

Sundays in 2020 at St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis Maryland

Sundays starting in March 2020 and continuing through April and into May have been unlike any other Sundays in the church's now nearly 328 year history. Not since 1986 when SMC's church building underwent enhanced restoration were Holy Week and Easter services held outside the *1895 Church* building. In 19986 parishioners and guests could at least gather on campus in the stark, unimproved, and unwelcoming parish hall to sit on cold, hard metal folding chairs. SMC attendance was small and the parish hall easily accommodated the Easter crowd.

Easter 2020 was online: the church rebuilt and completely renovated by Christmas 1986 was empty as was the parish hall, the Formation Building, and the parking lots and on-street parking.

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic emptied the churches worldwide. Even the 1918 flu pandemic did not close the churches in Annapolis for more than two weeks. St. Anne's Parish and the mission churches St. Phillip's and St. Luke's closed for two weeks at the end of October 1918. No records were found for other churches, other Episcopal churches in Anne Arundel County outside the city of Annapolis.

As churches closed their doors in 2020, technology that was never imagined in 1918 (or even 1986) brought churches including SMC into the homes of parishioners and guests using Skype, Zoom, Facebook, Youtube, ConnectWise, BlueJeans, Webex Meetings, TeamViewer, GoToMeeting, Life-size, Sharepoint, GoToWebinar, Fuze, Google Hangouts, Adobe Connect, Uber Conference, join.me, GlobalMeet Collaboration, Blackboard Collaborate, Highfive, Amazon Chime, Whereby, Blizz, ClickMeeting, and many, many other meeting sites.

SMC began distance worship at the end of March, responding to the requirements set by the Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland and the Governor of the State of Maryland. The setting SMC chose for broadcast is known as the choir narthex or the north narthex.

This narthex was added to the 1895 church during the 1986 Enhanced Restoration. It mirrors the south narthex or education building narthex added to the 1895 church in 1958 when the education classroom building was added.





What jumps out first is *The Willie Window* given to SMC in 1917 by Mrs. William H. Singleton in memory of her infant son Willie Duvall Singleton (1886). From 1917 until 1985 the window was located above the east-facing altar at the front of the church. At times the window was covered by drapery to avoid the puti-face peering down upon the celebrant and the congregation. The window was relocated in 1986 with a gift from Betty Schminke in memory of her husband George. The Wille Window rests atop the Auld Lang Syne window also relocated in 1986.

Also apparent is the banner created for the SMC 300th anniversary celebration in 1992. At the left side of the photo is The Paschal Candle stand given in 1986 by the late Cliff and Helen Falkeneau. The processional cross pictured is the 2009 processional cross given by Marge Reeves in memory of her late husband Ed.

The organ was given by members of SMC in 1992 as the result of an all out fund raising effort.

Note the step on the right side of the photo. Before 1986 the chancel was not raised except for a linoleum layer added in the 1940s.

Most everything else pictured came from gifts that are recorded — except the vases on the table and the table itself. The table is an ubiquitous piece of furniture that has served many uses for many years. Its origin is not known — likely a donated piece of furniture that the donors felt belonged at SMC and they were right.

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SMC History & Archives Project

A complete program showing all gifts received by SMC from 1713 to 2017 is available on request from Mike Winn.