The new worship space and bell tower clad in standing seam copper with an earthen brick base.
This new Episcopal worship space, often referred to as “The Copper Church”, was designed to hold 350 worshipers, and was attached to an existing brick education building. In a conservative suburb, the clients asked for a church that “Grandma would still recognize as a church, but brought into the new century”. With a low brick base for the gathering space and all support spaces, the worship space is handled as a tall gable clad in copper. The dark, low, horizontal base (extended from the old education building) is associated with things profane, while the vertical and light copper volume is associated with the sacred. A tower holds a collection of existing bells, and helps to form a type that any Grandma would recognize, although transformed in significant ways. The new worship space addresses the suburban street directly, with giant cedar doors facing a new entry plaza in a community where few to no buildings have any recognition of the public realm. Inside, wood trusses are lightened with the use of steel tension rods. Wood decking, wood slats and even wood air grilles completes a warm wooden room, with a contrasting floor of dark natural slate. A great window behind the altar allows a north view out to a grove owned by the church. The structure of this wall forms the cross of the worship community.
The new wood worship space interior, with a clear glass clerestory window behind the solid limestone altar. Wood slats conceal dual organ lofts at left and right.