

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF  
THE BRETHREN  
  
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

**A Report of the History,  
Meaning and Symbolism  
Of our Stained Glass Windows**

## **STAINED GLASS WINDOWS (background)**

Many years ago when churches started building great cathedrals, the artistry of stained glass was begun. Stained glass created something of beauty to glorify God and also told the story of faith. Since most persons at that time could not read, the truths of the faith were told in pictures to see instead of words to read.

The Hutchinson Community Church of the Brethren has one person to thank for its beautiful stained glass windows - Anita Cochran Cooney. Anita and her husband, Virgil, made certain the Rose Window in the front of the sanctuary was part of the building when it was built.

After Virgil's death, Anita learned the art of stained glass. With the help of her children, she made our first full-length stained glass window. Since Anita wanted to share her talent with the church, she volunteered to teach anyone who wanted to learn the art of stained glass. The group, known as the "Cracked Glass Gals", consisted of Anita, Opal Fry, Betty Robinson, and Betty Sampson.

All the windows in the sanctuary and the chapel were designed and made by our own "Cracked Glass Gals". The only exception is the two windows in the board room of the new addition, formerly on the north wall of fellowship hall. These were made by Randy Rayer of Wichita, so they could be installed by Easter, 1995. On April 16, 1995, Community Church held a service of dedication for the windows.

The stained glass windows, designed and made by our own group, represent only one of the unique aspects of the Community Church of the Brethren. As you worship and fellowship with us, we pray that you discover the loving church we have come to know.

May God's blessings and peace be with you,

The Witness Commission

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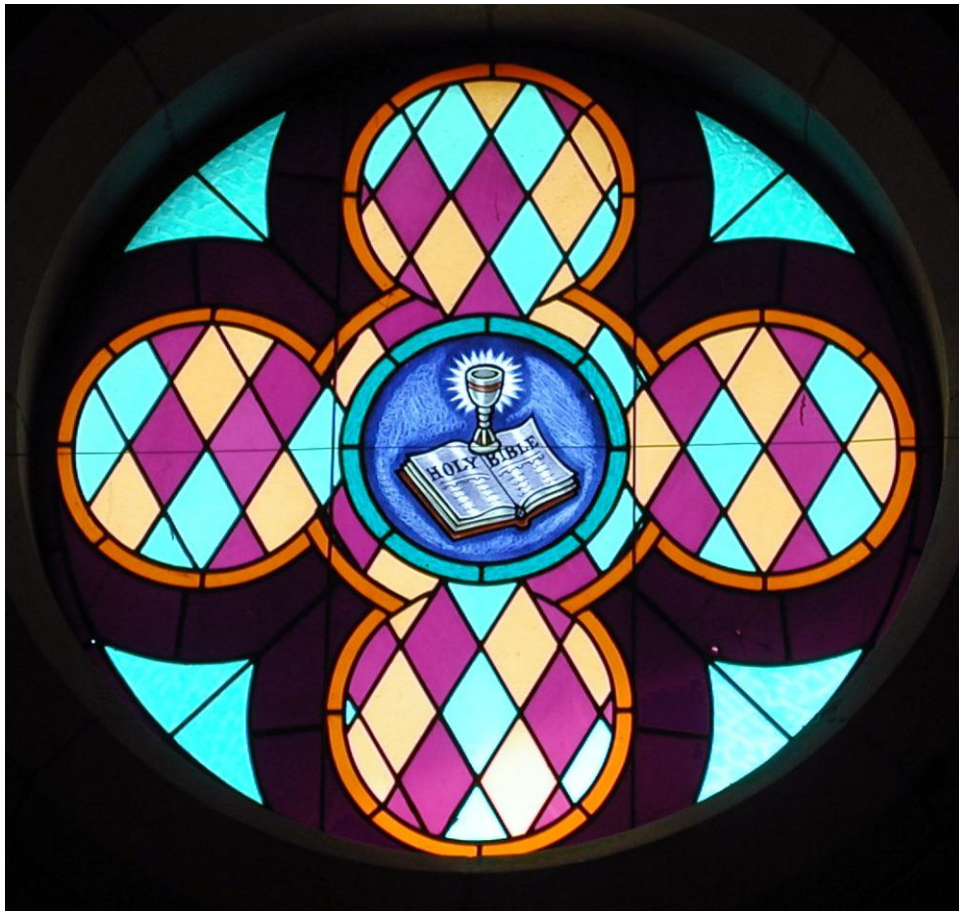
## SYMBOLISM OF THE COLORS, OCTAGON DESIGNS & THE RAINBOW

<b>WHITE</b>	Symbol of the Creator, light, joy, innocence, purity, glory & perfection.
<b>WHITE &amp; GOLD</b>	Symbolizes purity, light, rejoicing, the Godhead.
<b>YELLOW &amp; GOLD</b>	Symbolizes worth, virtue, glory of God, and Christian might.
<b>BROWN &amp; BLACK</b>	Symbolizes mourning, colors of grief and sorrow.
<b>RED</b>	Symbolizes blood, fire, Christian zeal, the work and ministry of the Church. Refers to the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the blood of the martyrs of the Church.
<b>GREEN</b>	Regarded as the universal color – the most evident color in nature. Symbolic of hope. Also symbolic of growth in Christian life. Signifies God's provision for man's needs.
<b>BLUE</b>	Symbolizes heavenly love and truth.
<b>VIOLET</b>	Used as evidence of the humility of the Son of God in assuming human form. Symbolizes penitence, watching, fasting, humility, suffering, & sympathy.
<b>PURPLE</b>	Equally appropriate and often used instead of Violet. Purple is the regal color referring to the triumphal entry of the King of Kings, who was of royal (Davidic) descent, & who is the ruler of many hearts. Purple is the color of penitence, referring to the purple garment put on our Lord when they mocked him.
<b>OCTAGON</b>	The octagon shape is used in these windows because it is a symbol of REGENERATION. The octagon shape is also the shape of most baptismal fountains.
<b>RAINBOW</b>	<p>God sent the world the rainbow as a promise that He would never again flood the earth. His covenant with us is found in Genesis 9:9-17. The effect of a rainbow is created by varying the colors from red at the top of a window, to orange, to yellow, to yellow-green, to green, to blue-green, to blue, to violet, and to purple at the bottom of the window. The inner colors of the window are the lighter shades and the outer edge colors are brighter and darker.</p> <p>The rainbow effect is used in the Christian Symbols and Outreach Windows. In order to get the rays that emanate from a center point out to the edges correctly lined up, the two Betty's drew up an exact, large replica of the window placements. They marked the center point and attached a string at this point. Then they began to mark off the rays using the string &amp; yard sticks. You can see the result of their work in the finished windows at the front of the sanctuary.</p>

## ROSE WINDOW

Our Rose Window is rich in inspirational meaning and Christian symbolism. The very shape of this window, the circle, is symbolic of God, whose perfection is without beginning or end.

This window, at the front of our sanctuary, is a memorial to Clarence Gnagy, former member of our church, by his brothers, sisters, and family.

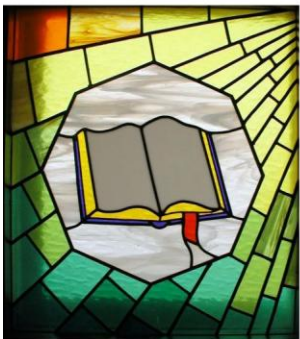


## CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS WINDOW

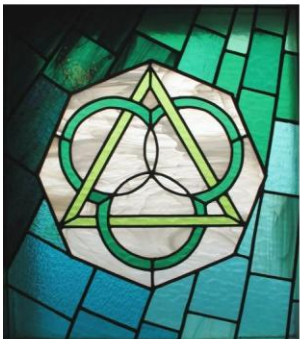
\* The symbols with this denotes the symbol is on one of our paraments



\* **LATIN CROSS:** (Upper Left Octagon). This symbol is the most commonly used form of the cross. This cross is embellished a bit and is called a Fleuree Latin Cross. The Gold of the cross symbolizes the Godhead, purity, virtue, worth and the glory of God. The Amber (light brown) points represent the sorrow and grief of Christ's death on the cross. This is on the white parament.



\* **OPEN BIBLE:** (Next Octagon down on Left). The open Bible, the WORD of GOD, symbolizes the ready access to God's word to all who seek to read and study it. At one time in church history only a select few were privileged to read and study it. The Blue of the Bible binding symbolizes TRUTH and LOVE and the Yellow of the edges is for worth, glory of God and Christian might. The red bookmark is symbolic of Christ's blood shed for us.



\* **TRINITY:** (Next Octagon down on Left). This symbol represents the three persons of the Godhead... the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The triangle with all sides and angles the same and the three equal sized circles interlocking express the equality and unity of the Triune God. The circle - complete without beginning or end, symbolizes the eternal nature of the members of the Trinity. The color Green symbolizes Hope and Growth in Christian Life. This is on the green parament.



\* **CHI RHO:** (Bottom Left Octagon). This symbol is a monogram of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (XPICTOC). These letters look like the English letters X and P. This symbol was widely used in the early church and is found in great numbers on the walls of the catacombs as well as on pottery, coins, sarcophagi and other artifacts. The Purple color refers to the garment put on our Lord when they mocked Him. It also is a symbol of the penitence which Christ suffered for us on the cross.

\* **PENTECOSTAL DOVE:** (Top Octagon on Right). This symbol depicts the descending dove bringing the Holy Spirit in the form of flames - thus the Pentecostal Dove. The White dove signifies the Godhead and the Red flames the Holy Spirit descending at Pentecost. The Red also is symbolic of the blood Christ shed for us on the cross.

\* **CROSS and CROWN:** (Next Octagon down on Right). Jesus the King and Savior: He died on the cross so we could have eternal salvation through Him! The Red Cross is a symbol of Christ's blood shed for us. The gold crown refers to His worth and glory. This is on the red parament.

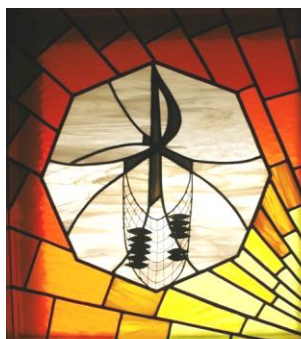
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**FISH and CROSS:** (Next Octagon down on Right). The fish was the secret sign used by the early Christians. Adding the cross to the fish is a modern adaptation of the old secret sign. This symbol is now widely used and at one time it was on the stationary of this church. The initial letters of the Greek word for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior” spell the Greek word for fish. The Red Cross is symbolic of Christ’s blood and the blue of the fish signifies the love and truth that Christ gave us by His life and word.

**I H S:** (Bottom Octagon on Right). This symbol is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of JESUS (Iota, Eta, and Sigma). Originally I H C was used but I H S is more commonly used now. A cross is always used with the H. Gold was used for the letters I H S because this symbol in gold was on the first pulpit cloth used in this church when it was built. Gold is symbolic of worth, virtue, glory of God and Christian might. The brown cross symbolizes the grief of His family, friends, and followers.



## OUTREACH WINDOW



**BETHANY SEMINARY (Upper Left):** This is the symbol for Bethany Seminary - the only Church of the Brethren seminary.



**BROTHERHOOD BOARD (Next down Left):** The Church of the Brethren works world wide in cooperation with Church World Service to give a helping hand to those in need. The world with the flags going out symbolizes our outreach to the world. (When we figure out, how to make the new Church of the Brethren logo it will be placed here instead.)



**BROTHERHOOD OUTDOOR MINISTRY (Next down Left):** The Church of the Brethren has many camps and represents them by the trees, the dove, and the three JOY kids. This logo is used by most Brethren church camps. The heads of the JOY Kids are glass nuggets. They are brown, black, and yellow and glued on with clear nail polish.



**FRIENDSHIP DAY CARE (Bottom Left):** Community Church of the Brethren has a Day Care and Pre-School. The blocks represent the learning experiences the children have and the adult hand reaching for the child's hand symbolizes the purpose for which Friendship Day Care came to be – to reach out to the children in their care and help them grow and mature into happy, caring, responsible persons. The drawing for the hands was copied from a picture of David Sampson reaching for his son Lee's hand.



**MCPHERSON COLLEGE (Upper Right):** This is the current logo for McPherson College. The college colors are red & white.



**BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE (Next down Right):** Two BVS symbols are combined in this octagon. The hand of service holds a flower with the world behind it. The Peace dove at the base of hand is one symbol. The other is BVS in lower case letters with the flame. When flat it represents a tub or basin used in our Love Feast service of feet washing as a symbol of service.



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**BRETHREN SERVICE CUP** (Next down Right): This was the first symbol used by BVS. As there are many members who have served in BVS it was appropriate to include it. The cups were wood and had an inlaid cross with a circle. Inside the circle was a hand giving a cup of water to a hand in need.

**THE CEDARS (Bottom Right)**: This is the logo for the Church of the Brethren Retirement Home and Health Care Unit in McPherson. The beginning site for this institution had big, beautiful tall, cedars - therefore the name: THE CEDARS.

### **More History and Information about the Christian Symbols & Outreach Windows**

The Christian Symbols Window and the Outreach Window were constructed in two stages. First the 16 octagons were made. The rest of the window was then constructed around the octagon. Thus each window section was made till all 16 sections were complete and finished.

The Christian Symbols Window and the Outreach Window are the front windows in the sanctuary. The Christian Symbols Window is a memorial to Eva Schrock and the Outreach Window is a memorial to Ruth Lackey. Betty Robinson had the idea of using the rainbow effect on the windows and they were installed December 15, 1993.

When Ellis Oxley and John Cooney got ready to install these panes they discovered the panes were too large for the openings. Randy Rayer was called to find out what we should do. He said to just cut off the excess glass, re-solder, re-putty the edges and they would be ready to install.

We started cutting them down the next day. Anita was so stressed by this event she ended up in the hospital. The two Betty's and Opal cut them down and they were then installed January 17, 1984. John then marked our work-boards so it would not happen again!

## CHURCH ORDINANCE & BELIEFS WINDOW

The outer edge framing of brown matches the Lotus window brown and signifies the everyday grief and sorrow of our world, and yet inside all that makes us mourn, is the green of nature, hope, growth of Christian Life that is happening in our church and is closer to our everyday Christian lives. These two framing colors enclose the neutral tan of the background for the symbols of the window. The green is the same as the Lotus window.

### LEFT PANES

#### (Top Left)

**PEACE DOVE:** The Church of the Brethren has historically been known as a peace church. The world seen from space is basically blue with wispy white clouds about it.....looking like a gem. The dove of peace is symbolic of the peace our denomination has tried to bring to the world. The white of the dove is symbolic of the light of the Creator, the Godhead, joy and rejoicing in Him. The green of the olive branch is for hope and Christian growth we wish to bring as truth (blue world) to the world.

#### (Next down Left)

**TOWEL and BASIN:** Foot washing found in John 13:5-14 is our symbol of humility and readiness to serve all who are in need. The blue of the water symbolizes the love and truth of our Triune God. The white towel symbolizes the purity, innocence, glory and perfection of Christ. The light purple basin is a symbol of the suffering of the world that is washed away by the love and truth (water-blue) of God.

#### (Next down Left)

**BAPTISM:** Matthew 28:19-20 is the Great Commission given to all Christians. The symbol for baptism in most books of Christian symbols is a shell. This symbol does not depict our practice of immersion. We have pictured a person being baptized. The blue of the water symbolizes love and truth and the red of the pastors robe symbolizes Christ's blood that washes us clean of sin in the act of baptism and the pink (red and white mixed together) of the girl's dress symbolizes her willingness to live a pure life and that she would be willing to shed her own blood for God if necessary.

#### (Bottom Left)

**ALEXANDER MACK LOGO:** This is the logo that has come down to us from Alexander Mack, the founder of the Church of the Brethren. The red heart is the heart of the church with Christ at the center. Not only Christ's blood but the blood of the martyrs is symbolized by the red heart.

*(Continued on next page)*



The brown cross shows the grief and sorrow all people suffer and the grapes symbolize watching, fasting, humility, penitence, suffering and sympathy all people endure but the blood of Christ washes all this away and the green leaves give hope and growth in the Christian life.

## **RIGHT PANES**

### **(Top Right)**

**SERVICE:** The hand of service is reaching out with a cup of water symbolic of the service orientation our denomination has been recognized for the world over....the best known is our role in Church World Service. The blue sleeve of the volunteer is a symbol of the love for others of those who serve. The purple of the receiver's sleeve symbolizes the suffering of humanity which we strive to reduce and the darker hand of the one receiving the water symbolizes the many other races and creeds our service is extended to.

### **(Next down Right)**

**THE SACRAMENTS:** The Bread and the Cup, Luke 22:7-19 along with grapes and wheat symbolize Christ's gift of eternal life and salvation for us by His death on the cross. The white of the bread for the Godhead, brownish tan for sorrow and the red of the wine for Christ's blood. The purple of the grapes stand for Christ's royalty and humility and the gold of the wheat symbolizes the worth, virtue, glory of God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

### **(Next down Right)**

**LAYING ON OF HANDS:** The ceremonial "Laying on of Hands" or "Setting Apart" in ordination or confirmation or similar service has its beginning back in the Old Testament days. The scripture passages come from Ex. 29: 10, 15, &19; Lev. 16:21; Acts 8:14-17; and 2 Tim. 1:6. This is also part of the anointing service as in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, verse 5b "Thou anointest my head with oil". The blue robe symbolizes the love and truth of God; the purple robe signifies penitence, humility, sympathy, fasting, suffering, and also Christ's royal descent. The gold robe symbolizes virtue, purity, light, and rejoicing in the glory of God.

### **(Bottom Right)**

**CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:** The gold joined rings symbolize the joining of man and woman in unending union in God's love as one. The flames of the candles show the two natures of Christ - Divine and Human, and Christ as the light of the world, (John 1:9), is at the heart of Christian Marriage. The brown cross symbolizes the grief and pain all couples go through, yet the cross is a center of their life and the white of the candles shows the joys and perfection life can bring.

The idea for this window was a group effort by all the stained glass workers who were Anita Cooney, Opal Fry, Betty Robinson and Betty Sampson.

It took 204 1/2 hours to construct the 8 panels that make up this window. It was installed April 25, 1986 and was in memory of Irvin and Mary Gnagy family by George and Ida Ruth Arnholt.

## "I AM" WINDOW



*(Description next page)*

Betty Sampson's original idea was to have a Tree of Life window. She drew the design but was not satisfied with it so discarded that design. She then drew another Tree of Life and went so far as to start to enlarge it, but again she was not satisfied and discarded the design. The idea she ended with included something of a tree ... a grape vine, and also other intriguing things. Thus evolved the "I Am" window.

Starting in the left upper edge of the window rays of "light" symbolize "I am the light of the world", John 8:12. The rays reach out across to the other side of the window where it touches the top of the grape vine. In the grape vine is a nest with three robin blue eggs. Left of the nest in the sky is a blue-green butterfly. These symbolize "I am the resurrection and the life", John 11:25-26 and also "I am the way and the truth and the life", John 14:6. The blue is symbolic of truth and the nest of a resting place for the Lord, Matthew 8:20. The butterfly is a symbol of resurrection and eternal life ... the life from John 1:4 "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men". The grape vine is the symbol for "I am the vine", John 15:1. The green of the leaves is symbolic of hope and also growth in Christian life and also signifies God's provision for mankind's needs. The purple of the grapes is symbolic of the Cup of Holy Communion.... and Christ's blood shed for us. The gold of the wheat is symbolic of the Godhead... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...and as the Bread of Holy Communion it is the body of Christ broken for us, Mark 14:22. The blue stream is the Living Water, John 4:7-15 and John 7:37-38. Again the blue is symbolic of the Love of God and His Truth.

This window has several "overlays". Several of the wheat heads have been added to the top of the finished panel and wire has been added as wheat beards and also as tendrils on the grape vine and veins on the leaves. The top of H hobby came was detached and fashioned into grape clusters, soldered, and fit over the purple grape cluster to show the individual grapes in the cluster. This was then trimmed and soldered in place. These were added after the main part of the panels were made and had been puttied.

This window is a memorial for Ina Odell and was drawn by Betty Sampson. It took 105 hours to construct and was installed November 2, 1985. It is located second from the front on the east side of the church.



## THE CROSS and AURA WINDOW (Also called Resurrection and Eternal Life)

The drawings for this window were started by Anna Jo Cochran Vogelsang after her brother Don Cochran died of cancer. Anna Jo had drawn the dove, the lilies, knew how she wanted to make the cross and aura work in the window, and was in the process of putting it all together when she discovered in February she had cancer. The window was put on hold as Anita helped Anna Jo battle her cancer.

In the meantime Anita and John Cooney were getting very close. He had asked her to marry him, but she had not given him her answer. Anita talked to her daughter about John's proposal. Anna Jo gave her blessing and she stood up with her mother when John and Anita married on May 30, 1982. In September she became very ill and was in the KU Medical Center. For 5 days as she fought her cancer, a Monarch butterfly was seen by family members outside her 5<sup>th</sup> floor window. It was there every day and became a symbol of hope for the family. She rallied and the butterfly was no longer there. The family felt the butterfly was a sign that God had heard the many prayers being said for Anna Jo, and was there looking after her.

After her death Anita took the patterns Anna Jo had drawn to Randy Rayer and asked him to complete the window design. This he did, and this window became a memorial to both Don Cochran and Anna Jo Cochran Vogelsang. Thus the "Cracked Glass Gals", as Calvin Keasling named them, (Anita, Betty Robinson, Betty Sampson, and Opal Fry) began their first sanctuary window project.

They did not keep track of how many hours it took them to construct the window. They just did it! They worked Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings after choir and when ever they could find time to get together to work on the project. John made the wooden cross beams for the cross and installed them after the window was installed. The upright post completed the cross.

The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit and is descending to the cross in the upper left hand panel of the window. The dove is also an image of innocence and constancy and of the Christian soul. Remember a dove descended from heaven when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.

*(Continued on next page)*



The aura (or Nimbus) is seen in the upper 4 panels with rays radiating out from it. Christ is no longer on the cross, but His aura remains as a sign of His divinity. The aura is a symbol of sanctity and denotes a person recognized piety, such as apostles, martyrs and saints. It is used on not only to represent a person of the Most Blessed Trinity, but on their symbols as well, and upon representations of angels. As a rule the color of the aura is gold.

The lilies are a symbol of Easter, Luke 12:27. The lily bulb decays in the soil and produces a new bulb; the stem, leaves, and the flowers all rising in glory above the dark soil, signifying the attainment of immortal life though the body perish. There are 11 lily blooms in the window depicting the 11 disciples. Among the lilies are three buds to represent the Trinity.

Because the family had seen the Monarch butterfly outside Anna Jo's window when she was so very ill, it was added by Randy just above the lilies that were growing out of rocks at the base of the cross and had reached the edge of the aura. The butterfly is also the symbol of the resurrection and eternal life.

The exact date the window was installed is unknown, but it was in the early spring of 1983. It was the first window constructed by the stained glass crew. This window is the third from the front on the west side of the sanctuary.

## LOTUS WINDOW

This was the first stained glass window installed in our church. It had its beginning immediately following the 1977 Christmas holidays. Anita had an invitation from her sister Lois and her husband to spend the winter in Sun City, AZ with them. Lois knew of Anita and her children's desire to find a special way to use the memorial funds at our church for Virgil Cochran, her late husband of many years. Virgil had been very active in developing the plans and means to build the church at 16th and Severance. He made sure the Rose Window at the front of the sanctuary was part of the plan. Lois advised Anita that she was enrolled in a stained glass class in Sun City.

Anita quickly accepted the challenge to take the class, and travel plans were completed. After 6 weeks of training and many hours of "home work", an artist was contracted to prepare a design for a church window, using the Christian symbol of the lotus flower (lily) for the subject matter for the memorial window for Virgil at Community Church.

Before returning to Hutchinson, a stop-over with Anna Jo and Bob was to become a very meaningful visit. After seeing the sun catchers, lamp shades, and a sample of the memorial window design, Anna Jo was very interested in learning the art of stained glass. The following weekend, Don and Virginia arrived in Ulysses from a vacation trip and they also were interested in learning the technique of stained glass. Instead of working alone on the memorial window project for the church as Anita had planned, it immediately became a family project.

Early in the morning, as a family, they made a trip to Denver to purchase the stained glass. With very limited experience in the area of stained glass, the glass, materials, and tools were purchased. A very excited and grateful family returned to Ulysses to start on a new project involving the entire family. Bob made a work shop in their double garage with proper table tops for working, lighting, etc. necessary for the project. They all knew, it was with God's help, the project was a success. The Church Board accepted their handiwork as Virgil's memorial window.

*(Continued on next page)*





The background for the lotus design was light tan and brown. The lotus flower petals were tan with wispy dark red through it. The red depicts the blood of Christ; the brown symbolizes mourning, grief and sorrow; and the green in the window stands for hope and growth in Christian life.

The lotus flower, having its roots in quagmire and its stem in muddy water, emerges as a flower of exquisite beauty and purity, as Christians are to rise above all passion and selfish gain.

The lotus suggests that the life of the Christian may rise above unlovely and evil influences. The lotus is of the lily family and was used in early religions as a symbol of the Blessed Virgin, referring in her perpetual virginity. Later in Europe, the Easter and calla lilies, as we know them, were also accepted as a symbol of purity.

The lily as a symbol of Easter refers to the fact that a bulb decaying in the soil produces a new bulb, stem, leaves, and flowers, all rising in glory above the dark soil, signifying the attainment of immortal life through the body perish.

The lotus memorial window for Virgil Cochran was constructed in the spring of 1978 and installed that fall. It was installed by Ellis Oxley. This window is the third from the front on the east side of the church.

## GOOD SHEPHERD WINDOW



The basic idea for this window design was by Ruth Hornbaker and the final design was by Randy Rayer.

The manger with the baby Jesus has the aura above it to show He is the Son of God. The shepherd is there in the stable to show homage to baby Jesus and the sheep came with him. The donkey is looking on.



In the upper left hand panel is the Epiphany Star, (Numbers 24:17), the star of Jacob and it finds its fulfillment in the "manifestation" of Jesus to the Gentiles, (Matthew 2:1-2). This is a three dimensional star and was designed by John Cooney. While soldering the raised portion of the star to the flat panel, a dribble of solder ran in under the soldered raised portion; this could have been a disaster. After contemplating how to get it out, as it was easily seen, finally it was extracted with a small surgeon's forceps, and a great sigh of relief escaped from Anita and Betty R. They very carefully completed the soldering and the panel was ready to install.

The blue of the sky symbolizes the love of God for mankind by sending His Son to earth in human form. The gold of the aura (nimbus), symbolizes virtue, glory to God, worth, purity, light, and the aura itself is symbolic of sanctity and denotes a person recognized for unusual piety. The white of baby Jesus wrapping symbolizes innocence, glory, and perfection as well as joy, light, rejoicing, and the Godhead.



The manger comes from Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:7-15, Isaiah 1:3, and the brown wood symbolizes the grief and sorrow of the world Jesus came to save. The grey donkey was the beast Mary rode to Bethlehem. It was added to the original design by Ruth to complete the picture and the two Betty's' installed it. It symbolizes the mode of transportation Mary had to use as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem and also on her visit to Elizabeth in Mary's sixth month. The donkey also symbolizes the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem as it states in Matthew 21:2, 5. Christ the "good shepherd" is symbolized by the shepherd, who wears purple to show His royal decent, and as King of Kings and ruler of our hearts.



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The sheep family is symbolic of the "human family" and how Christ, the good shepherd, cares for His people watching over them with His staff. Again, the brown wood symbolizes the grief, sorrow, and mourning of the world; but the good shepherd has it in His hand, and can keep it under control, so His people can live in love and peace. The sheep family are in traditional sheep colors, but the dark gray faces show human sorrow most people face in life, and the white of their fleece symbolize the joy that can also be found in life. (Sheep - John 10:4, 27)

The light green hills in the background give hope for the future and also symbolize growth in Christian life.

This Good Shepherd was first installed in the second from the front west window on December 20, 1983 as a memorial to Esta Fall. However, there was a very strong blue light that streamed into the church from this window and it was distracting to the congregation. When the Three Wise Men window was finished and ready to install, the Good Shepherd window was removed from its location and moved to the back west window location on May 2, 1984, where it is today. The blue light was no longer a distracting problem.

## THE THREE WISE MEN WINDOW

The basic idea for this window design was by David Huckabey and was revised to the final design by Randy Rayer.

The small stars in the window are preformed facets. The blue sky symbolizes the love of God for the world. It is across the sanctuary at the back of the church from the Good Shepherd window and both of the windows use the same blue for the night sky.

The large, star is the Bethlehem Star (Matthew 2:2,9,10). The star follows tradition and has 4 points with the longer point at the bottom. This is the star the Wise Men follow to Bethlehem.

Mary, Jesus' mother (Matthew 1:16 & Luke 2:6-20), has traditionally been dressed in blue as it symbolizes truth and love.

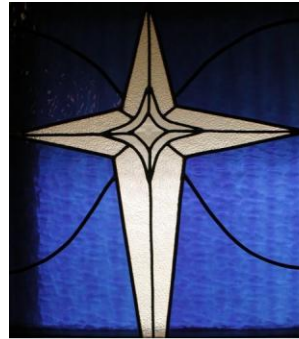
Baby Jesus, again traditionally, is dressed in white, which in this instance symbolizes The Godhead, the Creator, glory and perfection (Matthew 1:18-25). Again, the aura (or nimbus) is around Christ's head, and is emblematic of sanctity and to denote a person recognized for unusual piety. The gold of the aura symbolizes that He is indeed a part of the Godhead, full of virtue, purity, and glory of God.

The lamb is white symbolizes Christ as the "Lamb of God". Lambs were traditionally used as sacrifices on the alters to God by the Jews.

Joseph is in brown (Matthew 1:16 & 20), symbolizing human suffering that Christ came to take away. Brown was also a common color for garments worn by the men of that day.

The Wise Men all stand with folded hands to show their homage and honor for the Christ Child. The Wise Men's robes colors denote:

- **Purple:** Royalty
- **Green:** Hope and God's provision for man's needs
- **Gold:** Worth and rejoicing
- **Blue:** Love and truth
- **Yellow:** Virtue and glory to God
- **Red:** The blood of Christ and the martyrs



*(continued on next page)*

The gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11), are in symbolic colored containers. The container of the myrrh is blue and symbolizes love and truth. The container of the frankincense is green and symbolizes hope; God providing for mans needs, and growth in the Christian life. The gold is in a wooden box of brown denoting the grief and sorrow of man, lined in red to symbolize Christ's blood shed for us. The gift of gold symbolizes purity, light, innocence, and joy, glory to God, The Godhead, and Christian might. The lower right panel contains these gifts and is made up of 122 different pieces of glass. Betty Robinson spent many hours on this panel, as it was the last one and the most tedious to construct. Each piece had to fit precisely into the pane, and be lined up exactly to complete the design correctly.

This window is a memorial to George Friesen and was installed May 2, 1984 by Ellis Oxley and John Cooney. The Good Shepherd window was moved and installed that same day.



## NEW ADDITION BOARD ROOM

*(Note: These windows were originally installed on the north wall of Fellowship Hall, then moved to the New Addition Board Room)*



windows and consulted with Karen, Randy's window designer.

She agreed to modify the designs as they had discussed them and send the designs back to John. He presented them to the Church Board for their approval, which was given, and he proceeded to give the go ahead to Randy to make them.

The windows were finished and John brought them to Hutchinson. The frames had been stained and made ready for the stained glass panels to be installed by Ellis Oxley and Judson Hornbaker. The hardware to hang the frames was put up and the windows were installed the week before Easter. The colors used in both windows were picked by Karen.

The two windows in fellowship hall are the only windows in the church not made by the "cracked glass" gals. John Cooney wanted the Fellowship Hall windows made and installed by Easter 1995 and there just was not enough time for the stained glass crew to make them by that time. *(Continued on next page)*

The final designs came about after much discussion and consulting with those who were interested in what was to be depicted in the windows in Fellowship Hall.

Lila Peckover was very interested in what would be depicted in the windows and suggested that the designs should be something the children would enjoy. She liked the idea of having Noah's Ark, the rainbow, dove, and animals in one window. Anita pictured Jesus with many children around him in the other one.

However, how do you design a picture with Jesus as a large center figure without having a face on Jesus? This was a very big problem.

It was finally decided to have Jesus preaching to the 5,000 in the background and have the boy with his 5 loaves and 2 fish in the foreground handing one of the fish to a disciple. Betty Robinson drew up the two windows but she was not sure how to draw the animals.

Anita, John and Betty Robinson made a trip to Wichita with the patterns Betty had drawn up for the two



John Cooney had already contacted Randy Rayer at Bearden's Stained Glass in Wichita about making these windows as Randy had helped with all of the stained glass windows made for the church. The one exception was the first one, the Lotus Window, which was made by Anita, Anna Jo, and Don in memory of Virgil Cochran.

The north window with Jesus preaching to the 5,000 with the boy, his loaves and fishes was to honor Anita for her hours of work, dedication, and personal effort to make it possible for this church to have stained glass windows.

The south window of Noah's Ark was in memory of Lila Peckover. Chester Peckover was surprised to learn it was Lila's idea to put Noah's Ark in the Fellowship Hall windows that were later moved to the west side of the new addition. Lila had never mentioned it to him.

On Easter at 10:00 a.m., Sunday April 16, 1995, the windows were dedicated right there in Fellowship Hall with Anita, John and their family, the church family, and friends about them.



## CHAPEL WINDOWS

The chapel windows were given to the church by Jan Green Reffner & Dennis Reffner as a memorial to Ken Green, Jan's first husband. The colors used and their symbolism follows the list given for the sanctuary windows. Jan told the "cracked glass gals" what type of symbols she wished to have in the windows. All the cracked glass gals" had a say about what Betty Sampson was drawing for the windows and Jan approved of the final drawings. The 4 gals went to work. Each one completed one panel. Anita made the Cross and the Flame, Opal made the Cross and the Dove, Betty S. made the Lily panel and Betty R. made the Rose panel. John and Ellis stained and varnished the frames for the stained glass panels and put the completed panels in the frames and then hung them in the chapel. They were installed in 1990.



The Cross and the Flame design come from the United Methodist Church logo. The flame is a symbol for the Holy Spirit that descended to us on the day of Pentecost and the cross symbolizes how Christ died on the cross to take on the sins of the world so we could be saved and have eternal life.

On the right of the Cross and Flame window is the Rose window. The rose has many meanings in Christian symbolism.

The Messianic Rose is described in the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, where the prophet writes that the desert shall blossom as a rose at the coming of the glory of God. This advent (coming) of God is in Jesus Christ.

There are three rose buds that symbolize the Trinity and a total of seven roses for the seven days of the week. One rose is fully open to represent the day we come to church to worship and thank God for His loving care of us and our world.

*(Continued on next page)*

The Cross and the Dove comes from another church logo and was a good companion design for the Cross and the Flame.

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and is in front of the cross - the most familiar of all symbols for Christ.

The Lily window is on the right of the Dove and the Flame window, The Easter lily is the most familiar Easter symbol. The seemingly decayed lifeless bulb produces a beautiful bloom at Easter time which symbolizes life emerging out of death.

The lily is also a symbol of purity and when used in that way it is usually in connection with the Virgin Mary.

There are three lily buds symbolizing the Trinity and a total of seven blossoms symbolizing the seven last words of Christ as He was dying on the cross.

The flame and the dove both are symbols for the Holy Spirit, so it is fitting that they appear together in the chapel windows. The seven blossoms in each of the Rose and Lily windows are also symbolic of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

