

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

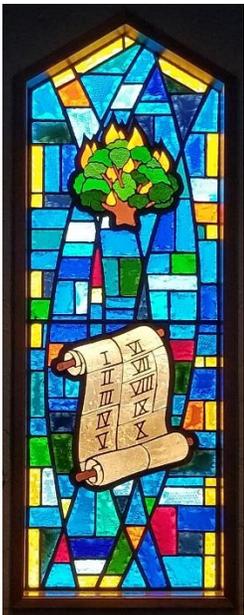
- our memorial windows -

'What is the world like on the other side of the glass?' Alice wondered. Author Lewis Carroll knew that after Wonderland, there was still more story to tell: there was something beyond the glass.

More than just colorful decoration, the colorful faceted glass windows in our **Sanctuary (WELLS MEMORIAL WINDOWS)** and **Music Suite (GILPIN MEMORIAL WINDOWS)** tell the story of our life together: scripture, history, music, nativity, baptism, communion, resurrection, mission.

What do they say to others about who we are as a church, as people, as God's beloved?

There's more to learn on our side, and they call us to remember that there is still a world to explore on the other. Together we go, through the looking glass ...

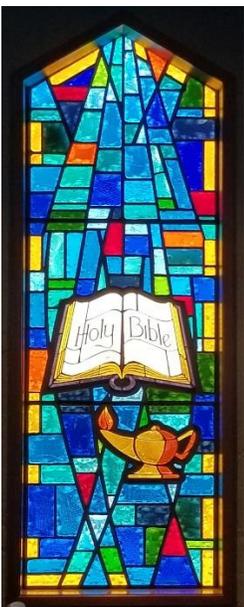


the I AM

Exodus 3: 13 - 16

"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Ex 3:14)

The first Wells Window, on your left as you enter the sanctuary, is centered by a scroll representing the Ten Commandments. Above it is a burning bush, recalling the events when God called to Moses to lead the people from bondage (Ex 3:1 – 4:17). On the journey to the promised land, God gave Moses commandments by which the people must live to prosper and be in right relationship: we are to love God, and love others.



the word

Philippians 1: 12 – 18a

"...dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear." (Phil 1:14b)

The luminous pages of the open Bible quickly draw your eyes to the second window. The lamp stands with its bright flame as an ancient symbol of enlightenment, understanding, guidance and wisdom. As the Psalmist wrote, 'Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Ps 119:105), and in the Gospels we are reminded that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1:14). The light of God's love shines through the Hebrew Bible and into the New Testament, reminding us that the Word of God is not only on the page, but alive in the world.



the nativity

Matthew 2: 9 - 12

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother..." (Mt 2:11a)

The third window on the left depicts one of the great celebrations of the Christian faith: the birth of Christ. The focal point of this window is a rough manger, with bits of white swaddling cloth about the edges. The cross and halo are represent the newborn king (they are used in traditional art when the figure of Christ is absent). The staff leaning against the manger suggests the shepherds have been there, and gone to tell the story, while overhead the Christmas star shines.



the water

Matthew 3: 13 - 17

"...suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him." (Mt 3:16b)

The fourth window portrays in light and color the baptism of Jesus, and honors the sacrament of baptism observed in the Christian church. The color and movement of the art reminds us of the River Jordan itself, where Jesus was baptized, and point toward the front of the sanctuary, where our baptistry (under the cross) holds the waters we enter to be immersed in the grace of God.



the table

Mark 14: 22 - 25

"While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread..." (Mk 14:22a)

Across from the baptism window, the fifth window lifts up our other sacrament: communion, or the Lord's Supper. The chalice with the St Andrew's cross is the mark of our Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), where sharing in communion is central to who we are. The richly colored wheat and grapes signify the bread and wine we receive each week, representing the sacrificial gifts of Jesus Christ.

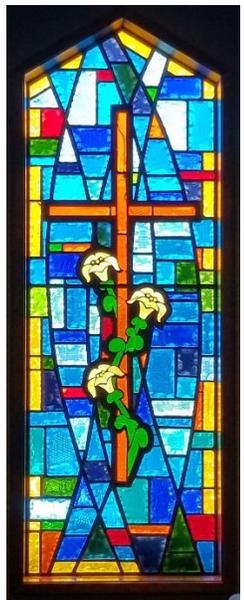


the good shepherd

John 10: 1 - 15

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." (Jn 10:14)

Looking at the sixth window, you see a representation of the ministry and teaching of Jesus. One of the most well-known images of Jesus is as the great shepherd, seeking out the lost among his flock and laying down his life for the sheep. Directly across from the nativity window, it reminds us that Jesus was born as the full expression of God's relationship with us. The strength of the shepherd's staff and the quiet repose of the sheep bring comfort and assurance to those who gather.



the resurrection

Matthew 28: 1 - 10

"He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." (Mt 28:6a)

The cross is the most universally accepted symbol of the Christian faith. In the seventh window we see the empty cross wrapped in the lilies of Easter, remembering that Christ is not dead - He is Risen indeed! The simplicity of the symbol and the joyous colors give full echo to the 'alleluia' of our Easter celebration hymns.



the community

Psalm 34: 1 - 8

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.." (Ps 34:8)

As you leave the sanctuary, the last window points out that fellowship was and is vital to our congregation. The glass depicts the entrance to our original sanctuary, with a spire reaching heavenward, a sunlit path, and doors standing open in invitation. 'If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another' (1 John 1:7). This is a witness we pray is always part of this church's life together.

the spirit's song

Acts 2: 14 - 28

"...therefore my heart was glad, my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope." (Acts 2:26)

Music moves our souls, speaking comfort into moments of challenge, bringing memories of people and places and events we've known and loved, and uplifting us in moments of celebration in a way nothing else can. 'Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray,' proclaims the spiritual song. The Gilpin Windows that circle our Music Suite, and offer a color-drenched greeting to those who travel Harvard Avenue, sing out in our behalf - of our faith, our hopes, and the Spirit that makes us one.



JOE WELLS MEMORIAL WINDOWS

These windows were made possible by gifts in loving memory of Joe Wells at the time of his death in April 1977. Joe was an active and vibrant part of our congregation and city. He touched many lives and his Christian faith is a legacy for all of us.

When the current sanctuary was originally built (opened 1978), the Wells family worked with the building committee to select the artist to create a gift that would honor Joe Wells' lifetime of leadership, faithfulness, and vision continue to hold a place in our ministry and witness. The windows were designed and constructed by Phillippe Studio of Mannford Oklahoma.

In the tradition of the ancient church telling its story through art (before the written word was available, or widely held), the Memorial Windows use subtleties of color, light, and symbol to portray tenets of Christian faith held by Harvard Avenue Christian Church. They are a vital part of the total ministry of our Sanctuary.

BILL GILPIN MEMORIAL WINDOWS

The stories of Bill Gilpin's years as a faithful servant are full and many cannot be told without great laughter shared. He led, and followed, in most every capacity the church had need. His love, however, was church music, spending sixty-two years of his life in church choirs.

At his death in February 2012, memorial gifts were held for 'just the right thing'. Celebrating his memory and love of music, the Gilpin family embarked on a process to enhance Harvard Ave's 'Next Chapter' renovation and expansion and honor Bill in a beautiful way. In June 2014, four new stained glass windows were installed in the Music Suite, the portion of the building that reaches closest to Harvard Avenue on the southeast side.

Bill's wife, JoAnn, along with a number of their family met with the artists of Loman Studios in Tulsa to dream about the possibilities of this new creation to honor not only a life of serving, but a life-style of servanthood. One particular spiritual was a favorite of Bill's, a song for which he was featured as soloist for years: "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit." The artist requested a copy of the song and was inspired to design the windows as seen today.

Once created and cut, the family was invited in to pour the epoxy which holds the glass in place. Four generations of Gilpins were present for the occasion which held within its time stories of a marvelous man, laughter as memories were shared, and a song in air as the Spirit was moving once again.