

**Minute for Grace April 12, 2015**  
**The Communion Table**

When the Spiritual Nurture in Faith Formation Team compiles a list of topics for our Minute for Grace Presentations, we do so without any clear idea of the amount of information available on each selection. So, as you can imagine, there is almost always a surprise of some kind awaiting our members as they begin their research. The church Communion Table seemed like a fairly straightforward topic until we discovered that there is not one Communion Table in our church - there are three. Further, one of the three was constructed by using portions of a fourth.

Let us start with the Communion Table on the dais at the present time.



This table has components that link it to both Grace and Westminster Churches. The funds for this table were provided by Lucy Carr. The table was dedicated in 1974 to the memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Carr, long time members of Westminster.



The table itself incorporates some of the panels from the Communion Table of Grace church and bears the inscription - *This Do In Remembrance of Me.*

The table was a catalyst of sorts because it was so much bigger than the previous table that it prompted the decision to replace the then modest Pulpit with a larger one - more in keeping with the size of the new Communion Table.



Last year, Katelynn shared the details of how the new Pulpit was constructed and dedicated. You can see the similarities in the decorative details of the Pulpit and Communion Table in current use.



At this time, the much smaller Communion Table replaced in 1974 is located in the northeast corner of the sanctuary.



It bears the inscription *Til He Come* and a plaque in memory of Robert Goodale January 9, 1936 and David Schnell June 9, 1951. Our history book, compiled by Bill and Mary Chapman tells us that this particular table came from Westminster Church. When this table was replaced in the sanctuary in 1974, it was first taken to the church chapel (then at a different location from the present chapel). In 1982 the furnishings of the old chapel were moved to the new chapel. The Communion Table remained there until about a decade ago when Balmoral Church closed. The furnishings from Westminster had been sold to Balmoral Church in 1970. However, at the time of the Balmoral closure the furnishings, including a Communion Table, were returned to Grace-Westminster and placed in the Clark

## Chapel.



This prompted at least the fourth transfer of the table dedicated to Goodale and Schnell. This time it went back to the sanctuary but not as the table used in Communion Services.



**(Picture of the Inscription.)** The table now in the Clark Chapel has the inscription - **In Remembrance of Me.** The two Westminster Tables are very alike in design and made of the same light oak. One now in the Northeast corner of the Sanctuary – the other in the Clark Chapel.

Almost every Minute for Grace gives us the opportunity to reflect on the generations of people who have worshipped as part of this congregation. Today we remember not only the tables used in Communion Services over the years but the fact that we, like those who have gone before us, have the freedom to gather

and remember the death and resurrection of our Lord  
Jesus Christ – just as He has asked us to do.