

First Presbyterian Church
South Charleston, West Virginia
Stained Glass Window history – Sanctuary

Window #1 (from the front of church – third window far right)

Birth of Christ: scripture Luke 2:1-20

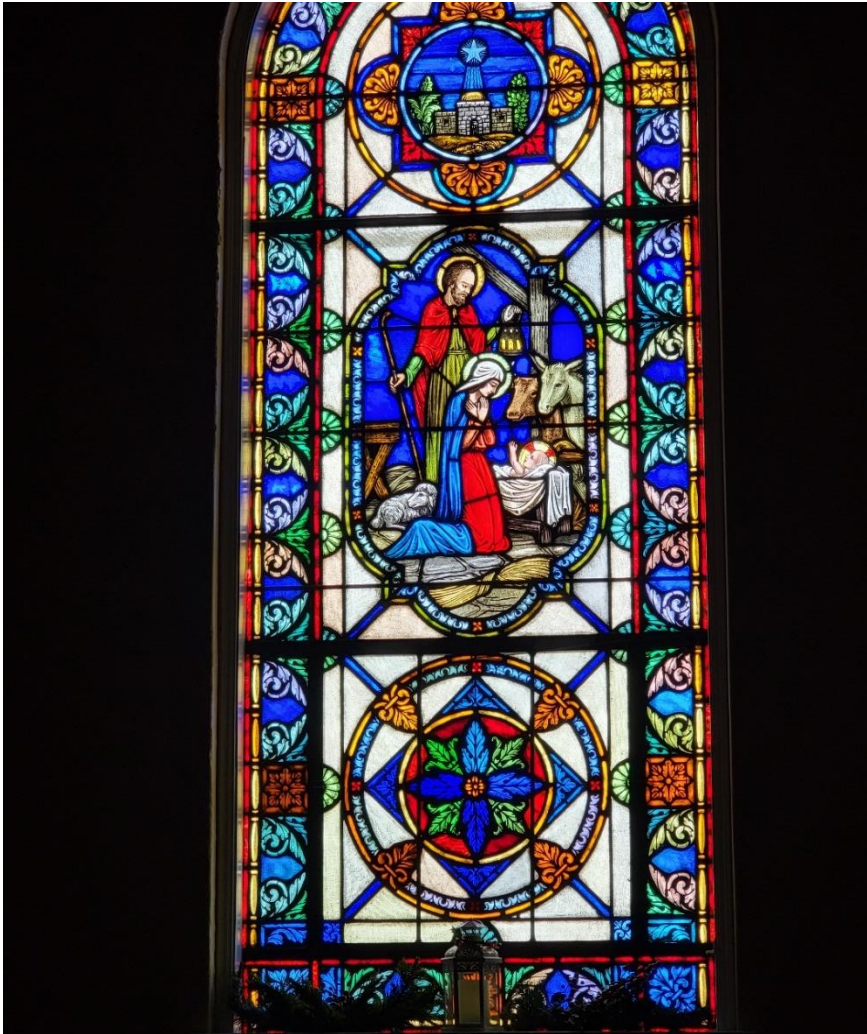
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

History: "In memory of James Herbert Zogg [1909 – 1929]; Karl Seacrist Zogg [1912 – 1955] Sons of Herbert C. and Jane Zogg"

H. C. Zogg was elected Deacon in 1923; he was a member of the building committee of both the Fourth Avenue Church and the present church building. Jane Zogg was active in the Women's Auxiliary of the church. Mr. Zogg was a stockbroker; Zogg Street and Zogg-O'Dell School, both victims of interstate road construction, were named for this family. In addition to this son James, another son, Karl, remained active in this church until his death in 1955.



Birth of Christ

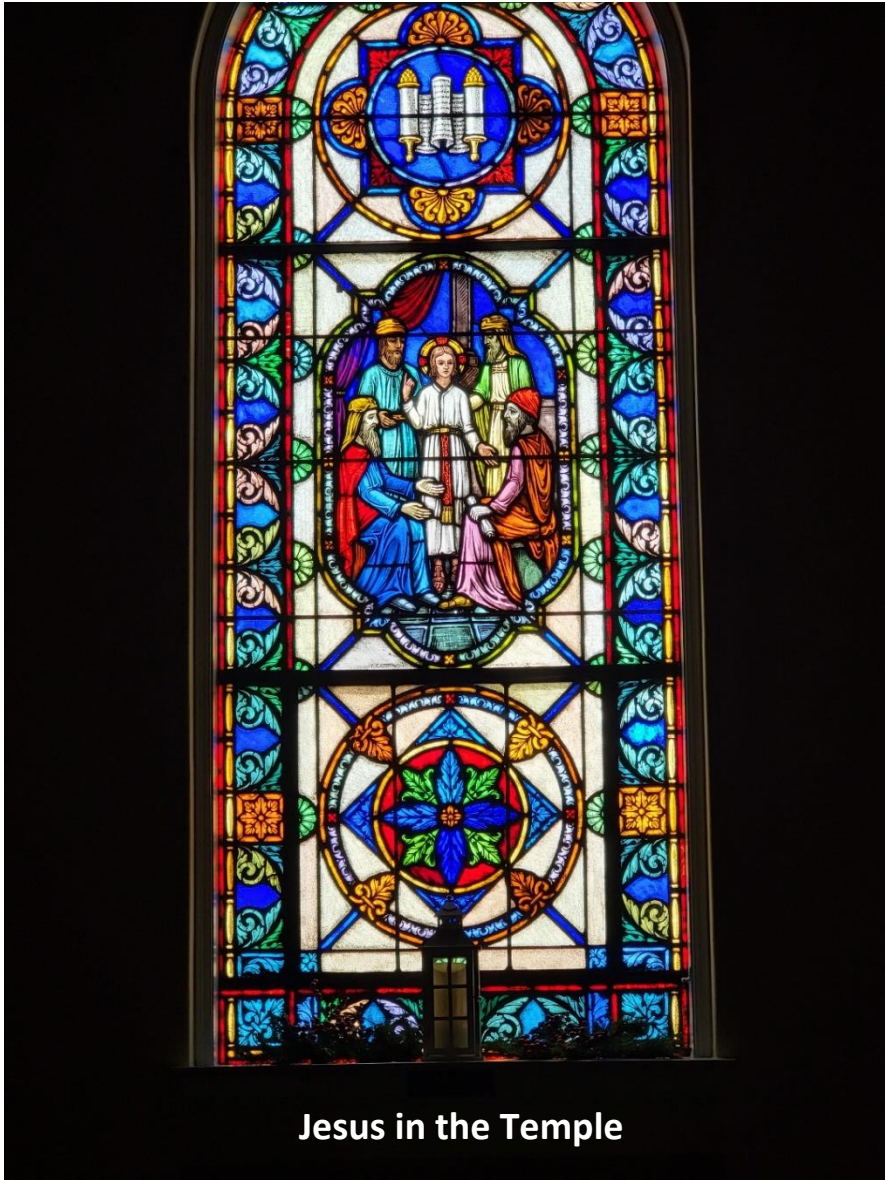
Window #2

Jesus in the Temple: scripture Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. Then his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why are you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

History: "Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Dunn – Betty, Mary Ann, Janet, Ida June & Nancy."

Dr. Dunn was an Elder and one of the first two Deacons. His hospital was originally located in the building on the corner of Fifth Avenue and C Streets, close to the original church building. During the flu epidemic of 1918 he used the church as an overflow wing of his hospital. Later he built Dunn Hospital on MacCorkle Avenue (later Southern Hills Hospital and now Frank E. Pick Memorial Hospital in 1979). Dr. and Mrs. Dunn retired to Lewisburg, West Virginia in 1962. Dr. & Mrs. Dunn were charter members.



Jesus in the Temple

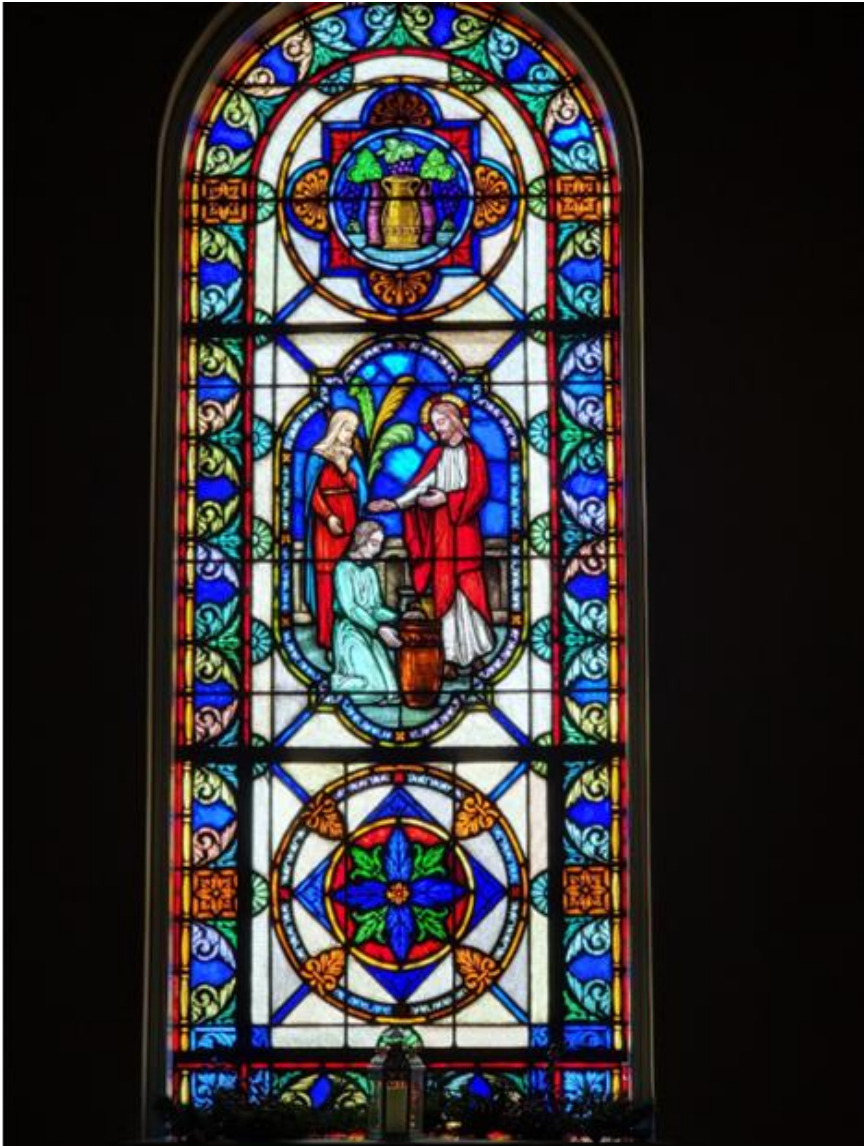
Window #3

Wedding Feast: scripture John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

History: "In memory of Kelly E. Reed."

Kelly Reed and his wife were charter members of this church, also. Mr. Reed was an early contractor and builder in South Charleston; the family home was on Eighth Avenue. He was elected Deacon in 1923 and served in that capacity until his death in 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Reed (Rosie) gave generously of money and service to this church.



Wedding Feast

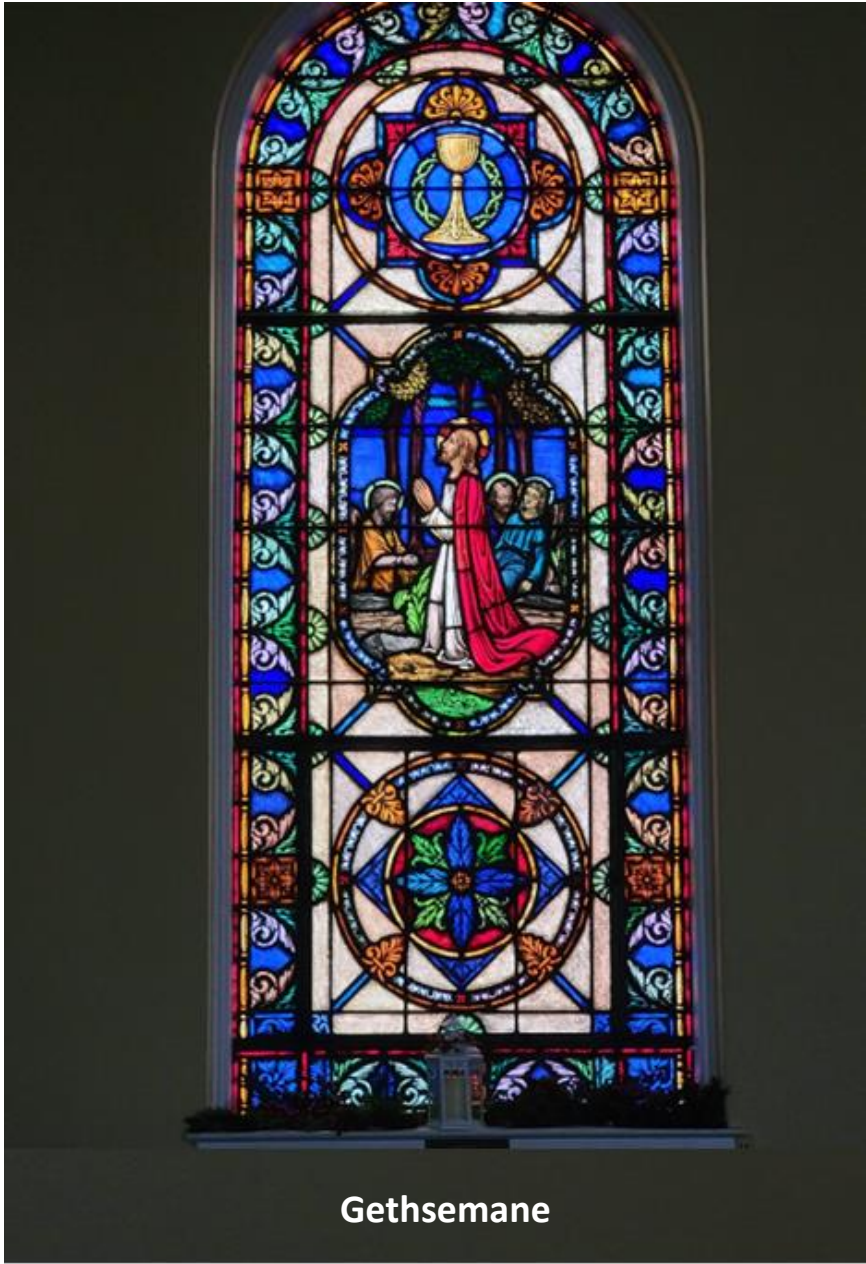
Window #4

Gethsemane: scripture Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and say awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "MY Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink I, you will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going, See, my betrayer is at hand."

History: "In Memory of Joseph Scott."

Mr. Joseph Scott died around 1920 and was never a member of this church. He was the father of Vincent J. W. Scott who served as Elder in this church from 1929 until 1946. Vincent Scott was the teacher of the popular Men's Bible Class in the Sunday School for many years.



Gethsemane

Window #5

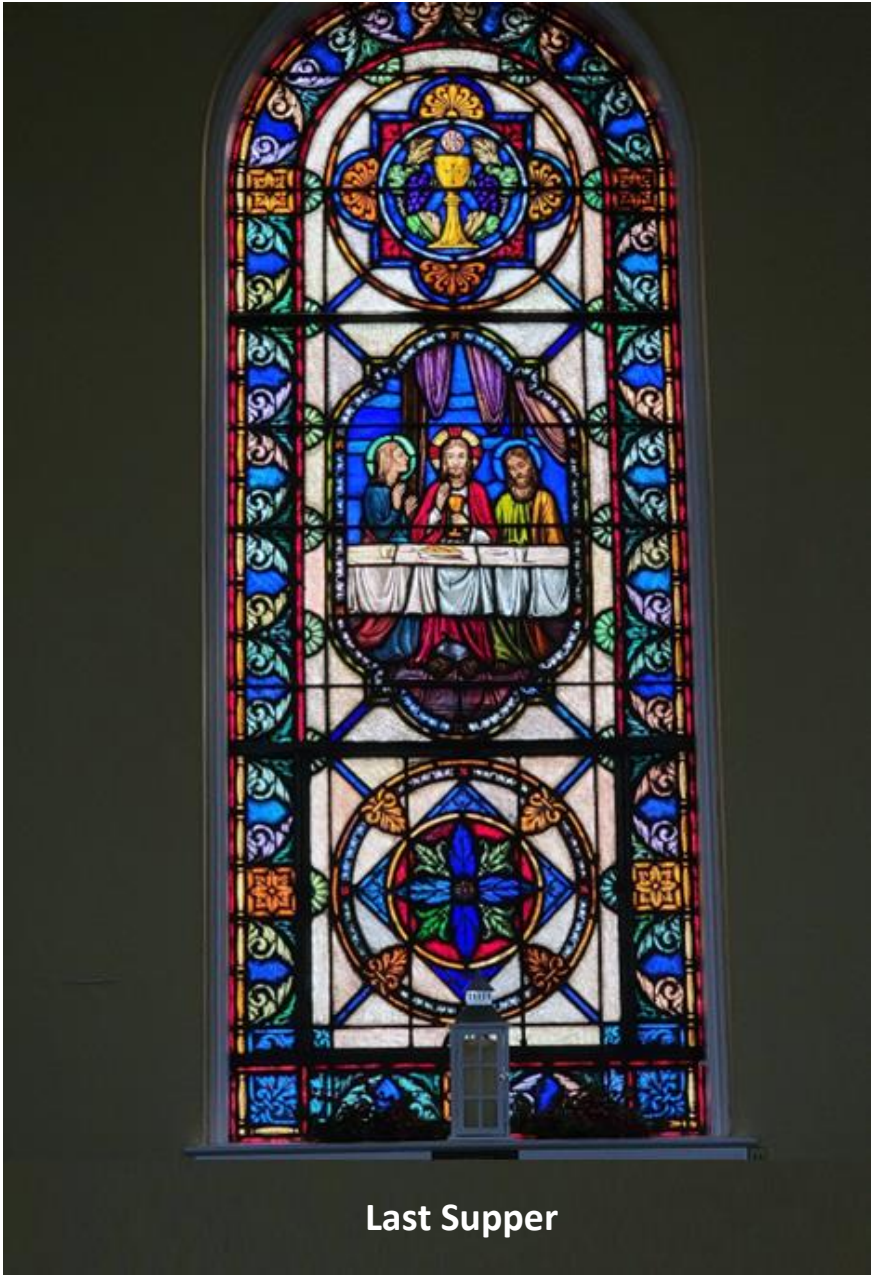
Last Supper: scripture Luke 22:7-23

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So, Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" "Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciple?"' He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." So, they went and found everything as he told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

History: "In Memory of Mary A. Thacker."

Mrs. Mary Thacker was the mother of Charles Thacker, an early Elder and Clerk of Session. Mr. Thacker was District Representative for National Cash Register Company.



Last Supper

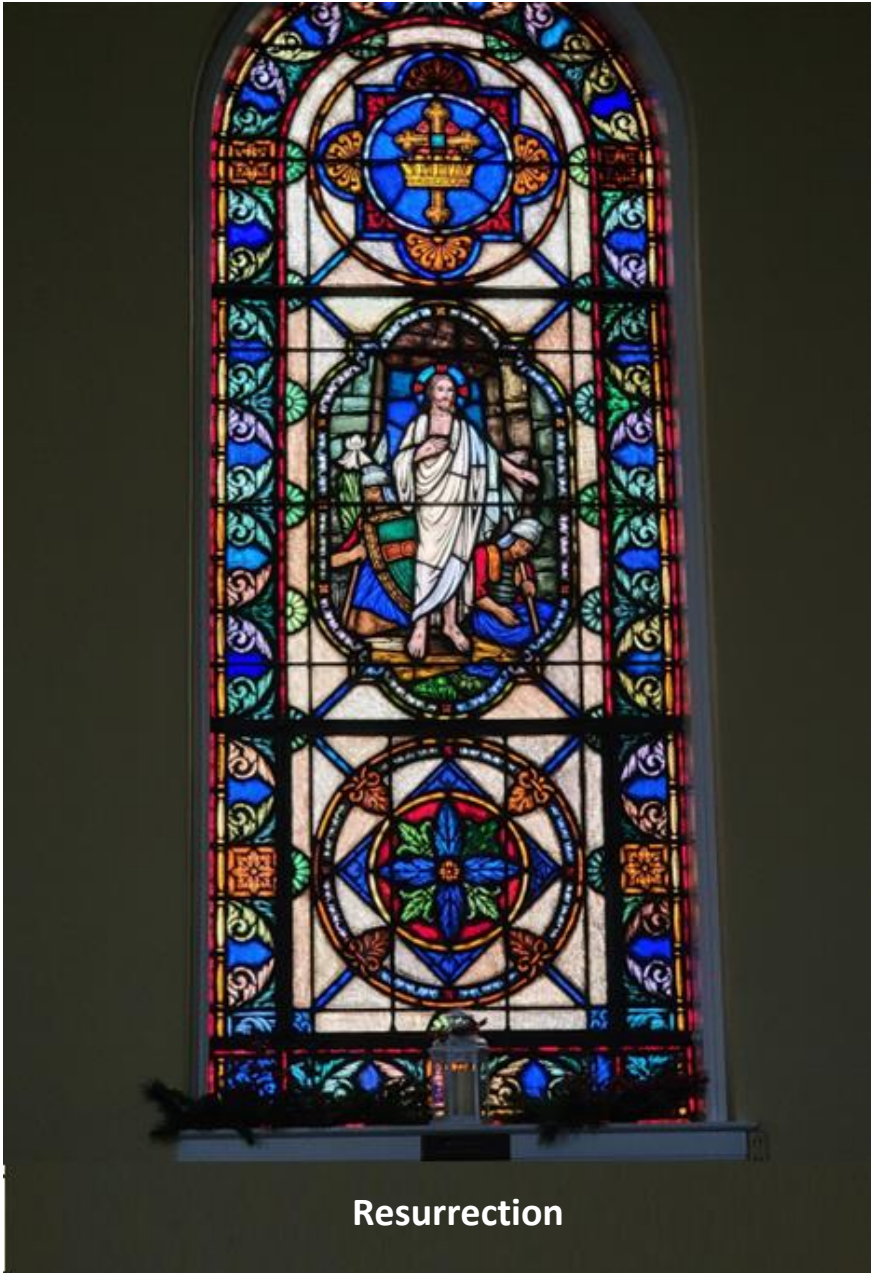
Window #6

Resurrection: scripture Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him' This is my message for you." So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

History: "In Memory of Elma Barlow Irons."

Elma Irons (Mrs. Robert) was the mother of Frances Irons Blaine (Mrs. Charles A.) and Ruth Irons Scott (Mrs. Vincent J. W.) - all prominent names in the early history of this church.



Resurrection

Why Do Churches Have Stained Glass Windows?

By Philip Kosloski - published 07/19/17; aleteia.org

The architectural feature [of stained glass windows] proved to be a valuable tool in teaching many spiritual truths.

Light is a common spiritual theme in Christian theology. In Genesis, God's first words at creation were, "'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good" (Genesis 1:3-4).

Jesus even went so far as to identify himself with light, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

With this in mind it was fitting for Christians to spend much time and energy developing the design of windows in churches. Windows funnel the light of the sun and dispel the darkness of the shadows. Architects saw them as the perfect opportunity to highlight a spiritual truth while serving a functional purpose.

However, stained glass windows as we know them today were not developed until the 10th century. Prior to that the Egyptians and Romans had developed a technique for creating small colored glass objects, but did not use the technology for large scale windows.

The oldest surviving complete stained glass window is found in the Augsburg Cathedral in Germany. It was constructed in the 11th century and was part of a project to make the windows larger and more beautiful. These windows not only served the spiritual purpose of bringing to mind how the light of God shatters our darkness, but also proved to be an important catechetical tool.

It was during the medieval period that stained glass windows became a primary way to teach the illiterate laity the many stories of the Bible.

Often these windows, depending on the size of the church, would go from Genesis to Revelation, highlighting the most important stories in Salvation History.

The history of the Bible depicted in these windows would also be connected to a brief representation of Church history. Saints were also shown in these windows and presented as a daily inspiration for the people struggling on their Christian journey. The windows were also used to illustrate the illumination of the mind with divine knowledge and how grace penetrates our world.

As technology improved over time, stained glass windows grew larger and larger, becoming extremely complicated and full of all kinds of symbolism.

On account of the complex artistry involved, stained glass windows were typically the last item to be installed in a new church and many years would pass until the final window was completed. The windows were also very expensive to produce and so to encourage donations, names of patrons would be etched on the bottom. In larger medieval churches the patrons themselves would even be depicted along with the saints.

Stained glass windows are some of the most beautiful treasures of Christian churches and are there to inspire and teach the faithful many spiritual truths. They remain an essential part of church architecture and continue to be used in new constructions throughout the world.

These beautiful stained glass windows of Daniel, David, Hosea, Jonah and Moses are from the Augsburg Cathedral in Germany, and date from the 11th Century.



Jonah



David



Daniel



Moses



Hosea