

# PLYMOUTH CHURCH

## DESIGN TASK FORCE UPDATE

as of 9/5/2023

Dear Plymouth Members,

Thank you so much for your patience as we navigated this extensive and necessary renovation of our beloved sanctuary. In just 15 weeks so much was achieved—and there is still more to come!

### COMPLETED between JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 1

#### \*CHANDELIER

Our chandelier was beautifully restored, with every piece repolished for a new gleaming satin brass finish. Worn segments were repaired, and it was fully re-wired for much-needed fire prevention.

#### \*ACCESSIBILITY

Our sanctuary is now more ***inclusive and welcoming for everyone***, now featuring:

- Accessible seating areas throughout the space.
- Powered doors in both the front and rear of the sanctuary, providing seamless entry and exit for everyone.

#### \*IMPROVED WORSHIP SPACE

The ***pew removal*** also included creating more egress in the front. This now provides breathing room for an improved worship experience, particularly for elements such as:

- Children to gather for the Children's Sermon
- Families to gather for baptisms
- Communion
- Choirs and musicians to deliver musical pieces

#### \*PEW CUSHIONS

The ***pews cushions on the ground floor*** of the sanctuary have all been replaced with new cushions. (The existing cushions had been in place since 1958!)

#### \*STORAGE

We now have ***beautiful cabinetry*** all along the rear of the sanctuary, carefully crafted to match the historic design of the space. We are now able to store materials for worship *in situ*!

#### \*ELECTRICAL

- ***New lighting panel***: Replacing our hazardous circuit breaker system, we now have a much safer (and quieter!) lighting panel in the rear of the sanctuary.
- ***New electrical service in cellar***: More electrical service was brought in ( $\frac{1}{3}$  for Sanctuary;  $\frac{2}{3}$  for Hillis Hall) so that when we address the additional electrical upgrades for both of these buildings, the additional power is in place.

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## **SURPRISES!!**

No construction project would be complete without at least one surprise! We were not exempt.

### **Yikes Surprises! :-O**

A very serendipitous finding was that ***the brick arch that supports the Narthex was buckling!*** Were we not undertaking this renovation, this buckling would have likely gone unnoticed and become a safety hazard. The moment it was noticed, it was immediately shored up and a plan was put in place to restore the Narthex underbelly with steel beams and concrete support.

### **Hooray Surprises! :-))**

In the excavation process, we found:

- ***Beautiful brickwork*** from the 1870s in the zone of the cellar believed to be the coal heating system
- ***Old well*** that used to provide water up to where now resides the Usher's Closet in the Narthex.

These historic areas are being carefully preserved so that they, and the new infrastructure, can co-exist.

## **COMING SOON...**

**Carpet Runners Mon 9/11/2023 - Tues 9/12/2023:** These will be installed in accessible areas and in front of the cabinetry to mitigate tripping hazards. Runners will stay in place until these areas are carpeted in late November.

**Cellar Support Work Early-to-mid October:** This very necessary steel/concrete shoring work will continue throughout September to resolve the support the Narthex underbelly needs.

**Pipe Organ Mid-October:** Should the foundation work remain on schedule, we look forward to having our beloved pipe organ uncovered and restored for use for Sunday Worship in late October!

**FULL Carpet Ground Floor Late Nov - Early Dec:** The final piece of this sanctuary renovation is slated to take place in late November, getting beautiful new carpet on the ground level! We look forward to welcoming the Christmas season in style!

## **YOUR DOLLARS @ WORK**

It is thanks to your generosity that we were able to undertake this much-needed renovation of our beloved sanctuary. We appreciate your commitment to Plymouth and your patience throughout this renovation process so that we may have a beautiful and welcoming sanctuary to our members and the community at large.

***Thank you!***