



Traditional Protestant church architecture, both in European cathedrals/churches, and then later in New England churches, had a clear separation between the clergy and the congregation. That separation was reflected in the pulpits being several steps up the front wall of the chancel, or in the apse (semi-circular) when there was one. Sometimes the pulpit was high in the area of the transept (the cross between the nave and the chancel). The elevation was an indicator of that separation, as well as a way for people to see the cleric from the pews.



Sounding boards were also common in cathedrals and the larger New England churches. Their purpose was to capture and project sound from the speaker in the pulpit. With the invention of electronic microphones, those were no longer needed. At PUUC, note that the sounding board is a hexagon and the pulpit is an octagon (though

part is cut away in the back). This means that the two elements are not in visual harmony.

From George Morison's History of Peterborough:

"About 1868, the church interior was improved and beautified by the addition of full-size frescoes of St. Peter and St. John, one on each side of the pulpit. There was also a fresco behind the pulpit to make it appear as if the minister's seat were in an alcove instead of against a flat wall.

In 1895, the entire sanctuary interior was redone. The frescoes and the mahogany veneer pulpit, part of the original furnishings, were removed. The chancel and the high pulpit with its sounding board were added; electric light brackets were installed and the whole auditorium painted a light green. "These changes made the interior beautiful and more in keeping with what it should have been originally. The (sanctuary) was renovated again with changes around the chancel in 1924."

Additional Renovations 1924

The Parish hall was added about 1924. The original north wall of the church was modified but retained in that renovation. The chancel railings and other Colonial Reproduction elements were added in 1924.