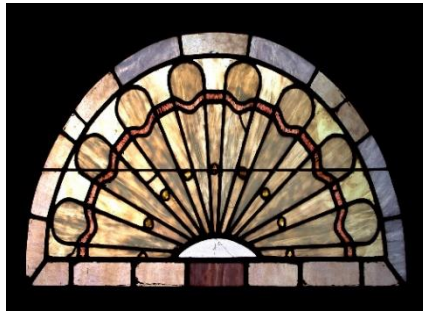




First Presbyterian Church

A History of Our Windows



About the Stained-Glass Windows in the Sanctuary

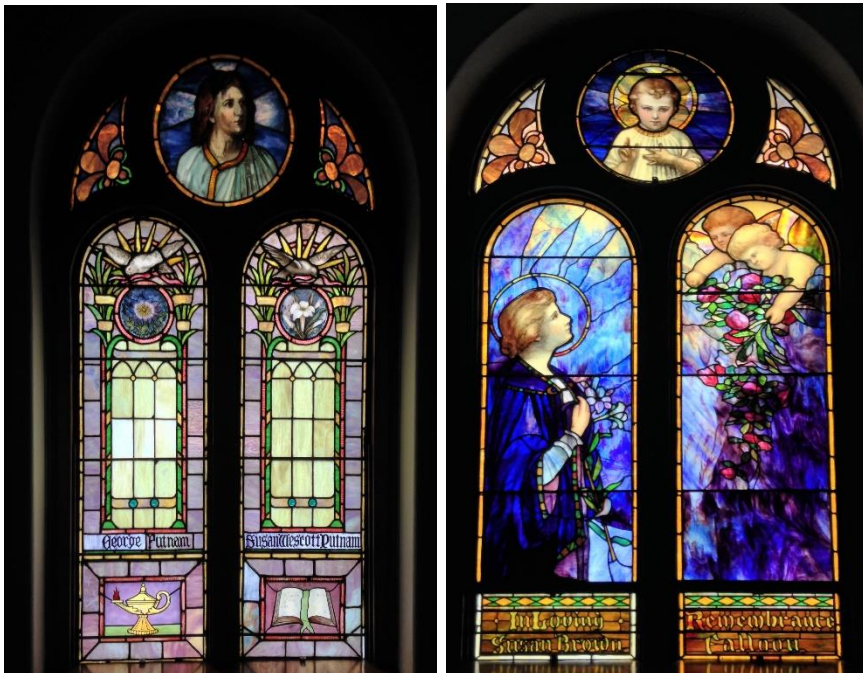
The windows, which are all art-glass, were designed by C. Bower Dant of New York. The stained-glass windows were installed in 1903 when the present building was constructed.

The largest window faces Court Street and has five portions. The subject of the large window in the center is “Christ Blessing Little Children.” The figure of Christ in a robe of deep red, lined with gold and purple, with his hands on the two little children robed in pastel shades of blue and green, has as its background a field of resurrection lilies. In the oval sections at the top appear Alpha and Omega, meaning “I am the first and the last.” (see photo on back page) Below is the quotation, “Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me.” This large window bears the names of *James D. Brown* and *Alice D. Brown*. J.D. was the founder of the Bank of Athens, established in Albany in 1867. It moved to Athens later, standing at the northwest corner of Court and Washington Streets. The Brown home still stands at the corner of West Washington and College Streets.



At the south (to the left) of the large center window is another small double window of simple but lovely design on “Peace and Purity.” The head at the center top is Hoffman’s “Head of the Boy Christ.” At the top of one window is found the design of a passion flower, at the base a lamp, a symbol for Scripture. On the other is found a lily at the top and the open Bible at the base. These windows bear the names *George Putnam* and *Susan Wescott Putnam*. Mr. Putnam owned a stationery, Bible, and jewelry store located at the southeast corner of Court and Washington Streets.

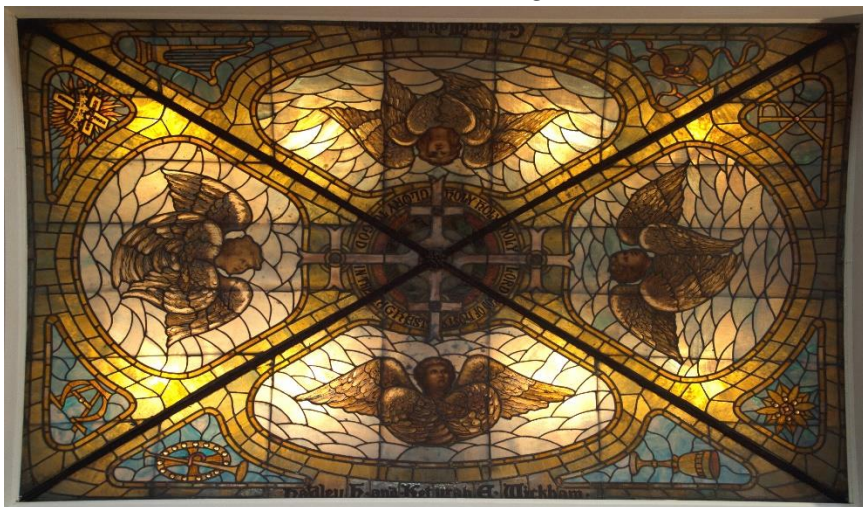
The design of the small double window to the north (at the right) of the large center window is “The Angel’s Reception of a Saint.” One small window has a woman dressed in royal blue looking up, while the other window has two little cherubs looking down from the top. Above the two windows is the head of the Christ Child. The inscription at the bottom is *In Loving Remembrance of Susan Brown Falloon*. Senator George Falloon was in the state legislature 1896-97. The family home was on the site now occupied by The Schoonover Center of Communication at 20 East Union Street.



The rose window in the upper rear at the south on the Washington Street side of the Sanctuary is especially beautiful in its simplicity of design and delicate coloring. It contains ten sections, each of which is treated as a separate window. The top section shows the Victorious Lamb of God. Treating this window as the top and moving clockwise, the next section is the Communion cup, followed by resurrection lilies, and a harp. The next section is “IHS” (the Greek abbreviation for Jesus Christ), followed by a sheaf and sickle representing gathering the harvest. To the left of this is the Greek monogram for Christ the Chi-Rho. The next section (moving to the upper left) are the trumpet and cymbals referenced in Psalm 150. In the next is the sword, signifying the sword of the spirit. And, finally, the open Bible, the word of God. In the circle at the center of the window is the cross and crown, the cross signifying the way by which heaven is to be reached, and the crown signifying the reward. Surrounding this is the Christian Endeavor motto, “For Christ and the Church.”



The dome window in the center ceiling of the Sanctuary was given by Hadley and Keturah Wickman and has for its design an angel choir. In the center of this is one large cross, each arm of which forms a cross making five crosses in one. Intersecting this cross is a circle containing the scriptural quotation “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Glory to God in the Highest.” Extending from this are four windows representing windows in the heavens, in each of which are angel faces as if singing. Surrounding this are heavenly instruments and symbols of Christ. The names *Wickman* and *G. Walton King* are also in the window.



There are numerous other stained-glass windows throughout the church including five small windows in the narthex, one that bears the name *Roach*. The Rev. G. W. King, the pastor at the time of the building construction, suggested that some of the mothers who had lost their first-born might desire to give a memorial window. Mrs. D. J. Evans and Mrs. H.M. Roach were the only two who responded. Each had lost her first-born son. Mrs. Evans' son's (William M. Evans) name was also on a window, but at some point it was broken and replaced with a green panel.



In 2017, art-glass windows were commissioned in memory of Shirley Strickmaker. These six windows are hung in the downstairs classroom and nursery on the Court Street (west) side of the building. Local glass artist Cindy Yeager was the creator of the windows.

Shirley DeBusk Strickmaker (1927-2015) was born in Middlesboro, Kentucky and was raised by her great-aunt in New Philadelphia, Ohio. It was there that she met and married Ray Strickmaker. Together they moved to Athens, Ohio in 1955 to start a new venture which became an iconic Athens hangout, Ray's Freez. Shirley and Ray were long-time members of First Presbyterian Church where she was active in the Presbyterian Women's Association and a Sunday School teacher.

Cindy Dubielak Yeager is a native of Maumee, Ohio. After graduate school in Creative Writing at Ohio University, she settled in Perry County Ohio and taught Writing and Ethics at Hocking College for twenty-five years. Her life-long interest in art became a full-fledged business in 2001 when she began making stained-glass stars. The accumulation of scrap glass led her to begin making mosaic windows and frames. Cindy uses scraps of glass, beads, and repurposed pieces of jewelry to make her pictures.

The six art glass windows were dedicated on Sunday, November 6, 2017. Viewing of these windows must be done from inside the building and from a close range. There are intricate details in each picture.





Nursery Left Window (top left): *The Garden of Eden*

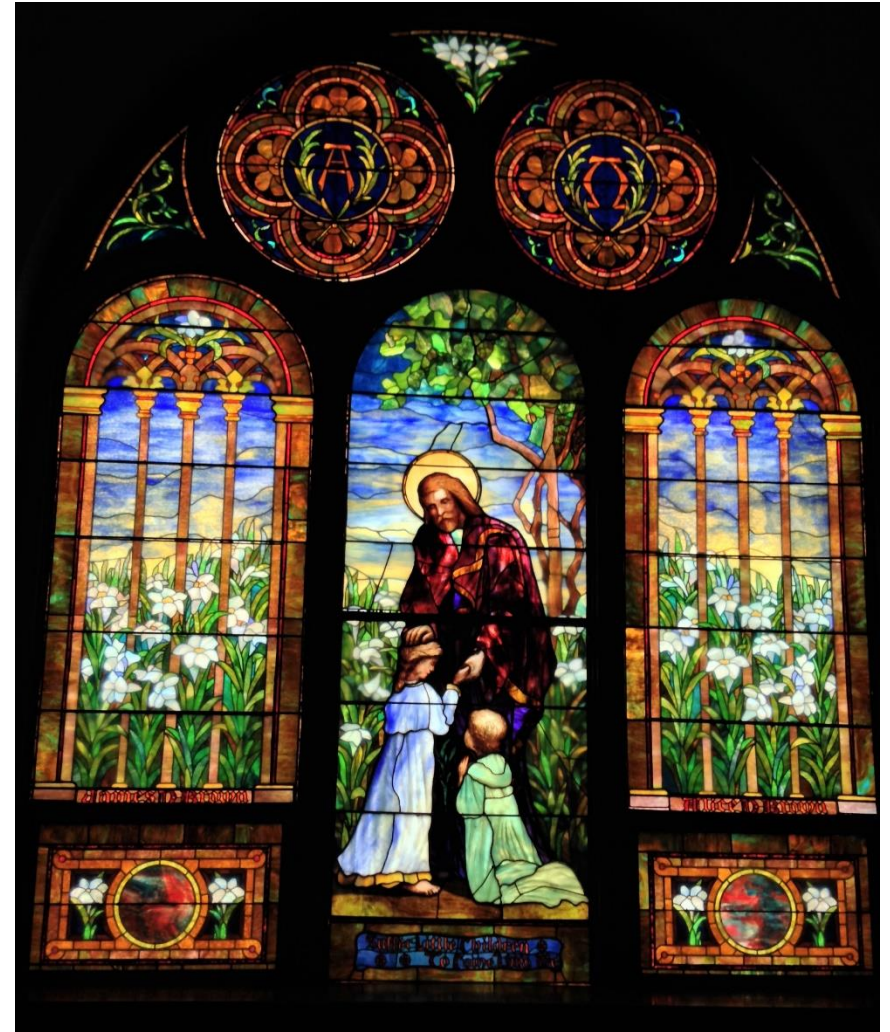
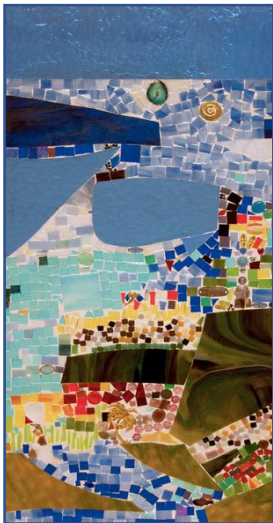
Nursery Right Window (top middle): *Jesus Walks on the Water*

Classroom 3 Far Left Window (top right): *The Nativity Night Sky*

Classroom 3 Middle Left Window (bottom left): *The Nativity*

Classroom 3 Middle Right Window (bottom middle): *The Baptism of Jesus and His Ministry*

Classroom 3 Far Right Window (bottom right): *The Easter Story (Palm Sunday, Crucifixion, and Resurrection)*



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