

Stained Glass Windows



St. John's Episcopal Church
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Stained Glass Windows Are a Treasure at St. John's

By Kristina and Malcolm Floyd

(This article is reprinted from the December 2002 "Steeple and People" newsletter. The authors of the article visited St. John's in the summer of 2002 for the purpose of studying and photographing our stained glass windows. The Floyds, residents of Winnsboro, SC, have visited a number of churches for the same purpose.)

The windows in the nave of the church were created and executed by the world famous 'Institute For Christian Art Works' under the ownership and management of Franz Borgias Mayer in Munich, Germany, between the years of 1890 and 1902. They are magnificent examples of the finest quality, hand-painted stained glass art windows.

This studio was comparable to Tiffany Studios in its reputation and excellence of craftsmanship. Under his management, the studio created magnificent windows for churches worldwide from 1848 to 1926. In fact, in 1888 a branch office was opened in New York to serve the demand in the United States.

The windows in the nave are truly national treasures. They should be protected and preserved as such. They cannot be replaced. It is our hope that the following information both informs members and increases their appreciation for them.

Installation History

According to church records, the windows were installed as follows:

- The three windows over the altar depicting St. John the Apostle (center), St. Paul (left), and St. Timothy (right), were created and installed in 1890.
- The windows in the nave depicting biblical themes were installed in two sets; the left side (gospel side) being completed and installed in 1900 and the right side (epistle side) completed and installed in 1902.



The sanctuary windows have been called the Altar triptych since they seem to enfold the altar in their embrace. (See individual windows next page.)

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)



St. Paul
Given in Loving Memory of
Jarvis B. Buxton, Rector of
St. John's from 1831 to 1851.



**St. John the Apostle and
Evangelist**
Given in Loving Memory of
Thomas Atkinson, D.D., LLD, 3rd
Bishop of North Carolina.



St. Timothy
Given in Loving Memory
of James Kyle Jr., Born
Sep. 13, 1859. Entered into
Everlasting Life Feb. 26,
1885.

Stained Glass Window Development

Following is an overview of how the antique windows in the church were made. It may increase the appreciation of what a treasure they are.

The Drawings

After acquiring the exact size and dimensions of the window openings in the church, a complete full-sized drawing (or cartoon as it is referred to in the Trade) was prepared for each window. The nave windows have very rare and incredibly detailed borders around each scene. These also would have had complete, to scale, drafting on the cartoon. The cartoon also would have indicated the extensively hand-painted areas of each window.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

The Glass

First, one must start with the beautiful array of colored glass in the windows. Each color of glass was hand/mouth-blown, using a long, hollow pipe or rod (12+ feet long). This dangerous craft requires incredible expertise and was a lifetime occupation, often handed down from father to son.

To begin, on the end of a hollow rod, a red-hot molten glob of glass was collected, to which oxides and chemicals had been added for color.

Once the glass was blown and shaped on the rod, it was slit down the length of the molten mass and laid out on a flat surface to cool and come to a uniform thickness (as far as possible). Antique glass has varying thickness and has bubbles and striations in it.

It should be noted that the windows in the church have very few air bubbles or striations in the glass, indicating that a great deal of glass was discarded to utilize only the best pieces from each sheet.

After the glass was delivered to the Stained Glass Studio, the artist would select the colors required to create the window that had been drawn and drafted.

The Painting

To paint on stained glass is a highly skilled craft. It requires the grinding of uncolored glass to powder, as well as the addition of oxides and chemicals to develop the color that will be applied on the glass surface. Then a liquid medium is added to hold the ground glass and additives on the brush or pen, such as water or vinegar mixed with Gum Arabic, sugar, or other additives. All produce different application effects on the glass.

To paint a face is perhaps the most demanding of skills. First a light wash of the paint mixture is spread over the glass surface with a wide, very soft brush and allowed to dry completely. Then the artist uses brushes and tools to remove the wash from areas he wants to lighten. He may add more layers of wash afterward to darken and increase shading.

Another application on top of the wash is made with a fine brush to draw the facial features, such as the shape of the eyes or nose, etc. The painted glass must be fired to approximately 1200 degrees in a kiln for the glass paint to become molten and merge into the glass surface and become permanent. A single piece of glass in a figure may have many firings before it is complete. Once it is fired, the paint application is permanent and cannot be cleaned off. It becomes part of the glass surface.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Mayer Studio was one of the first in the world to perfect the use of transparent enamel paints on glass. Prior to enamel use, black or brown or a close derivative was used to shade and define pieces of glass. If you look closely at other old stained glass windows you will often see that they used colored glass, shaded only with a black or brown, while the Mayer windows have gloriously painted details in transparent color. This greatly increases the value of these windows.

Cutting, Assembly, and Leading

Each piece of glass in a window must be cut by hand to exactly match the drawn shape on the cartoon drawing. The outer edges are often ground to be able to handle them without danger of the sharp edges while painting.

After painting and firing, they are laid out with the H-shaped lead channeling between the pieces. The lead channel must be cut exactly to length as it winds around or along a piece of glass. When all pieces of glass are cut and painted and fired and the lead is cut to exact length, the window is assembled and ready for soldering.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

A mixture of tin and lead is melted and a drop put on each place where the cut lead channel intersects to bond all the joints. Finally, a metal frame is added around the window and wherever the lead butts against it, solder is placed to attach the lead.

Windows are also reinforced for strength by iron bars that are inserted into the actual nave window frame at installation. Wires have been soldered across the window span in a line where each iron rod will be installed, to be twisted over them to add extra support.

Finally, a grout or window cement is scrubbed into the lead channels and outer frame on both sides of the window to seal it and make it weather tight and to add additional stiffening when it hardens.

The windows are then packed for shipping to the church and installed for the pleasure of all for generations to come.

**Gospel Side (left)
From front to back**

**Windows of the
Nave**

**Epistle Side (right)
From front to back**



Madonna and Child

Given in Loving Memory of Honorable Thomas S. Lutterloh - Reverend Jarvis Buxton, D.D. - Mrs. Mary Frances Lutterloh - Judge Ralph Potts Buxton.



Christ's Charge to the Apostles

Given in Loving Memory of Joseph Caldwell Huske, D.D. June 17, 1822 - January 14, 1897. Beloved Rector of St. John's Church for Nearly 40 Years.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

Windows of the Nave (Continued)

Epistle Side

Gospel Side



The Good Shepherd

In Memoriam, Edward Jones Hale, son of Joseph and Dorothy Herndon Hale, Born Sep 9, 1802 - Died Jan. 1, 1883, and Sarah Jane Hale, daughter of Carleton and Caroline Mallet Walker. Born Nov. 1, 1809 - Died Dec. 18, 1888.



The Call of St. Peter

In Memory of William Charles McDuffie Junior. Born 16 April 1864 - Died 9 May 1897.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

Windows of the Nave (Continued)

Gospel Side



Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In Loving Memory of John Winslow, 1764 - 1820. One of the Founders of This Parish and Its First Senior Warden.

Epistle Side



Christ Blessing Little Children

In Loving Memory of Charles Peter Mallett, 1792 - 1874, Charles Beatty Mallett, 1816 - 1872, John W. Wright, 1794 - 1854, Margaret Wright Mallett, 1821 - 1854.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

Windows of the Nave (Continued)

Gospel Side



The Centurion

In Loving Memory of Penelope Bruce Swann - Born June 20, 1829, Died January 5, 1900, and Marsden Haigh, Born October 26, 1872, Died July 25, 1900.

Epistle Side



The Good Samaritan

In Loving Memory of James Kyle, Born 1794, Died 1881, and Jane Kyle, Born 1794, Died 1861

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

Transept Windows

Another two beautiful windows are in the transept areas of the church. In the north transept (the gospel side) is an image of the young St. Mary holding a flower of the day, probably a lily, from the area in which she lived. This window is the newest of all the stained glass windows having been installed in 1985 or 1986 when the north passageway from the chancel to the nave was constructed. In the south transept (the epistle side) is an image of St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist. He is seen holding a chalice with a serpent warning him that the wine is poisoned.



St. Mary
In Loving Memory of Robert Owen Burns,
1892 - 1961, Robert Owen Burns Jr.,
1923 - 1926



St. John the Apostle and Evangelist
Given in Loving Memory of Rev. John Huske,
1854 - 1915, by his brothers.
*(This window also has been identified as St. Luke the
Physician holding a cup for his ministry as a
beloved disciple.)*

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

Pictured below is the St. Margaret window, which was in the stairwell of Hauser Hall before the addition and renovation. It now is in the children's chapel in the lower floor of the new multipurpose building.



St. Margaret

In Memory of Margaret Strange Huske, 1825 - 1884. She was the daughter of Senator Robert Strange and wife of The Rev. Joseph C. Huske, D.D.

The windows over the doors in the narthex are inscribed as follows:

*And If I Be Lifted Up * Will Draw All Men Unto Me*



In Loving Memory of Margaret Anderson Mallett, Who Entered into the Life Everlasting November 17, 1907

Be Thou Faithful Unto Death and I Will Give Thee a Crown of Life

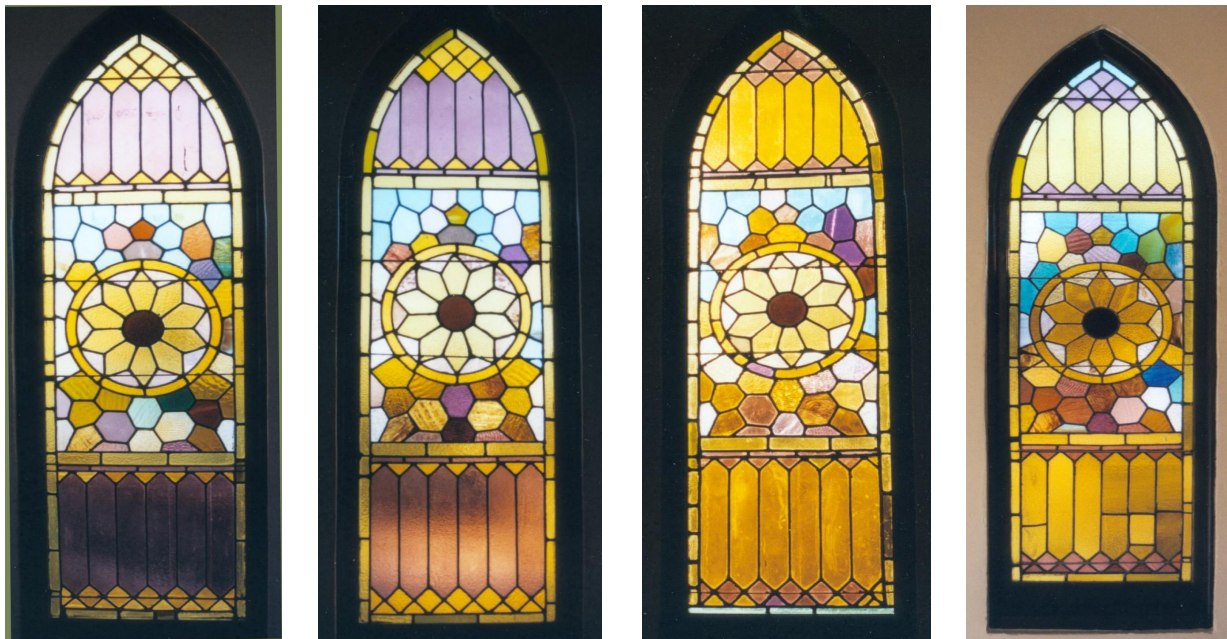


In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Anderson, Wife of Archibald Carter Worth, Who Entered into the Life Everlasting August 21, 1907

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)

In the late 1900s, one of St. John's parishioners found in a friend's garage where they had been stored for over 30 years six stained glass windows from the 1896 parish house. After purchasing the windows, he donated them for use in the new addition to the church.

The two smaller windows are now in the connecting corridor between Hauser Hall and the Kyle House. (See next page.)



The four larger windows (above) have been incorporated into the stairwells of the new multipurpose wing.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows (Continued)



The two smaller windows are in the connecting corridor between Hauser Hall and the Kyle House. They are pictured here from the outside.



The larger windows from the 1896 parish house are now installed in the stairwells of the new multipurpose room. The arrow points to just one of the windows.



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