
THE
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Windows of Words

Wander in to the Sanctuary and notice the eight windows with the wooden panels beneath, hand carved by Rudolf W. Bauss. The story of the windows is told in the pamphlet published by the church in 1955 when they were soliciting gifts for the restoration.

"Windows have always been favorite memorials in churches. This suggests something lovely in stained glass but it need not be so. Stained glass windows were first used in Roman Catholic churches for three reasons: to shut out the world from the sanctuary, to create beauty and, above all, to present in pictures Bible stories to worshipers who could not read the Word of God. Our Protestant ancestors turned from stained glass to clear glass because they conceived of religion as something which need not be apart from the world and because they were determined that their people should read the Bible for themselves. Consequently few of our early American churches had stained glass and in restoring our historic church we could not use it.

"However, in our Colonial churches there were often tablets on the walls upon which were carved or painted portions of the Bible for the people to read. So the beauty and the inspiration of the words, themselves, were before the congregation constantly as was proper for a Bible-centered faith and a literate people. We have revived this ancient custom making it a distinctive feature of our sanctuary gracing it with both beauty and meaning.

"Our eight high windows are Colonial in character letting in the light of God, unrefracted. Beneath each window, framed in lovely paneling, is a hand-carved wood panel on which are incised by the hand of a craftsman imperishable words from the Bible in letters of gold.

"The four windows on the west side of the church will represent the Old Testament and will include passages from Genesis, Deuteronomy, the Psalms, and Isaiah; thus encompassing history, law, poetry and prophesy. The four windows on the east wall will present the New Testament with two from the Gospels, one from the Epistles and one from the Revelation of John. So while each selection will be significant in itself the eight together will suggest the whole of the Bible which is the foundation of our faith. The clear windows will flood the sanctuary with the light of heaven and the tablets beneath will illumine our minds with the Word of God." [Scroll down to view the 8 plaques]

We have a color painting of the "Interpretation of the Symbols" done by Lorenzo S. Winslow, architect of the restoration in 1955. This painting is hanging in the coatroom between the two buildings. In looking at this I discovered that all the panels but Revelations has more than one symbol. Only two small "Star of Bethlehem" are carved on this panel. I have found no reason for this. I wonder?

I did find the request for payment from Rudolf W. Bauss for the Deuteronomy panel for \$374 and for Isaiah at \$411. It is interesting to note that in 1991 we had all eight panels cleaned, filled and in-painted at a cost of \$7,700.

Wander in and see the beautiful gift given to the glory of God and for all of us to enjoy for years to come.

- Jill Fri

Scroll down to view the 8 plaques

† GENESIS †

IN THE BEGINNING GOD
★ CREATED THE HEAVEN ★
☀ AND THE EARTH ☀
● AND THE EARTH WAS ●
WITHOUT FORM AND VOID
AND DARKNESS WAS UPON
THE FACE OF THE DEEP
AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD
MOVED UPON THE FACE OF
THE WATERS AND GOD SAID
☀ LET THERE BE LIGHT ☀
AND THERE WAS LIGHT

1:1-5
• IN MEMORY OF •
☉ SUSAN ☉
• WHO LOVED ALL GOD CREATED •
LOUISE AND RUSSELL STROUP
Robert W. Brown, Designer

† DEUTERONOMY †

☪ HEAR O ISRAEL ☀
THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE
LORD AND THOU SHALT LOVE
THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL
THINE HEART AND WITH ALL THY
SOUL AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT
AND THESE WORDS WHICH
I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY
SHALL BE IN THINE HEART
AND THOU SHALT TEACH
☉ THEM DILIGENTLY ☉
UNTO THY CHILDREN

VI:4-7
• IN MEMORY OF •
☉ ROBERT E. AULD ☉
1869-1937

† PSALMS †

WE ARE HIS PEOPLE AND
THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE
ENTER INTO HIS GATES
• WITH THANKSGIVING •
AND INTO HIS COURTS
☀ WITH PRAISE ☀
BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM
AND BLESS HIS NAME.
FOR THE LORD IS GOOD
HIS MERCY IS EVERLASTING
AND HIS TRUTH ENDURETH
TO ALL GENERATIONS

C-5-3
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY SON
☉ RICHARD LAURENCE MCKIRDY ☉
MRS. NORA HAY MCKIRDY

† ISAIAH †

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
☉ UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN ☉
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL
BE UPON HIS SHOULDER AND
HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED
☉ WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR ☉
☀ THE MIGHTY GOD ☀
THE EVERLASTING FATHER
● THE PRINCE OF PEACE ●
OF THE INCREASE OF HIS
GOVERNMENT AND PEACE
THERE SHALL BE NO END

IX:6-7
IN GOD THE FATHER OUR FAITH
IN CHRIST THE SON OUR HOPE
MR. AND MRS. FRANK H. WEITZEL

† MATTHEW †

ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME
IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH
GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH
ALL NATIONS BAPTIZING THEM
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER
AND OF THE SON
AND OF THE HOLY GHOST
TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE
ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER
I HAVE COMMANDED YOU AND
LO I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD

XXVII 18-20

IN MEMORY OF
VIRGINIA KAYSER PIMPER
CAROLINE KAYSER DUMBERTH

† JOHN †

IF YE KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS
YE SHALL ABIDE IN MY LOVE
EVEN AS I HAVE KEPT MY
FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS
AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE
THESE THINGS HAVE I SPOKEN
UNTO YOU THAT MY JOY MIGHT
REMAIN IN YOU AND THAT
YOUR JOY MIGHT BE FULL
THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT
THAT YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

XV 10-12

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS LOVE
MR. AND MRS. CARL ROMBORG

† ROMANS †

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF
THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD
UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY
ONE THAT BELIEVETH
TO THE JEW FIRST
AND ALSO TO THE GREEK
FOR THEREIN IS THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
REVEALED FROM FAITH TO
FAITH AS IT IS WRITTEN
THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

1:16-17

TO THE
MINISTERS OF CHRIST
FROM 1780 UNTIL NOW
WHO PREACHED HIS GOSPEL
IN THIS PLACE

† REVELATION †

HIS SERVANTS SHALL SERVE HIM
AND THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE
IN THEIR FOREHEADS
AND THERE SHALL BE
NO NIGHT THERE AND
THEY NEED NO CANDLE
NEITHER LIGHT OF THE SUN
FOR THE LORD GOD
GIVETH THEM LIGHT
AND THEY SHALL REIGN
FOR EVER AND EVER AMEN

XXII 3-5

IN MEMORY OF
MARGARET EVANS SWINDELLS
SAMUEL A SWINDELLS