

The Beautiful Stained Glass Windows

by Jim Bradley

A beautiful thing about the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Wilmington, Ohio, is the church windows. There are a total of 72 stained glass windows in the church, 22 different sizes. The newest window is the side light next to the Walnut Street entrance. The Education Annex was added in 1991. This addition has four stained glass windows, three in the Narthex and one in the Library. These windows were designed by Jim and Betty Foland's niece, Susan Foland Ertel. The other sixty seven windows are in the church that was built in 1908 and they were ordered from Bryant Brothers of Columbus, Ohio.

The windows may have been made by the Povey Brothers Art & Stained Glass Works in Portland, Oregon. Povey stained glass windows are notable for their use of "jewels", small, thickly cut faceted pieces of glass in rich colors, and for the use of American opalescent glass, but they also freely used imported glass from Europe. It is difficult to identify Povey Brothers' windows since most of them were not signed.

The two largest windows are 192 inches by 110 inches and have in excess of one thousand pieces. The Walnut Street window depicts Jesus tending his sheep as a shepherd. This is depicted in John 10:14-15; *"I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for my sheep."* The Columbus Street window depicts Jesus knocking at the door. This is addressed in Matthew 7:7-8; *"Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; He who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* These passages are but two of many that describe these two beautiful windows. These two windows were removed, cleaned and repaired recently at a cost of \$35,000.00; the church was built at a cost of \$25,000.00 in 1908.

From the narthex, the window just inside the church to the right, was above a door before the education and fellowship hall was added at which time the door was bricked up and sealed shut. All of the Church's windows are the prettiest when the sun shines through them. The windows on the Columbus Street side never get a direct hit from the sun.

The entrance at the corner of Walnut and Columbus Streets has ten windows of which seven are above the ceiling of the entrance. The beauty of these windows cannot be seen from the outside but only from the inside, except for the side light windows and the one above the door.

There are sixteen windows in the belfry. They are very beautiful when viewed from the inside. The one hundred year old wood adds to their beauty.

The three windows on the Walnut Street side past the entrance extended from the first floor (old nursery) up to the balcony where the bell choir is now located.

The other three windows in the balcony match one of the windows in the basement.

The window above the door in the Pastor's old office is also unique. Eight windows on the main floor of the church match each other.

The choir loft windows create a pretty setting from which our gifted choir performs for us on Sunday.

There are seventeen stained glass windows in the basement. The two in the boiler room are plain glass. There are three windows in the basement that are different, one each in the women's restroom, train display room and the hallway on Walnut Street. The four windows below the choir loft in the basement are also different, but match each other. Nine windows in the basement match. Four of the church's windows have been damaged and repaired.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Wilmington, Ohio



Church cornerstone.



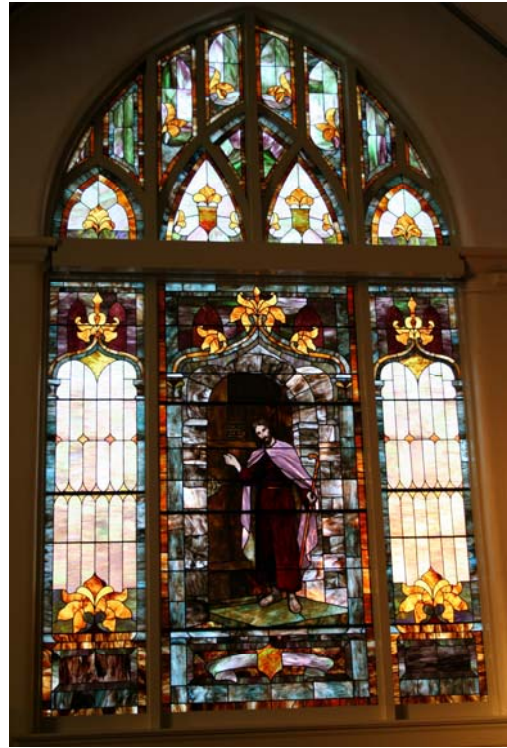
Education Annex cornerstone.



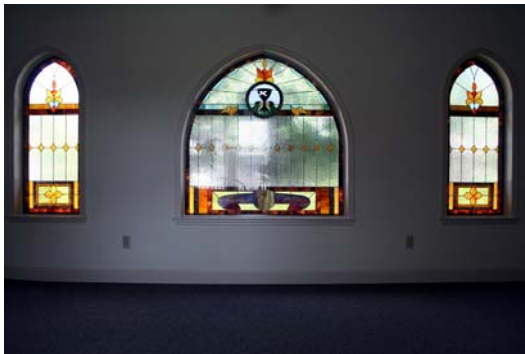
Education Annex cornerstone.



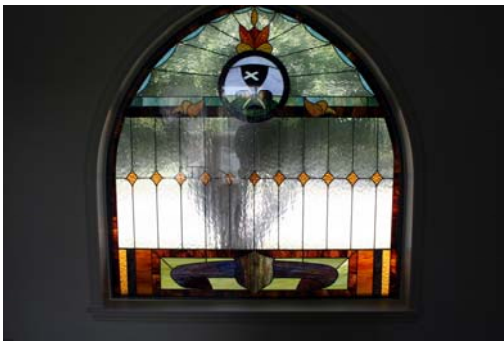
**This window is the Walnut St. side.
110" w x 192".**



**This is the Columbus St. side.
110" w x 192".**



**Narthex window.
Center window 62" w x 62".
Two sides 25" w x 62".**



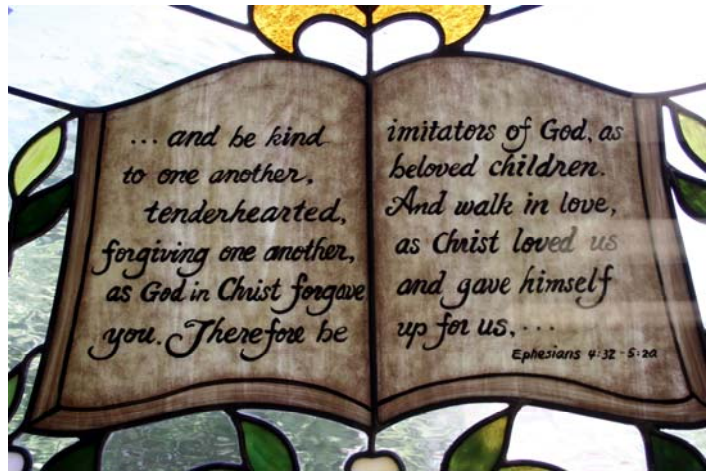
Center Narthex window.



Top of center Narthex window.



Library window.
41''w x 70''.



Top of Library window.



Columbus Street window
(was above a door).
54''w x 36''.



Side panels on the corner of Walnut & Columbus.
Both side panels are 17''w x 62''.



Corner of Walnut & Columbus.
62''w x 23''.



First Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
IN TIMES OF TROUBLE
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM WORSHIP 10:30AM
JANE M. STOLT, PASTOR

The upper two windows of these are above the ceiling of the entry way and can only be seen inside from above the ceiling.

Looking down from inside at the windows on Columbus and Walnut Street entrance.



**Windows above entrance.
Each one is 17"x by 50".**



Upper side lights on both sides are the same.
Small one is 17" w x 20".
Upper one is 17" w x 50".

View looking up above entrance.
Similar to the belfry up on top.



Belfry from outside.



Below belfry from inside.



Photo above: Showing almost to the top of belfry.



Photo at left: Columbus Street side, one of four sides.



Belfry.



Belfry – all sixteen windows are 18”w x 24”.



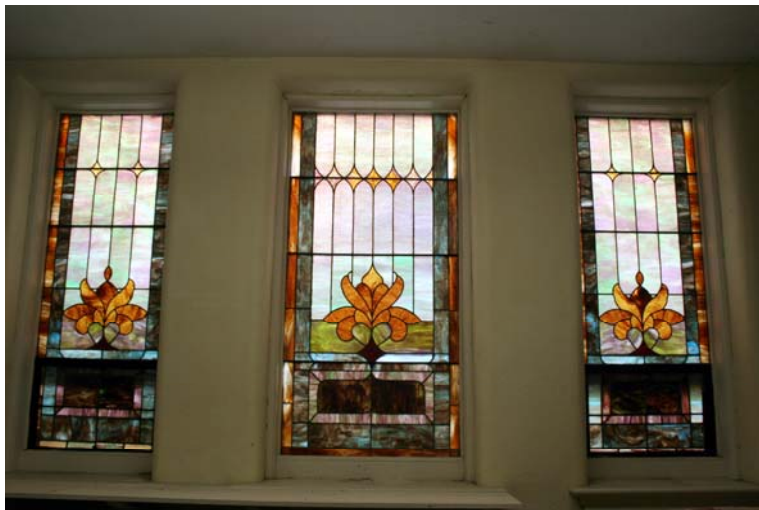
**Hallway at Walnut St. entrance.
27''w x 89''**



**Walnut St. Entrance.
Above door is 52''w x 35''.
Side panel is 18''w x 72''.**



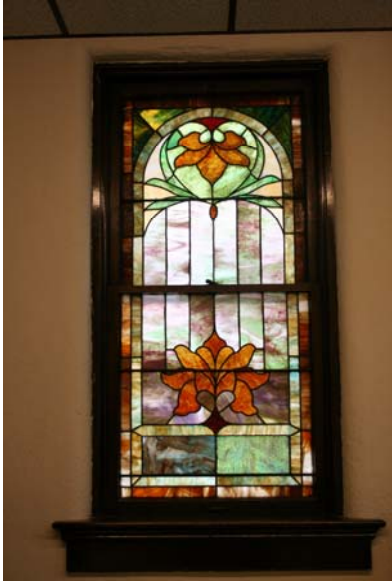
Windows on Walnut past entrance. Set of three as viewed from the outside.



**Set of three as viewed from the old nursery.
Each side window is 25''w x 114''.
Center is 32''w x 140''.**

Set of three windows just past the Walnut St. entrance. Top of windows as seen in the balcony, where the Bell Choir is located.





**Main floor. Eight windows match.
28''w x 48''.**



**3 in the balcony & 1 in the basement.
28''w x 48''.**



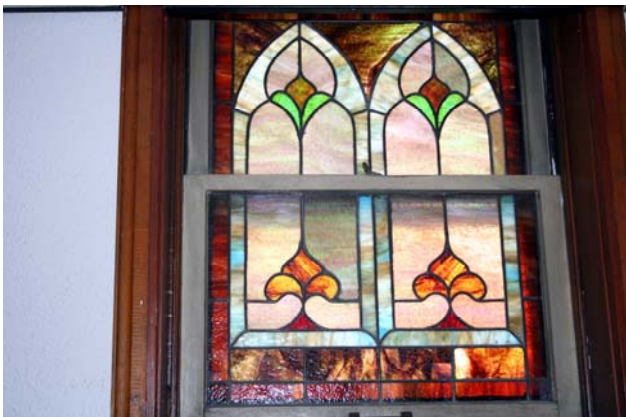
**9 in the basement.
28''w x 48''.**



**Above door of old Pastor's office.
32''x ' 24''**



**Basement. Women's restroom. Only 1.
32''w x 44**



**Basement. Right of Walnut Street entrance.
27''w x 33''. Only 1.**



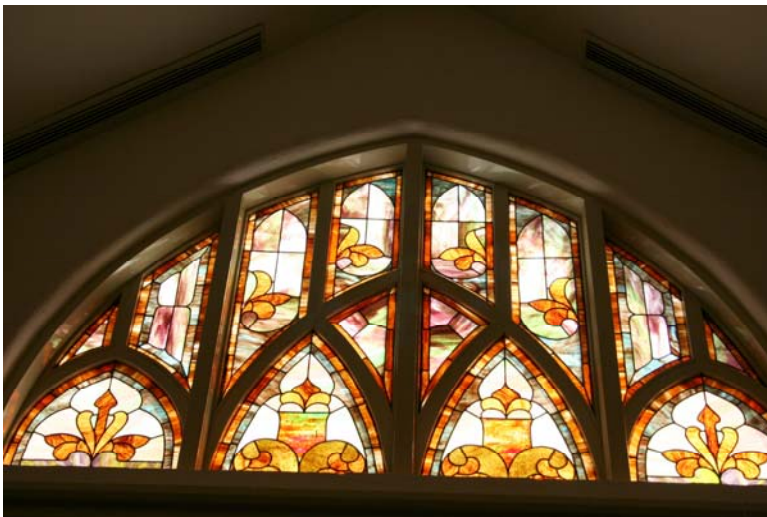
**Basement. Train display room. Only 1
27" w x 35".**

**Basement. 4 below choir loft.
27" w x 33".**





Choir loft window 110''w x 84''. Three 28''w x 36''.



Choir loft as seen from outside.