



The Norman Chapel at Historic Spring Grove

The Romanesque-Norman designed chapel was designed by famous Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford in 1879. The structure is made of rough-hewn limestone and Bedford, Indiana limestone. Note the intricately carved stonework on the exterior.

The interior of the Norman Chapel is impressive. Carved wooden beams support the ceiling, inset with deep blue panels. The blue color scheme with soft lighting was suggested by a former Spring Grove director. Black Belgium marble from New York paves the chapel floor with Bedford limestone in the vestibule and freestone in the cellar. The bronze doors on each side of the altar were completed by a team of 75 artisans with bas-relief panels of biblical scenes of the resurrection of Lazarus and of Christ. The revival of the widow's son the Ascension, the healing of the paralytic, and the rising of Jabirus' daughter are also depicted on the doors. Spring Grove board minutes from August 4, 1881 states that "while in New York, (Henry) Probasco contracted with Moffit & Doyle designers for models of bronze figures (2 of which have been paid for at \$175.00 each) for the chapel."

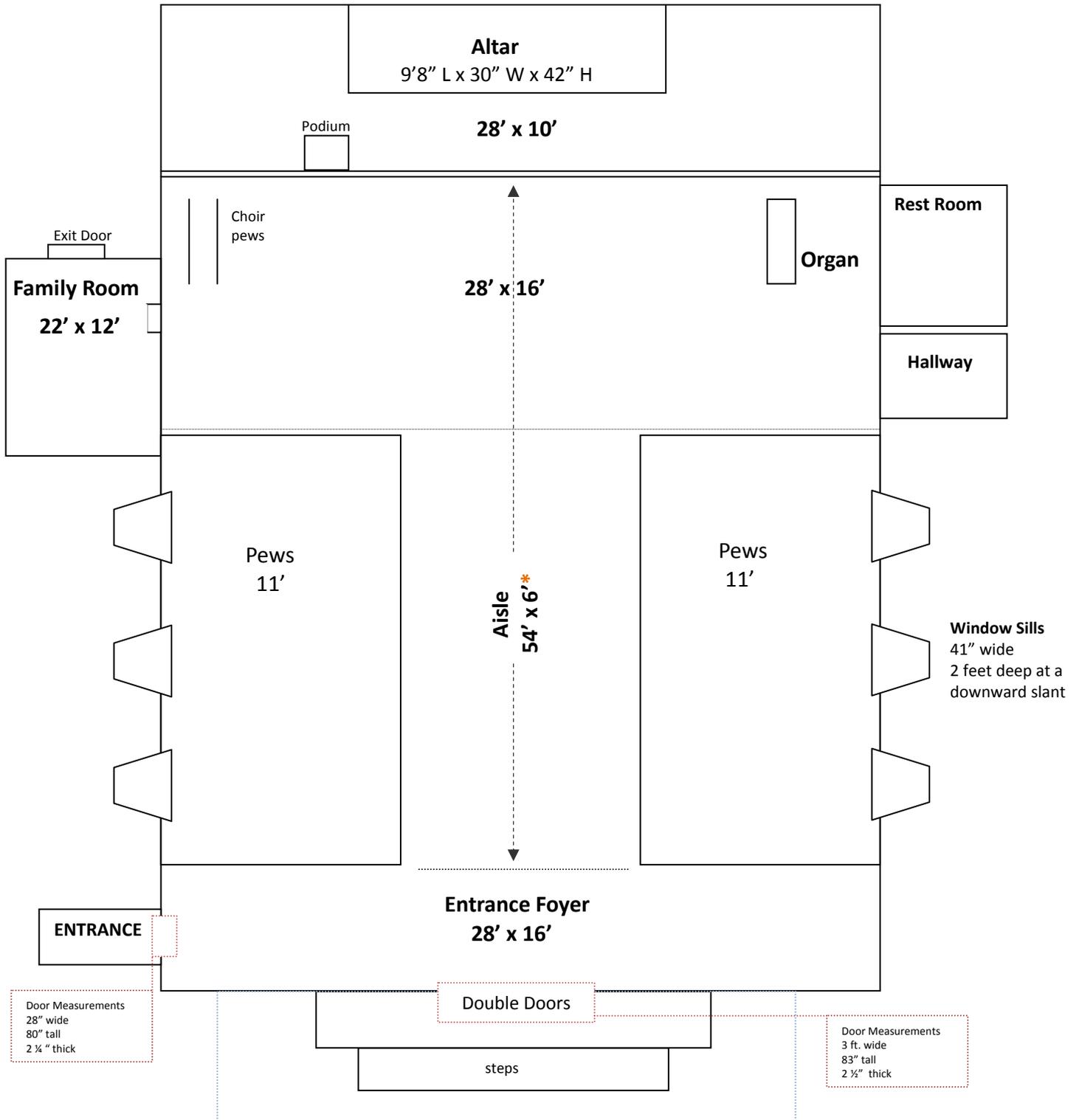
Cincinnati Thomas S. Noble designed the magnificent stained glass window depicting the Ascension of Christ and Jesus healing the paralytic. Mr. Noble was head of the Cincinnati Art School and director of the Art Museum. The window bears the inscriptions from Luke: 51:24 "And it came to pass while He blessed them, He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

In 1884, the Norman Chapel's stained glass window was completed by the Royal Establishment of Mayer & Co. of Munich and London, under special supervision of Herr Francis Mayer, the subject of the window being the Ascension. The window arrived from Munich and the accepted cost was \$3,725.55 and \$250 for installation.

Originally, the chapel was suggested to be built beyond the I.I.O.F. monument in section 15. The annex was a temporary receiving vault, which was transformed into a waiting room. A crypt was planned to be below the first floor but was never built. The chapel was dedicated by the first ceremony held within its walls, the funeral service of Mrs. George Schoenberger on February 7, 1881.

Many are unaware of the jail cell that exists in the basement of the Norman Chapel. During the late 1800's, persons caught driving too fast through the cemetery were arrested and kept overnight in this subterranean holding cell. When automobiles were first permitted into the cemetery in the 1930's, again, fast drivers were arrested and confined overnight. Look closely at the protruded portion to the left of the front doors to see the original jail cell bars in small window. The jail cell is now used for storage.

NORMAN CHAPEL DIMENSIONS - not drawn to scale



(2) Candelabras each hold 9 tapered candles = 1 1/4" x 12"

There are 13 pews on each side of the aisle (totaling 26).

**The aisle measurement for aisle runner is measured from the altar to the end of the carpet just before the tile of the entrance foyer begins.*