

Refinishing the Lectern (July 2011)

The lectern (now used as an ambo—for our weekly lectionary readings and the sermon), is very old and was rebuilt and refinished before, perhaps more than once. This time the much newer top was removed from the pedestal piece and the pedestal and base were stripped. In doing this it became clear the base and pedestal would need to be taken apart so two inches could be cut from the pedestal to make it easier for our shorter folks to use it. The base piece was found to have some old square nails holding it together, which could date it back before or around 1900.

The base and pedestal assembly were rebuilt more solidly with some screws, glue and air nailer. Then a new top was built, smaller in overall size but thicker, to be in better proportion to the pedestal assembly. All of the wood for the pedestal is old oak, while the new top is birch veneer wrapped with oak around the edges. The top was stained to closely match the pedestal, and all refinished. The net effect is a slightly lighter colored lectern that is much more solid and has a new top that matches. And it is about 2-3” shorter overall for better use by everyone.



Left: The old lectern, back in 2006. Note the dark color, similar to the old pews. Right: Cross view of the pedestal wood cut off—beautiful old oak!



Left: The new top, 6” narrower and 2” less height. Right: The rebuilt base, cleaned up and solid again.



Left: The full lectern, before attaching the mic holder and the seasonal fall cover. Right: The refinished lectern, ready for full use.