February 2025

**McKnight Communion Process**

**Issue to be Resolved:**

Currently, we need to pass the communion trays several times on a Sunday morning:

1. Pass communion trays with the bread and juice.
2. Pass trays to collect used cups.
3. Pass collection plates.

This process takes time and can become confusing. While it is essential to take communion together weekly, we aim to find a more efficient method.

**Recommendation:**

Minimize the passing of trays to just step #1 above. Initially, we propose eliminating step #2—the second passing of trays to collect used cups. After addressing this, we can explore additional improvements for the collection process.

**Options to Handle Used Communion Cups:**

**Option 1: Add holes to existing pew caddy**
Currently, each pew has a caddy for Bibles, songbooks, pens, and visitor cards. There is room on each side of the pew caddy for two 1-inch holes (four holes per caddy). These holes could hold used communion cups, to be picked up after the service. (See drawing [***here***](https://www.building.mx.mxcoc.xyz/media/misc/01.01.2025-PEW_CADDY-MX_CHURCH.pdf).)

**Option 2: Add additional communion cup holders to each pew**
An extra caddy could be installed on each pew specifically to hold used communion cups, which would be collected after the service.

**Some Numbers:**

Total number of pews (~50 total but excluding back pews): ~46

**Option 1: Add holes to existing pew caddy**

* Drill 4 holes in each caddy (2 caddies per pew), providing 8 holes per pew for communion cups.
* **Time Commitment:** An afternoon to drill and clean (vacuum sawdust) 1-inch holes in the existing caddies.

**Option 2: Add additional communion cup holders**

* Approximately 3 additional caddies per pew would be required to ensure accessibility for everyone seated.
* **Time Commitment:** Fabricating and installing 138 cup holders (3 per pew × 46 pews) would be significantly more time-consuming than drilling holes in existing caddies.

**Important Note:**

We cannot change the communion process until there is sufficient storage for used communion cups. Therefore, improvements cannot be implemented until Option 1 or Option 2 is fully completed.

**Final Recommendation:**

We need to evaluate the aesthetics, functionality, cost, and time commitment for each option. An initial review suggests favoring Option 1 (adding holes to existing pew caddies). However, we recommend testing prototypes for both options:

1. Drill test holes in a single pew caddy.
2. Build a prototype of an additional communion cup holder to assess feasibility.

Once prototypes are reviewed, a final decision can be made.

 --- Bret

