

Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

A chapter room was added to the east of our sanctuary during its reconstruction after the Murrah bombing. A chapter room is a part of a cathedral, monastery, or collegiate chapel in which meetings are held. When such a room is attached to a cathedral, a “chapter” of clerics (the cathedral’s dean and its canons) may meet there for administrative functions. A monastic community would meet daily in this room to hold “chapter” for readings or to hear the exhortations of the abbot. Since many cathedrals were originally monasteries, it is common for a chapter room or chapter house to be located nearby. Academic deans and canons of a college also met in chapter rooms. In medieval times, monarchs on tour of their territory would often take over the chapter room for audiences. As in our chapter room, it was common for seating to be built into the walls of the room with the central space left open. It was often the practice to build the windows too high to prevent a view in from the outside to avoid eavesdroppers. Altars, thrones, and fireplaces are often found in older chapter rooms.

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.