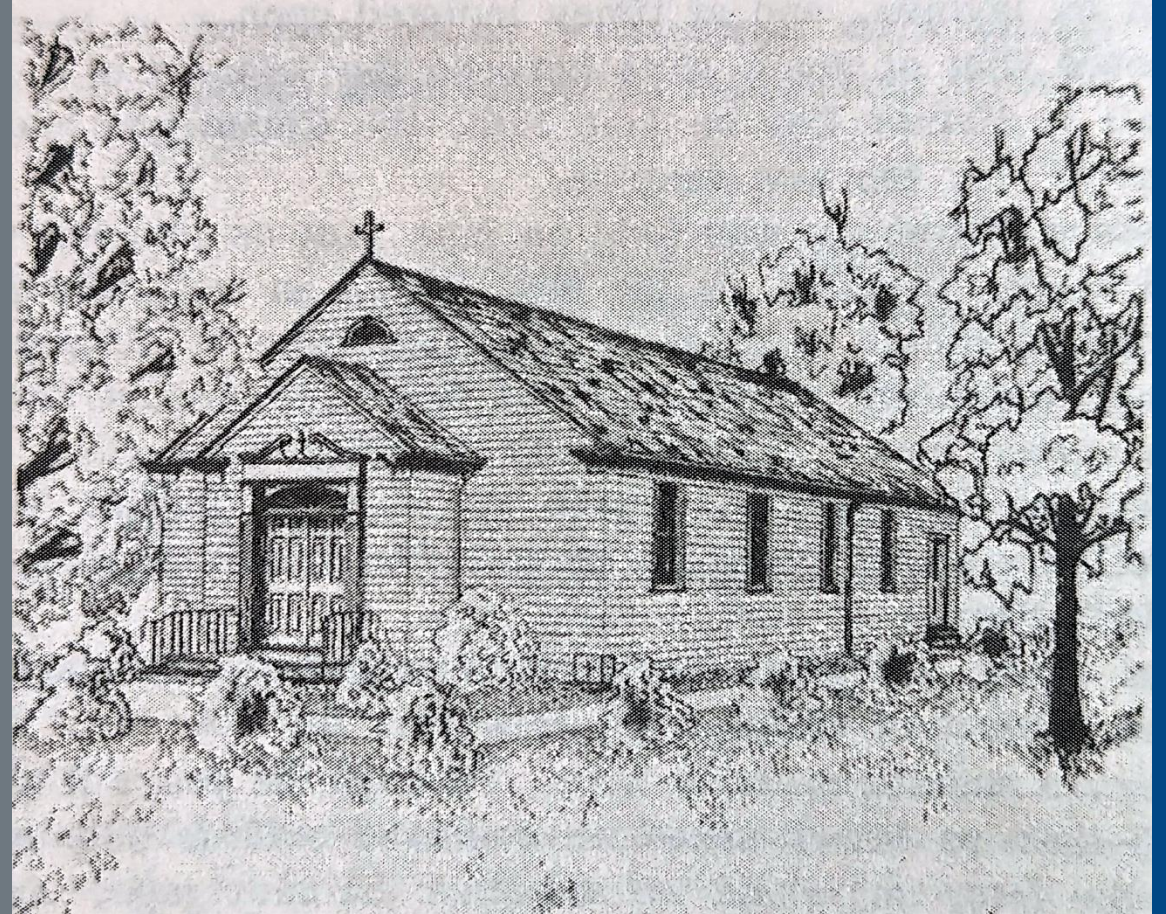
We have left significant time for your comments and questions at the end of the presentation.

September 3, 1931 Christ Church was founded as a mission church.

The first structure was “the Little White Church,” built across Beaumont St. where the Masonic Temple recently stood (now a Sendik’s parking lot).

FUN FACT: The parish would eventually sell the land across Beaumont to Sendik’s for \$1 with the handshake agreement that parishioners could use the parking lot.

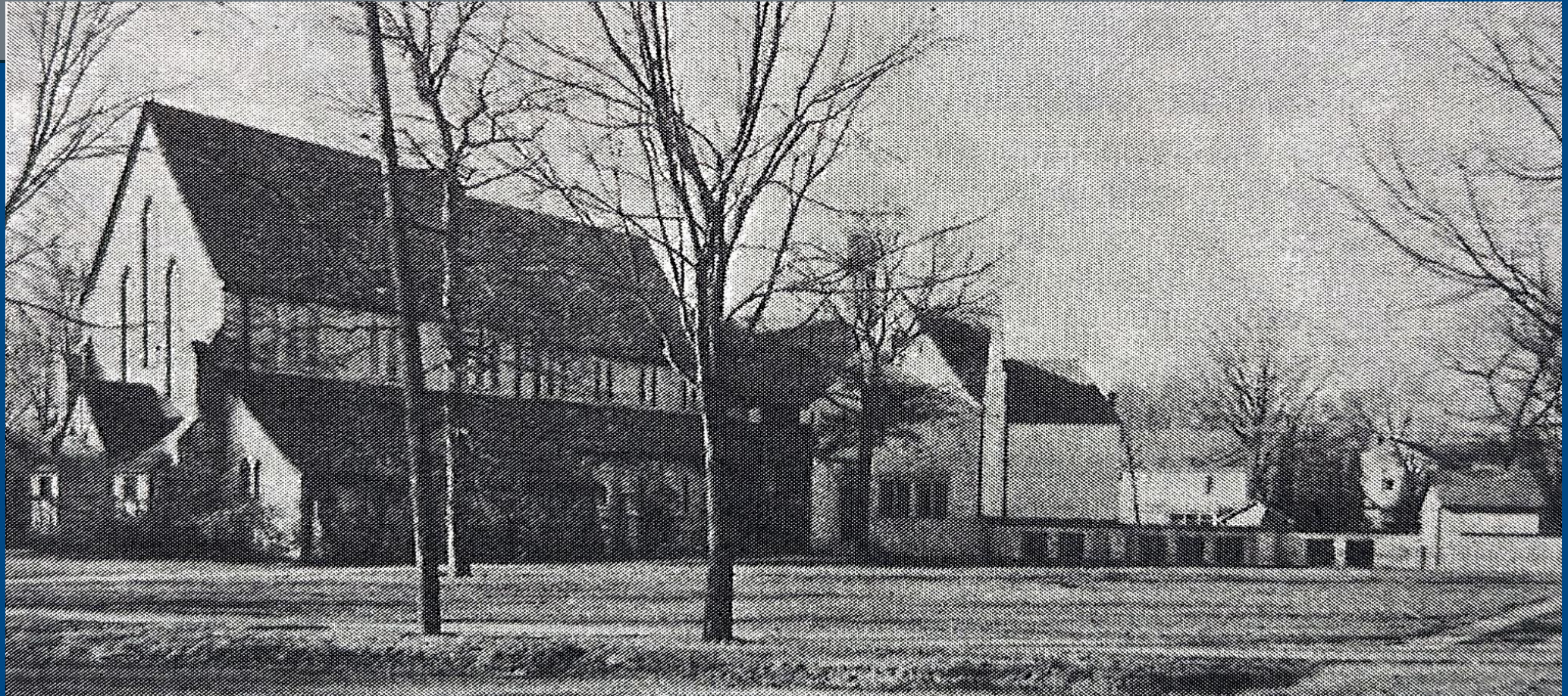
The parish grew rapidly.



In December of 1941, a church about 2/3 the size of the current structure was completed.



Expansion continued in phases into the early 1950's with the Sunday school basement area completed first.

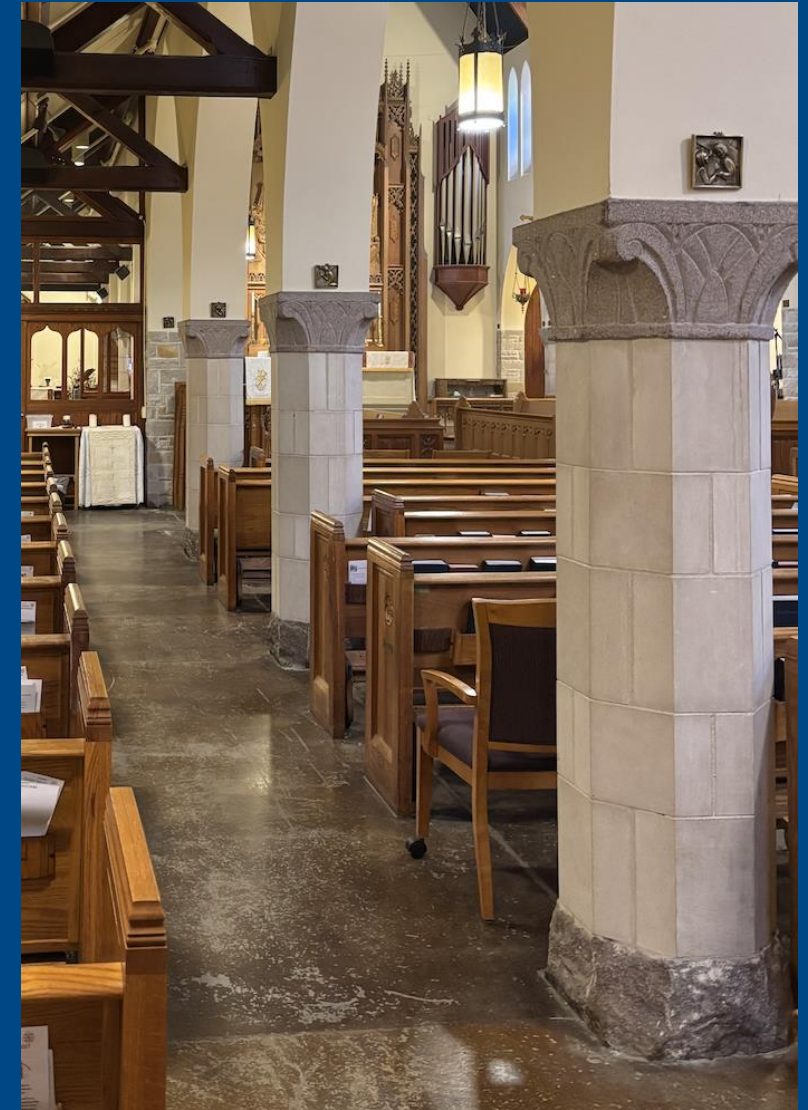


By 1956, the Great Hall and office wing were added. The nave (worship space) was expanded by a third, and a narthex (vestibule) was added.



FUN FACT:

When they expanded the space and needed to add more pillars, they could not find matching marble for the existing pillars. So they covered all the pillars in stone.



In 2017, the parish added an elevator and a gathering area (the Good Shepherd Room). We added fully-accessible bathrooms, and other improvements.

In the parish conversations leading up to the renovation, many other projects were identified but were not able to be completed.

Except for a new sound system, nothing was done in the nave. The nave has been largely untouched since its completion in 1955.



We'll begin with projects not related to the nave. We may or may not be able to complete all of them.

Nursery Area – Second Egress

The nursery was greatly improved last summer following the summer flood.

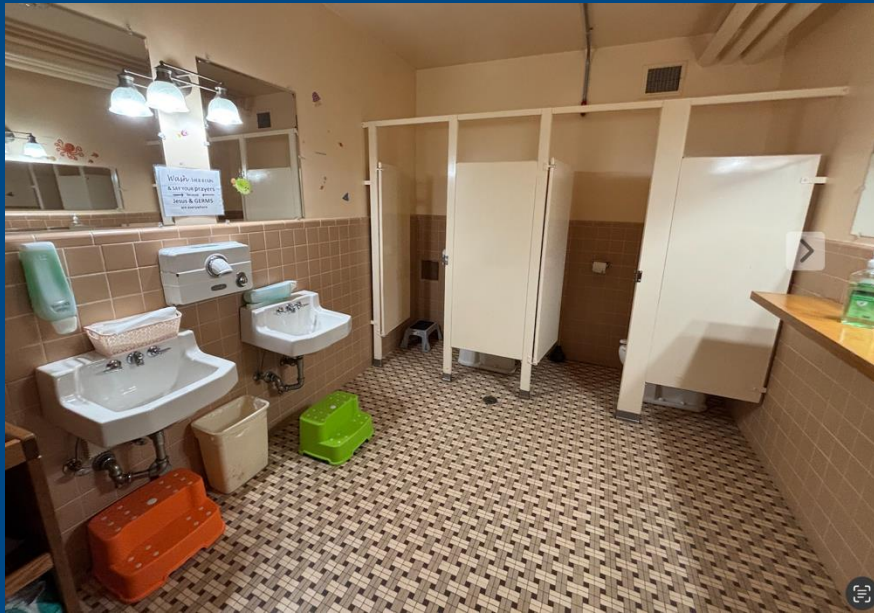
For maximum safety, the area needs a second exit. The committee and architects have worked with the village of Whitefish Bay to design a second egress through the window in the brides' room, with an exit into the garden.



Bathrooms

Not remodeled since 1956

- Nursery area below nave
- Preschool
- Office wing



Bathroom codes are complicated. Child sized fixtures, gender specifications and bathroom square footage are all taken into consideration to approve a building permit.

Great Hall Ceiling and Lighting

The 1950s ceiling tiles are deteriorating, and the light fixtures are not very bright, difficult to service with new bulbs, and quite unattractive.

We hope to address these issues and possibly choose the same fixtures for the Great Hall that are now in use in the Good Shepherd Room.



Electrical Upgrades



A number of areas of old wiring have been identified as needing upgrades for safety. Circuit breakers doubling as off-on switches must be brought to code. Fabric wrapped wiring is no longer acceptable and presents a fire hazard.

Doors into the Nave and Chapel



Both sets of doors are extremely heavy and swell quickly with moisture making them feel locked (not hospitable).

The Lake Drive doors have been serviced over the years but continue to get less functional.

We are looking at options for replacement that will retain classical character but be easier to use and maintain. And a red door!

Less Clutter in the Back of the Nave

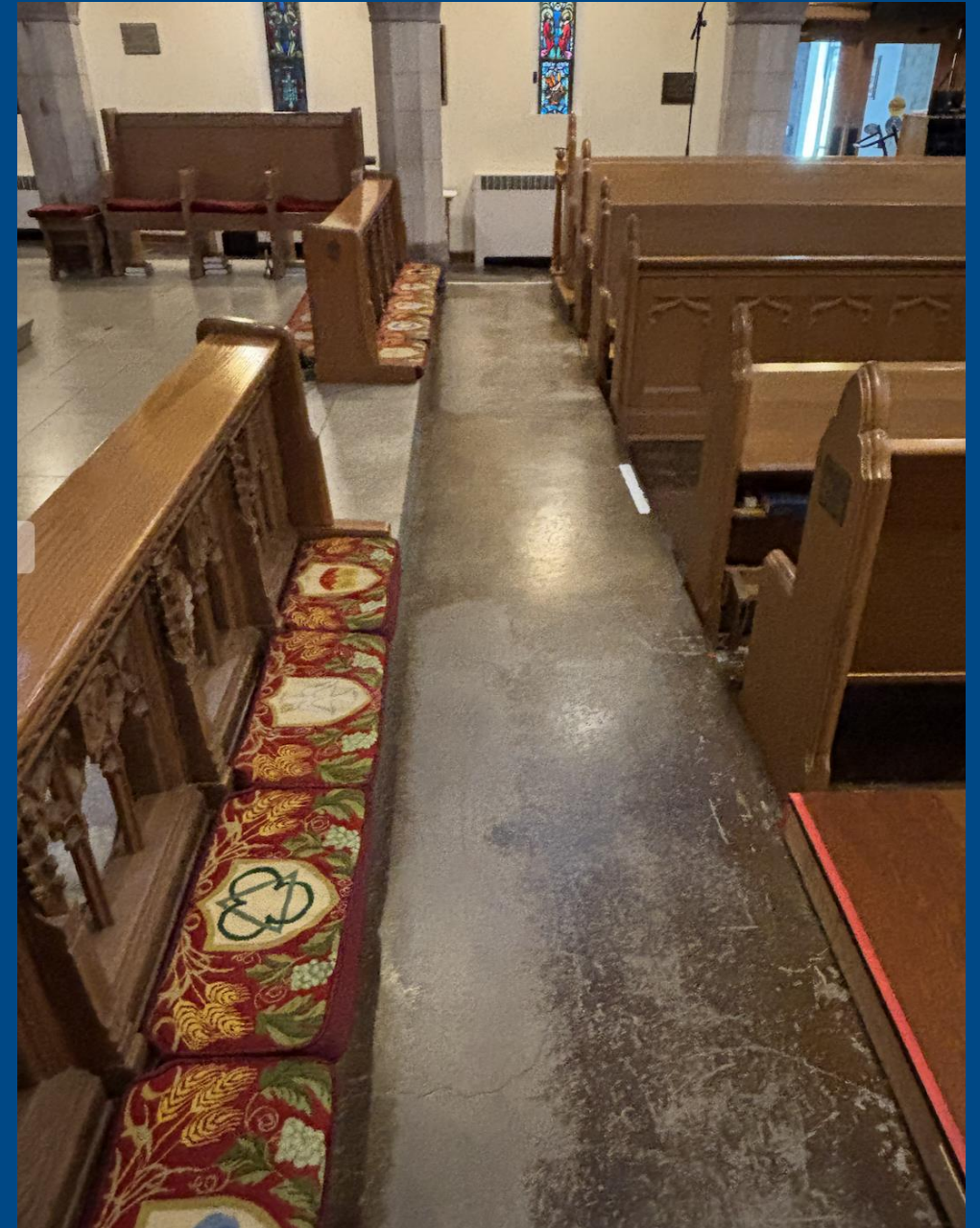
Cabinetry and other solutions could perhaps make these spaces feel more contained and less cluttered



Communion at the Rail

The 3-foot strip in front of the communion rail makes for tight quarters. People coming to receive trip over those kneeling. Those kneeling almost knock over those coming to receive when they stand.

Adding 6"-12" to this space and then sliding the pews to the east by an equal amount would make a difference.



Nave Floor

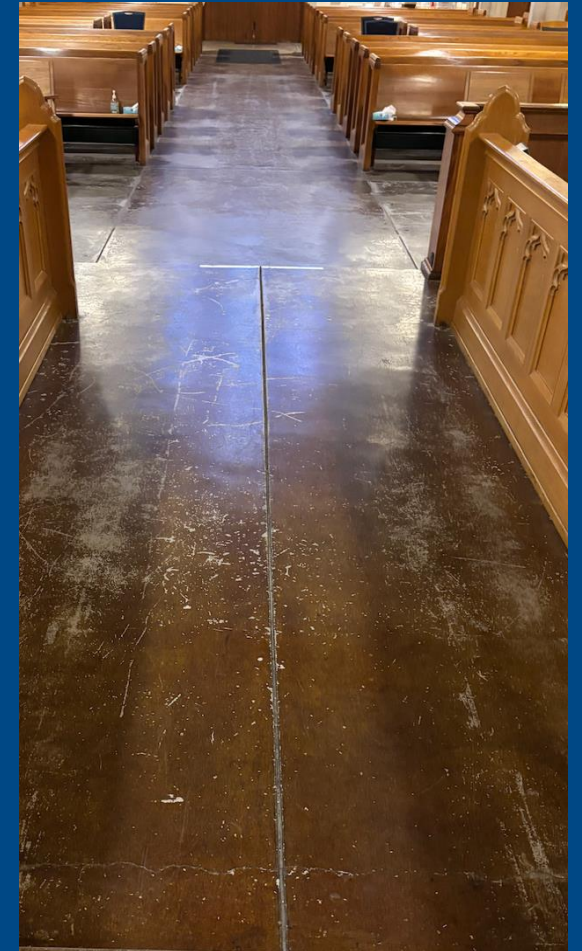
Many of us have said the worn patina of the nave floor tells a beautiful story of faithful footsteps over time.



Unfortunately, the recent removal of pews and the dragging of the baptismal font by a wayward contractor in 2014 present challenges to this view.



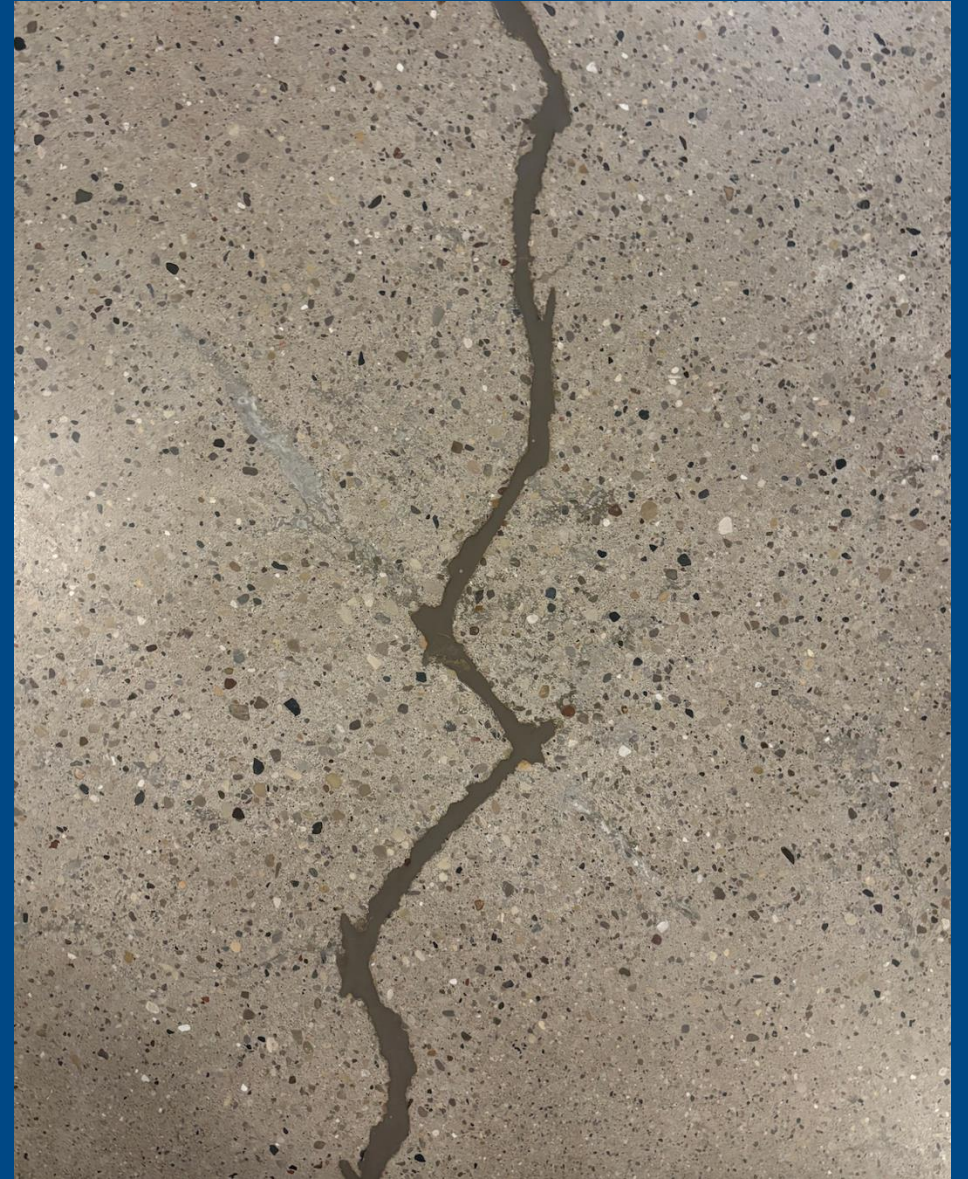
Besides the aesthetics, the floor in the chancel (choir area) has significant weakness and could soon begin to chip.



Nave Floor

We ground a sample section, hoping this was the solution.

Unfortunately, the remediation for large cracks is ugly. And there are MANY large cracks.



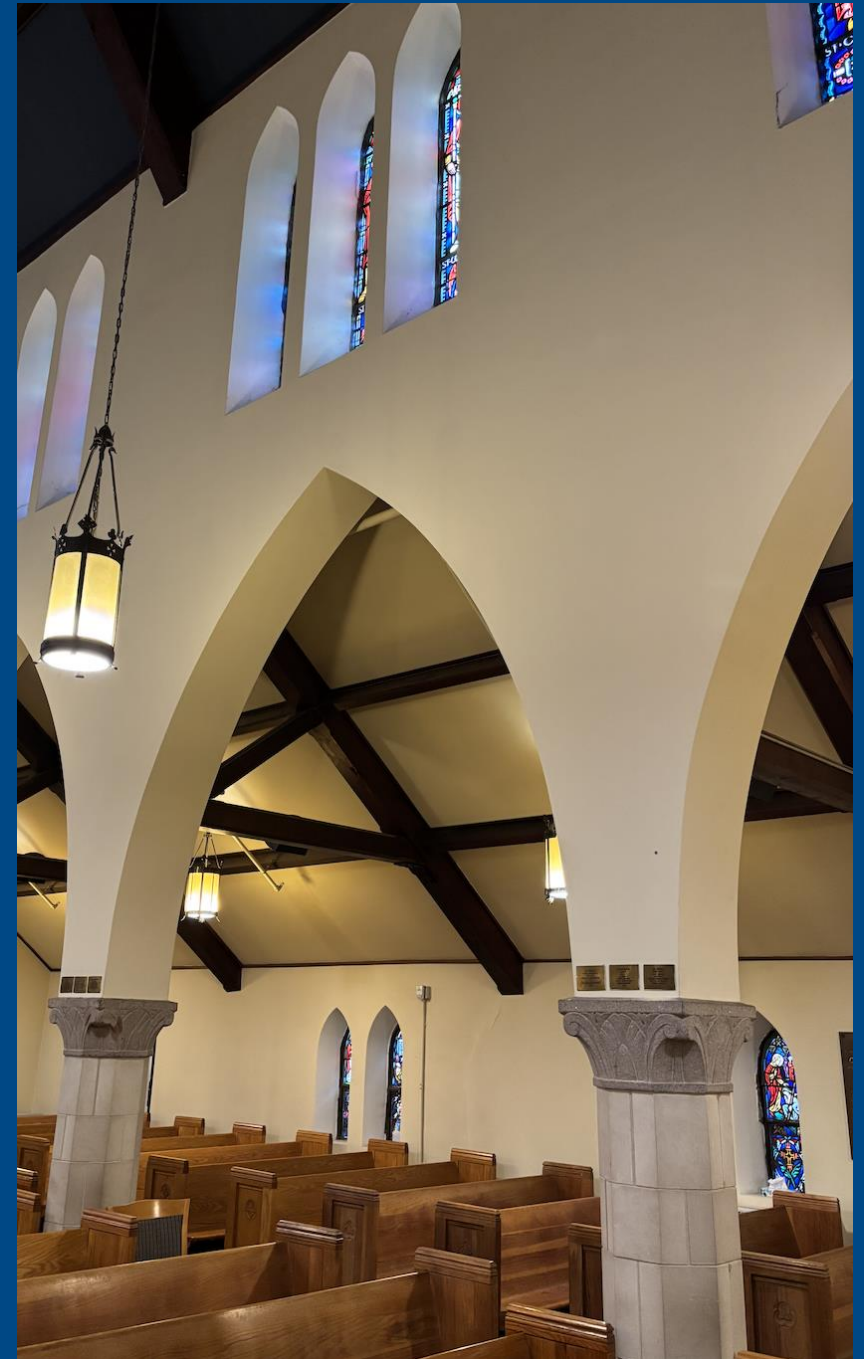
Nave Floor

After exhaustive research and consideration by the Groth Design Team, the committee has determined the floor will be large (24" x 24") ceramic tiles. These captures the depth and color of the original aggregate without the cracks.



Interior painting: walls

The nave and chapel were painted over 15 years ago. Nave color would remain a light neutral, ideally a bit lighter and brighter than the current look.



Interior Painting: Ceiling

The nave ceiling has not been painted in 50+ years.

As a committee, we've looked through many renderings of the nave with different ceilings.

The unanimous opinion is that a lighter ceiling will: 1) Lighten the whole space, 2) Draw the eye upwards to the full height of the space 3) Draw out the beauty of the large, stained beams 4) Showcase the unique beauty of our windows.

A renderings of the nave with this lighter ceiling appears near the end of the presentation.



Lighting in the Nave

All Saints' Cathedral upgraded their lighting system 10 years ago; it transformed the space. Mostly pleased, the dean said they should have hired a lighting designer.



Lighting in the Nave

We've hired a professional lighting designer. She came at 10am to take light readings of our space. Candles = Brightness

Nave: 20 foot-candles (standard)

Current reading: 4 foot-candles. (For 15 years people have been telling me the space is too dark to read the BCP/hymnal/bulletin).

Chancel 40 foot-candles (standard)

Current Reading: 5 foot-candles

Altar/Sanctuary: 50 foot-candles (standard)

Current Reading: 10 foot-candles

”Essentially your worship space is about 85% darker than it should be.”



Lighting in the Nave

Liturgy has a theatrical element, and lighting is an essential part of creating sacred experiences.

Spotlights are sparse, cheap, or dangerous

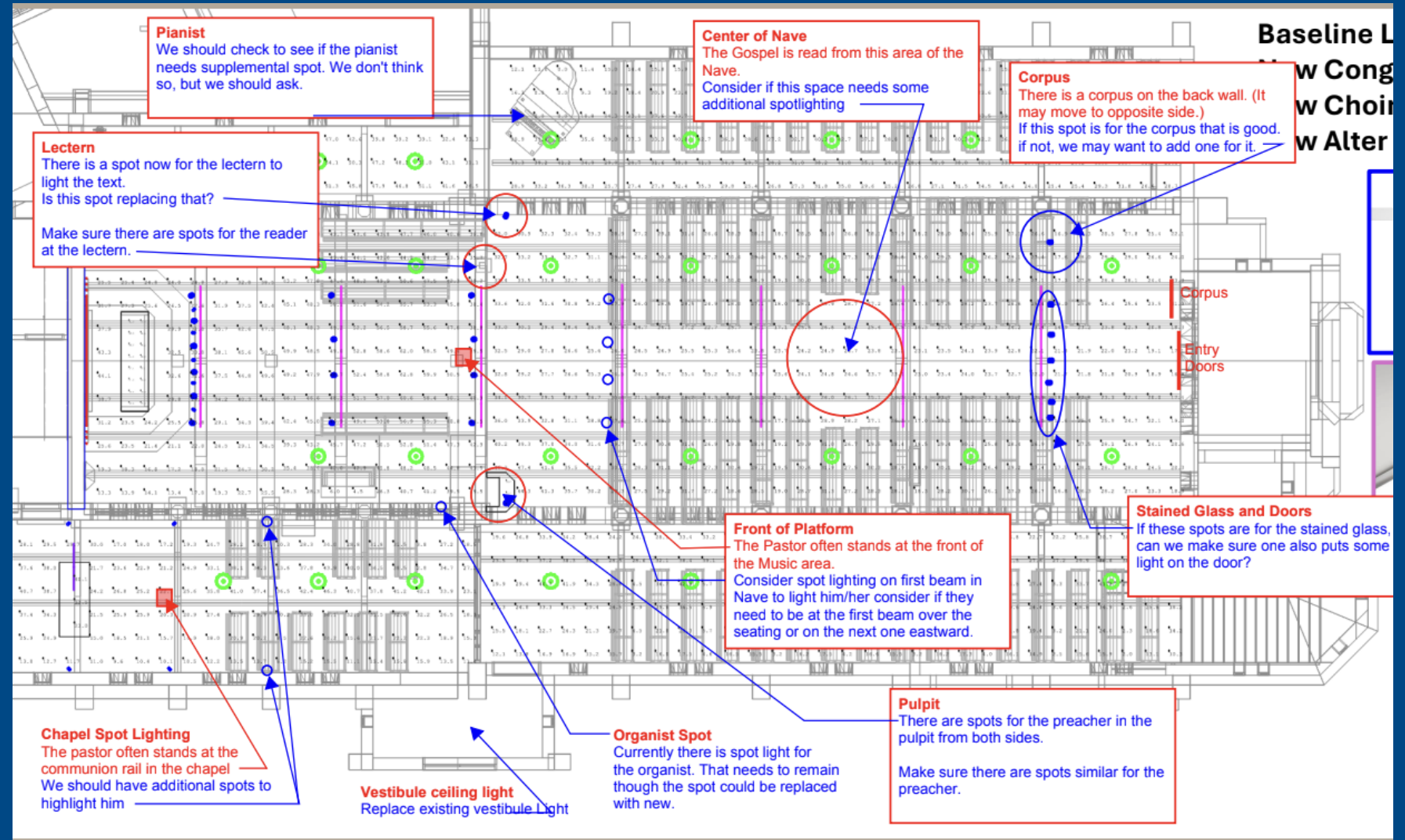


Only a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the lights are currently dimmable



Lighting in the Nave

We are aiming for a comprehensive lighting plan to make the interior sparkle and to provide maximum flexibility and functionality.







Cost

An anonymous \$50,000 gift is funding the planning of this project. We have construction cost numbers from the general contractor for these projects.

We believe that Christ Church is in a strong position in terms of membership and generosity.

The full array of projects would cost in the **range of \$1.5 to \$1.7 million.** A capital campaign beginning in early 2027. We need your thoughts!

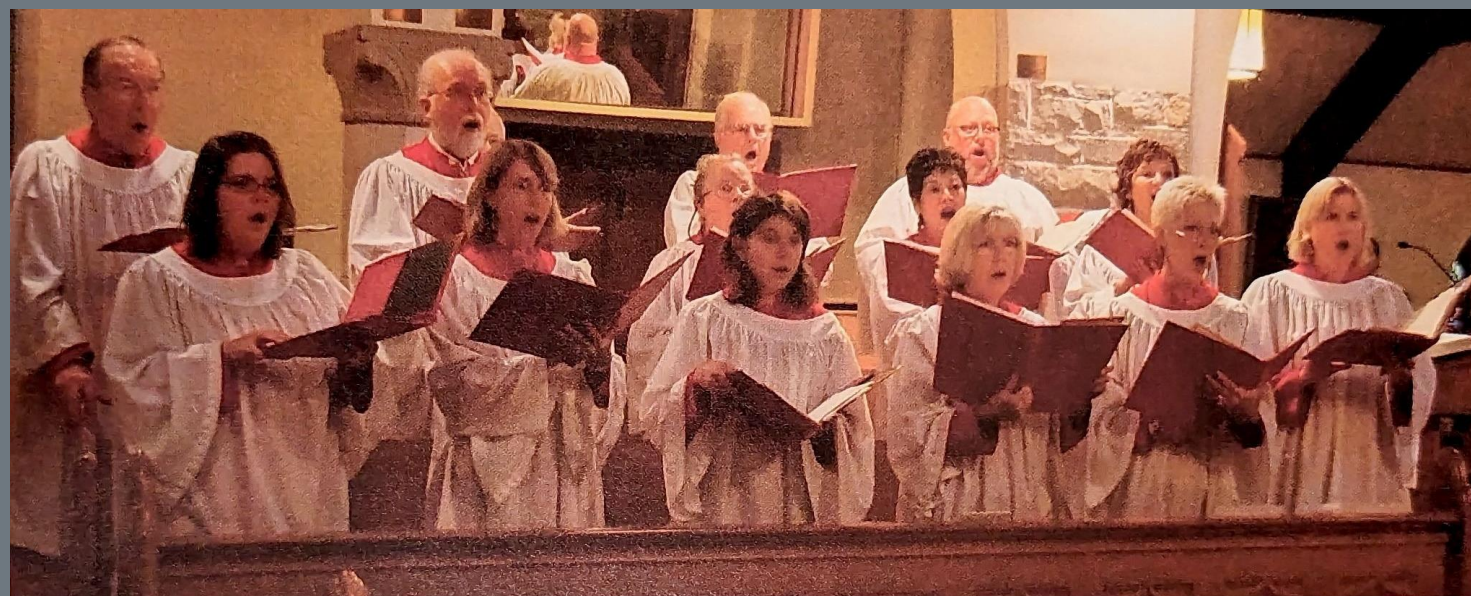


Timeline

We hope the work could begin in the **spring of 2027**, with a return to the nave by Advent 2027.

In the interim, we would worship outdoors whenever possible, and we would outfit the Great Hall to be as attractive and functional a space for worship as we can make it.

Choir 2008



A Final Push for Future Generations

We marvel and give thanks for those who bestowed on us a magnificent space for worship, learning and fellowship. But there is still work that must be done.

Doors won't open, the lights are too low, the floor will begin chipping, the electrical system is old. The question is not *should* we do these things, but *who will shoulder the responsibility* for doing them? Will we be the ones?

And if we take on that which must be done, can we also make this space absolutely shine, so that we can be an even brighter beacon of God's grace for generations to come?



Your comments
and questions
are most
welcome!

