

New Altar for Hope

In the beginning (1972), Hope was designed as a church in the round, with a large hexagonal altar in the center of the worship space, and congregational seating all around the altar. This architectural design was appropriate, since the altar represents Jesus and our worship of him. We are fed each week from his table. Placing the altar in the center of the worshipping community reminded us to keep Jesus at the center of our lives. As folks gathered for worship, they also were very aware of others in the sanctuary, since they sat essentially in a circle. It was a good thing, to be so easily reminded that all present are members of the same body of Christ. As the congregation grew, the worship space was enlarged and the altar was moved to a new chancel at the front of the building. Since that move, several pastors have wished for the hexagonal altar to be replaced with a rectangular one. Many parishioners do not realize it, but the pastor standing behind the altar has a point in her or his belly because of the hexagonal shape. At recent meetings, the Worship and Music

Committee and Congregational Council approved the building of a new altar with a budget of about \$250.

The Endowment Committee authorized a donation of \$250 for the materials of the new altar.

Hans Witter uses his God-given gifts to create beautiful worship furnishings, and we are excited to see his latest creation.

The new altar will be made of cedar, to match the horizontal wood trim behind the chancel, and the cross which hangs above the current altar. It will have space for one parament (seasonal hanging) instead of two, and a hidden shelf for storage of extra napkins and other items.

On September 28 at the end of worship at both services, the hexagonal altar will be undedicated so it can be removed from the building. At the beginning of worship at both services on October 5 the new altar will be dedicated for our use.

October 5 is World Communion Sunday, a day when congregations and folks around the world recognize that we all worship the same Lord and share in the same meal.

Join us October 5TH for the dedication of the new altar, and every week to share in this meal of love and forgiveness.