



**Central Stairs**



**Upper Plaza**



**Usher Closet**

## CENTRAL STAIRS, UPPER PLAZA, USHER CLOSET

### ***What was here before the renovation?***

- The top of the stairs was the Court of Flags that was framed by tall, hollow columns that defined the space. The Court of Flags featured doors that exited onto a small upper plaza. Below the Sanctuary there was a two-story stage.
- The patio was narrow and featured a cement wall at the outer edge. The membrane below the Plaza had disintegrated causing water penetration into all areas below, including the Columbarium, adjacent hallways, and mechanical rooms.
- The Usher Closet was a very small room adjacent to the old elevator in what is now the enlarged Welcome Center.

### ***What's changed?***

#### **Central Stairs:**

- The former stage in Stone Hall was removed and structural steel framing installed to pour a new concrete floor that connects the former north and south mezzanines. The stairs were constructed to easily access all levels and be close to our new Garden Rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- The stair structure is steel with terrazzo treads to match the Sanctuary level floors. The glass guardrails of the staircase enable light to reflect and open up what was previously a dark mezzanine level.
- At the Sanctuary level, the columns were removed to open up the space and lights were inserted into the bottom of the columns.
- The chandelier, removed from our former church and installed here in 1969, was cleaned and re-wired for LED lighting. An electric winch was installed to easily re-position and maintain the chandelier in the future.
- Considerable insulation and piping were re-positioned in the mechanical room to accommodate the new staircase.
- Area rugs (matching those in the Welcome Center) have been placed on the second level central stairs lobby to minimize sound and to prevent slipping on our new floors.

### Upper Plaza:

- The old plaza was demolished and a new membrane placed to ensure the Plaza no longer leaked.
- The enlarged Plaza over the new Garden Rooms features pavers and a glass wall that overlooks the fountain garden.
- The planters have new trees and plants. Patio benches will be added in the future.

### Usher Closet:

- The Usher Closet moved into the former First Aid room. Extensive cabinets were installed for storage of supplies.

### ***Interesting tidbits:***

- Considerable planning occurred to ensure a clear view of the fountain from the Sanctuary level.
- We had to cut through two existing 18-inch thick concrete walls to build the bridge that connects the Central Stairs to the new Garden Rooms.
- The chandelier can be lowered all the way down to the Sanctuary level floor for easier access to clean and repair.

