

# *Christ Church*

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of East Carolina

## **Sacred Sound and Space Happenings!**

Exciting things will be happening in our worship space over the next few months. The Vestry has approved a plan to move a number of the Sacred Sound and Space projects, originally scheduled for 2021, ahead by a year. This decision takes advantage of our unfortunate inability to use the Nave for worship due to the ongoing pandemic and is possible now because sufficient payments on pledges have already been received to fund these projects.

But before describing the upcoming work we should take a moment to note what has already been accomplished. The balcony has been reinforced to correct an existing structural problem and to ensure it can support the new organ. The lighting in the Nave has been significantly improved. And the carpet in the Chancel has been replaced by a beautiful new heart pine floor. Not only is the new floor beautiful, those that know about such things have observed that the improvement in acoustics is noticeable.

So, what is going to be happening?

In early October all the pews will be removed from the Nave by the company that is going to refinish and refurbish them. This will be followed by the construction of scaffolding that will allow workers to reach the ceiling. Over a period of weeks workers will use a combination of screws and nails to better attach loose boards and trim to the ceiling joists. Other workers will install reinforcement above the ceiling in the attic. The several gaps in the ceiling will be filled in. We will also take advantage of the scaffolding to both clean the ceiling and refresh the stain. The work on the ceiling will not only improve the acoustics in the Nave but also the ceiling's appearance. And, while we are at it, we will put insulation above the ceiling, the first time there has ever been energy-saving insulation there.

While the pews are out we will repaint the brown wainscoting and will also take advantage of the scaffolding to give the walls on either side of the Nave a fresh coat of paint.

Having the pews out will allow us to remove the worn carpet and restore the heart pine floor in the Nave. We anticipate that the restored floor will be as beautiful as the restored heart pine floor in the Narthex. Not only will our restored floor be beautiful, it will also significantly improve the acoustics in the Nave.

While all this work is going on we will also replace the failing lighting control panel, another Sacred Sound and Space project, and relocate it from the balcony to the Narthex.

Assuming everything happens on schedule, the work should be completed and our refurbished pews reinstalled in the Nave by early February.

After the above work has been completed the remaining Sacred Sound and Space projects will be structural changes in the balcony related to the installation of our magnificent new organ and the installation of the organ itself, The Main Event! This work will be done in late 2022 and early 2023.

Look for pictures of all the work described above as it progresses.

And thank you for your prayers and your financial support for both the Annual Stewardship Campaign and the Sacred Sound and Space campaign.

Sincerely,

Bob Emory  
*SSS Chair*

Jean Reichenbach  
*Rector*

The Rev. Paul Canady  
*Rector*

*September 18, 2020*