

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
Chapel Space Committee  
First Interim Report  
July, 2009

On April 14, the vestry asked Mother Mary Kate and Matt Clark to assemble a Chapel Space Committee of six to eight people to “consider the needs of our worship spaces” and report back to the vestry with specific recommendations.

The committee members are: Mother Mary Kate, Matt Clark, Courtney Chapman, Greta Frohbieter, Bill Kaempfer, Diane Perry, Robert Rogers and David Varra. As of this writing, Greta Frohbieter has resigned from the Committee. Mother Kay Cook, Father Dustin Berg, and Don Burt have also participated on an ex-officio basis. Bill Sweeney has acted as facilitator for the Committee. After three meetings, the committee has this interim report:

The chapel is our busiest room with the most varied uses. It is a symbol of our welcoming and hospitality, and the first impression of most newcomers. Among other things, the chapel is used for daily services, for Taizé services, for Canterbury services, for some weddings and funerals, for musical performances, for AA and other group meetings, as an assembly area for families at funerals, and for many special worship services, including Easter Vigil and All Souls.

For the short term, we have recommended to and worked with the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Arts, History, Memorials and Columbarium committee to start specific actions to improve the chapel space this summer, with an expectation that these steps are likely to be followed by additional changes in the next year or two. Steps have included:

- Removal of the old carpet
- Refinishing of the concrete floor
- Re-carpeting of the raised sanctuary area
- Removal of the pulpit
- Movement of the altar rail to the lip of the sanctuary step

We will also be looking into the establishment of a labyrinth on the chapel floor, for use in various contemplative prayer and worship practices.

As a next step, we will be considering the use of the furniture in the chapel, and the potential for replacement of the present chairs. In the longer term we will be considering the whole chapel space and potential improvements that would support or enhance the many kinds of usage we already have and perhaps inspire new uses.