

## SOUND AND SENSE

This was actually the title of one of the books I used in Senior English in high school—it was a study of poetry (the equivalent on short stories was called *Story and Structure*; they actually still in print). But the point for this essay is what goes on inside the church building at Our Savior. You might also say, what goes on & in, inside the church building... Let's review the history.

In January, responding to continuous comments on the difficulty of hearing and understanding the proclaimed and preached word in church, a consultant from Bose in Atlanta came to do a study of our acoustics. His full and extremely detailed analysis was sent to us in June. Two major recommendations were acoustic tile treatments to absorb echo, and re-alignment of our overhead speakers. Thanks to a special fund we had set up from designated gifts, we had the funds to do this, and the work has just been completed.

You will notice a bit of color-contrast in the church now (a contrast that is pleasant to look at, according to many who have spoken to me). Along the back walls, and on the sides around the windows, these panels have been installed. They look decorative, but we hope their form and function will both be effective for us.

More has been added to the church: thanks to a donation from Holy Spirit church in Montgomery and another designated gift, we now have a 2<sup>nd</sup>, a complementary, hymnal in our pews—*Gather*. Especially with its settings of Mass parts and of Psalms, this will give us additional flexibility in worship. We will need a new board to post the numbers (we're working on this), and we'll have to be able to designate between the two hymnals (a simple J or G should do the trick). But ours will be the most beautiful worship we can produce, to give glory to God and to build up our own faith so that it truly becomes more and more “faith in action.”

This is and always must be our goal for our celebrations of Eucharist: to be clear and understandable, to be fed from the Scriptures as proclaimed, and to engage in worship as fully as possible, to be strengthened for the business of the week, which is to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Let's sing and listen well!