

PLACE OF FAITH

THE CHURCH

UPSTAIRS

The Sanctuary/ The Worship Space

On February 11, 1996 at the Annual General Meeting Ron Corrigan from the Building Committee reported that “our big project was the re-pointing and sealing of the front and south side walls of the church. Elk Valley masonry did the work for us and it appears the workmanship is excellent. The north wall still remains to be done, but it is not critical so we have time to do it. The estimated cost for that wall is 12 to 14 thousand dollars.” He asked “for volunteers in the spring to remove the lexan on the south side so we can wash the inner side of it and the windows.” He also commented that “we still have to come up with some ideas to convert the furnace room into office space.”

Woodwork

- Keith Macken handcrafted much of the woodwork in the sanctuary: the altar rail (1968) “as a thank offering to God,” the candle holders, and the paschal candle. Mr. Macken and his wife Margaret were very involved in serving the church along with their good friends Ann and James Carnwath, and he is remembered for often saying “The Lord works in mischievous ways his blunders to perform!”
- Current Pulpit... (need information) Speaking of pulpits, the pulpit of the second “English” church (built after the 1904 fire) was designed by Honeyman and Curtis Architects (Vancouver). In a letter to Rev’d Ernest Bartlett, enclosing sketches for said pulpit, the company writes: “We believe your interests would be better served by having the Pulpit built under our supervision here... We think \$70 will cover the cost and the work could be sent “knock down” ready to be put into place at Fernie.”
- The Wooden font comes from the Anglican Church in Michel, via St. Barbara’s, Sparwood.
- The wooden handrail on the left side going up to the altar was added in 2017 to assist people in going up to or down from the altar. It was designed by Graham Fowler and crafted from redwood by Annie Labrie of Fernie.

Stained Glass

Triptych Over Altar

At the front of the church is a triptych of Jesus in which Jesus is seen with outstretched arms (Come unto me...), knocking (Lo, I stand at the door...) and sowing (A sower went out to sow...). This window was given to the Glory of God, and in memory of Edwy Kenny Stewart and Mary Nash

Stewart. The Stewarts, parents to Kenny Stewart (wife, Margaret), were known as “southenders” (the south end of Fernie being where “white collar” workers lived) and were very important in the town and in the church. Mrs. Stewart died in 1960.

Three Fish

This window faces Fourth Avenue and is found in the entrance or gathering space of the church. It was dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Wilfred Robert Williams, Eric Arthur Williams, and Mark Alexander LaGroix on 10 October 2015 by Reverend Dr. Yme Woensdregt, Regional Dean of the Anglican Diocese of Kootenay.

It, based on a design found in a Welsh mural by Linda (Williams) LaGroix, was created by local artist Stephanie Rogers. It features three fish swimming upstream in a river of sapphire clear glass. When asked about the significance of the design, Linda (Williams) LaGroix commented, “Well, to begin with three is a holy number for Christians as it embodies the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Second, the window is in memory of three family members – my father, brother, and son – and third, they all loved to fish. Fishing is a huge part of Fernie in the summer, and of course, fish are also symbolic for Christians.”

Music

- Christ Church has both an organ (rarely played) and a piano. Pianists over the years have included Jim Bosworth, Rachel Girou, Lenore Northy, Barb Koseic, Diane Stothers, and Edith Ritchie.
- Mr. Jim Bosworth was colourful. Mrs. Evelyn McKinnon remembers that one Christmas Eve Mr. Bosworth was missing as the service time drew closer and closer. Mr. Keith Macken (warden of the day) went and retrieved Mr. Bosworth from the Fernie Hotel ...and the service then began complete with the traditional beautiful carols impeccably played by Mr. Bosworth. Ms. Edith Ritchie remembers that Mr. Bosworth could play anything! He was also known to shave before services in front of a small mirror in the kitchen downstairs, much to the Mother’s Union and ACW ladies’ dismay.

THE FRONT STEPS -- as seen in this pen and ink drawing done in 1979 by Sandy Lightfoot and donated by Edith Ritchie. On Facebook, when this picture was posted in August 2018, the following memories emerged:

Ms. Dianne Anderson: I so remember those old concrete steps and the railings...great place to sit. Weddings, funerals, baptisms...memories!

Ms. Barbara Yaeger: ... waiting to attend choir practice & other fun activities

ENCLOSED FRONT ENTRANCE

The front entrance was changed in 1980. Notes on the blueprints, created by Taylor (from Jaffray) and dated 25 June 1980, indicate that 3 Sisters Construction did the job for \$13,760. The porch was removed on Monday August 25, and the construction started on September 2 and was completed by September 30. Bricks from the Fernie Firehall became available so volunteers hauled, cleaned and sorted this. Mr. Davies of Cranbrook was hired to install the brick facing in 1981.

DOWNSTAIRS

Church Hall

Office Addition (date to be confirmed)

Originally the Church Hall did not have an office. Instead the church office was in the front room of the rectory with files being stored in the raised, dry portion of the basement. At one point, one of our ministers asked if the office could be moved. He and his family found it difficult to have people coming in and out of their home to access files, etc. And so the parish worked to make it so. Keith Macken, Wilf Williams, Jack Buchanan were part of the volunteer construction crew.

Addition of Lift / Wheelchair Accessible Bathrooms / Remodelling of Kitchen (early 2000s)

Graham Fowler acted as the Construction Manager for this major renovation to the church, which has allowed accessibility to the upper worship space and the lower fellowship hall. Graham comments, "It was a great project, it was a time of total church community collaboration and we had a lot of fun working on it. "