

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Description of Ribbon Windows

The stained glass windows designed and fabricated for St. Andrew's Church by the Willet Studios in 1991 are a continuous strip or ribbon. They begin the story with the creation of the world and proceed to almost contemporary history – the beginning of the Methodist Church.

The hand of God the Father emerges from clouds surrounded by sun, moon and stars. From it a dove representing the Holy Spirit extends toward Adam. Adam is seen in the garden also in company with the fish, birds and a deer.



Blending with the garden scene is Noah's Ark under the rainbow. The dove returns bearing an olive branch to show that the waters have begun to recede.

In the next small panel a ram is caught in the bushes by its horns while a fire burns on the altar. This is a symbol of Abraham's attempted sacrifice of Isaac.



Next is the burning bush from which God spoke to Moses. This is a continuing symbol of God's presence.



Next is a representation of
Moses receiving the
Tablets of the Law.

The story of the Old Testament continues with David portrayed as a shepherd boy playing his harp, perhaps composing the words “Thou leadest me beside the still waters.”



Young Daniel stands imprisoned with the lions who have remained peaceful during the night. That was his sentence by the order of a king who held him captive for refusing to cease praying to his God.

In the next two small panels are symbols referring to Isaiah. When he felt himself unworthy to prophesy, he dreamed a seraph took a burning coal from the altar of sacrifice and sealed his lips. The lion and the lamb lying down together recalls his vision of the Peaceable Kingdom.





The next three panels show Mary and Joseph caring for the child Jesus who is worshipped by shepherds and wise men. Joseph's staff has burst into bloom according to an old legend.



The four Evangelists are traditionally symbolized by the four beasts from the fourth chapter of Revelation. The man is assigned to St. Matthew who tells of the human nature of Jesus. The lion is St. Mark's who begins his gospel with the voice of one

crying in the wilderness. The ox, the animal of sacrifice, stands for Jesus' sacrificial nature. John's gospel is considered the most inspirational, so he is given the eagle which flies up to heaven on strong wings.

The gospel story continues with the panel illustrating John the Baptist baptizing Jesus in the river Jordan. A small symbol of his calling the fisherman to be his apostles is a combination of the shaped cross for Andrew and the cock who crowed at Peter's denial, backed by a fish net.



x-



Jesus seated on a stylized mountain preaches his great sermon to a crowd of people who gathered to hear Him. The next small symbol, five small breads and two fish, are the boy's lunch he miraculously multiplied to feed the five thousand listeners.



The next scene shows Jesus holding out His arms to a mother and a group of children.

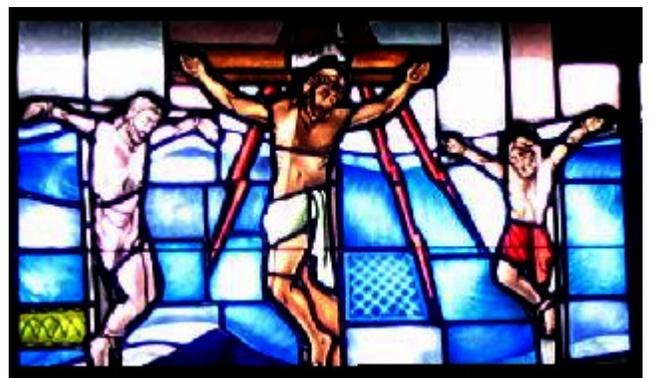
Jesus' teaching is represented by the lost sheep being saved by the Good Shepherd, even though the other ninety-nine are safe in the fold.

The gateway of Jerusalem and palm branches recall his triumphal entry into the city heralded by the crowds who will shout "Crucify Him" later in the week.



In the next panel Jesus is seen at the table of the Last Supper with his twelve apostles. He holds up his hands to bless the bread and wine. Judas is identifiable on the right because he is holding a bag of money.

Jesus is crucified flanked by two thieves. The inscription INRI is the one Pilate ordered set up. These are the initials for the Greek: **"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."**





Easter morning dawns. Mary Magdalene finds the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. As she turns to confront the one she thought was the gardener, she cries “Master” in recognition. In the distance is the cross, now empty, draped in a winding sheet.

Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances are typified by the Great Commission he gave to his followers, “Go into the world to preach the gospel.” The ship and the globe of the earth represent the spread of the infant religion throughout the then known world. The ship with a cross on its sail has also become the symbol of the church,



keeping afloat in the stormy seas of splits and heresies through the love of Jesus.

In the next panel are two episodes from the Acts of the Apostles. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, kneels on the stones that killed him. His arms are outstretched forgiving his murderers. Paul declaims the famous sermon he gave on Mars Hill “to the unknown God.” The place is identified by the Acropolis.





The medieval church is typified by Francis of Assisi with birds, a squirrel, and the wolf of Gubbio. He coaxed this wild beast to become tame and not harass the town any longer.

The Reformation was ushered in by Martin Luther nailing the ninety-five theses to the door of the castle church of Wittenberg.

The Methodist Church in America is represented by Francis Asbury. In 1771, John Wesley sent him to America. When he arrived he was one of a dozen Methodist preachers on the continent. When he died there were nearly seven hundred. He himself ordained four thousand. Asbury is shown with a horse for he rode from settlement to settlement through the back-woods. The clock with hands pointing to quarter of nine recalls the hour John Wesley “felt his heart strangely warmed” at a meeting in Aldersgate Street. Below it is the Methodist Seal.



The last panel shows Jesus Christ seated on the rainbow throne holding a cross-topped orb, which denotes royalty and the dominion of Christianity throughout the world. From his feet flows the river of the water of life. His hand is raised in benediction.